

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-111

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 28 '99 and draw shortly
afterwards

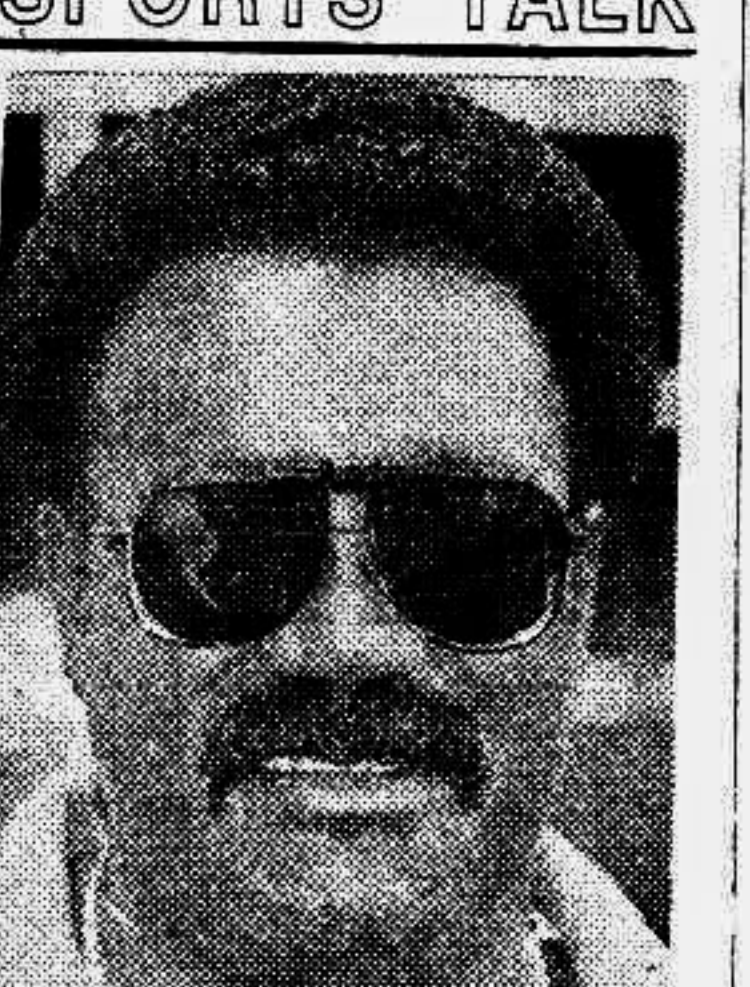
- Who was the man-of-the-match in the first Indo-Pak Test?
Afridi Tendulkar Saglain
- How many Tests has Mark Taylor played?
102 103 104
- South Africa won the Test series against West Indies
4-1 3-1 5-0
- How many centuries have so far been scored in the Janakantha League?
29 30 31
- Who clinched the sub-junior chess title?
Rakib Rajib Tuhin

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
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SPORTS TALK



Clive Lloyd
(West Indies cricket team manager)

"I am not enjoying this at all. It is disheartening to witness all that we have worked for over the years fall away so swiftly without a fight."

About his team's performance in the tour of South Africa.

Div I cricket City Club atop

City Club earned a convincing six-wicket victory over Azad Sporting Club in the Metropolitan First Division Cricket League at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

City Club have now secured top position having 12 points from seven matches while Azad SC bagged four points from same number of outings.

A five-wicket haul by Salahuddin Ujjal restricted Azad to 141 in 44.2 overs after being sent into bat.

Ujjal picked up five wickets giving away 26 runs while Rezaul Nayem took two wickets for 14 runs.

Mahfuz Kabir made 47 off 73 balls with seven boundaries while opener Nasirul Islam scored 31 off 79 deliveries that included two fours.

In reply, City Club reached their target making 145 for in 42 overs.

Sajjad Hossain Munna hit an unbeaten 52 off 87 deliveries that included seven boundaries and Saifullah Makshi added 36 runs off 48 balls with seven fours.

Opener Tinku scored 22 off 57 deliveries with two hits across the rope.

Anwar Hossain claimed two wickets conceding 34 runs while Atiqur Rahman took a single wicket for 20 runs.

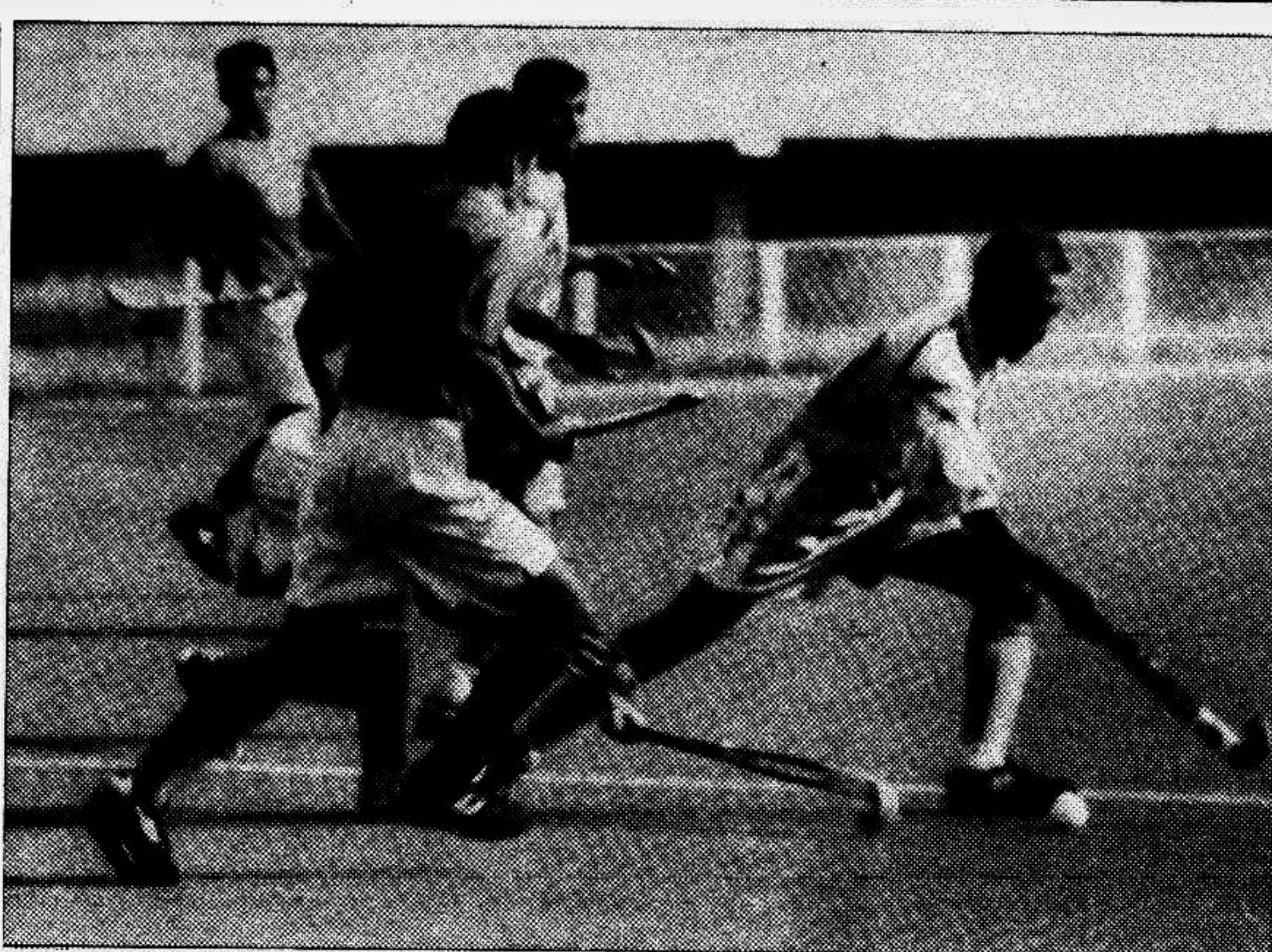
Narsingdi sports

NARSINGDI, Feb 22: The district winter volleyball, handball and athletics competition of boys and girls of 12 to 16 years of age, organised by the District Sports Association, was held in the Narsingdi Stadium on Feb 18, reports BSS.

In volleyball, Gamiya-e-Kashamia Madrassah and Pirpur Girls' High School became champions in the boys and girls groups respectively.

In handball, Polashi Thana and Monohardi Thana became champions in the boys and girls groups respectively.

In athletics, Habibur Rahman of Polashi Thana emerged champion in the boy's group while Tahamina Begum of Sadar Thana became champion in the girl's group.



Action from the Bangladesh Airforce-Ajax Sporting match of the Cotton Group Shaheed Smriti hockey tournament at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Testing times for Eden

CALCUTTA, Feb 22 (Reuters/Internet): Calcutta's Eden Gardens, one of the largest cricket grounds in the world, faces an uncertain future after an unruly crowd forced India and Pakistan to complete a test match in front of empty stands last week.

Police and media outnumbered spectators on Saturday as Pakistan beat India by 46 runs on the fifth and final day.

Trouble on the last two days has fuelled speculation that Eden Gardens could be banned from test cricket for some time.

"Calcutta may lose test-centre status for two years," an unattributed report in the Statesman daily said on Sunday.

"Save cricket, ban Calcutta. The city is unfit for the game," the newspaper said in an editorial comment.

Angry spectators disrupted play for 46 minutes on Friday when they threw water bottles and oranges at Pakistani fielders after India's top batsman Sachin Tendulkar was unlucky to be run out as he collided with a fielder before reaching the crease.

On Saturday, spectators

armed with stones and bricks, disrupted play for almost three hours when India were on the verge of defeat after Pakistan took three quick wickets.

Play resumed only after police evicted the vast majority of the 90,000-strong crowd.

Eden Gardens also fell into ignominy in 1996 when spectators threw missiles as Sri Lanka were on the verge of victory in a World Cup semifinal.

The match was abandoned and then conceded by India.

A report in the Asian Age said Pakistan's captain Wasim Akram wanted a two-year ban on international cricket at Eden Gardens.

"He (Akram) felt that perhaps a two-year ban on holding international matches at the venue would be in order to teach trouble-makers a lesson," the paper said.

Officials of the Cricket Association of Bengal said they were disappointed by the crowd's behaviour.

M'singh cricket

MYMENSINGH, Feb 22: County Club earned a massive eight wicket victory over Mohammedan SC in the local First Division Cricket League at the Circuit House ground here today, reports UNB.

Batting first, Mohammedan were bundled out for 100 in 38.4 overs.

Azim scored 32 runs. Zahir picked up three wickets for 21 runs while Munna took two wickets for 25 runs.

In reply, County Club easily reached their target making 104 for two in 18.5 overs.

Chandan hit 40 and Lipon contributed 32 runs. Mao and Zakir took one wicket each.

by New Zealand's Zoe Baker, who clocked 31.54 to the Australian's 31.65.

Britain's Susan Rolph, beaten in Saturday's 50 freestyle by Katrin Meissner by a mere 0.05 seconds, made up for the disappointment on Sunday by beating her German rival by the same tiny margin and also winning the 100 metres individual medley.

Fellow Briton James Hickman, who won Saturday's men's 200 butterfly by a vast gulf of over five seconds, took Sunday's 100 butterfly in a lively 51.94—0.92 seconds outside his own world record.

Frenchman Franck Esposito, European 200 butterfly long-course champion, was second in 52.21.

Olympic champion Frederick Delburghe, who won Saturday's 50-metre breaststroke, completed a double with victory in Sunday's 100, though German Jens Kruppa finished just 0.02 seconds behind the Belgian whose 59.90 was well outside his world record 58.79.

Christian Keller, James Hickman and Jorg Hoffmann also all won their second golds of the two-day event.

Germany's Keller won the 200-metre medley to add to his 100-metre medley success and Hickman of Britain won the 100-metre butterfly after winning the 200-metre butterfly.

Antje's triple delight

PARIS, Feb 22 (AP/Reuters): Germany's Antje Buschschulte completed a clean sweep of women's backs-troke events at the Paris World Cup meeting on Sunday, winning the 100-metre race in one minute, 0.06 seconds.

Buschschulte, who won the 50-metre and 200-metre races Saturday, finished well ahead of Alena Nyvtova of the Czech Republic, who posted a time of 1:01.16.

Four days after beating swimming's oldest world record Australian Susan O'Neill again provided the highlight of a World Cup meeting with another outstanding performance in the 200 metres butterfly on the day.

Olympic champion O'Neill fell 0.33 seconds short of the world short course mark she set in Malmo last Wednesday, clocking two minutes 5.70 seconds but it was still the third fastest time ever recorded in the event.

In Malmo O'Neill swam 2:05.37 to eclipse the mark of 2:05.65 set by American Mary Meagher in Gainesville, Florida 18 years ago.

On Sunday she once again left her rivals way behind Mette Jacobsen, European long-course champion in 1991 was

second in 2:07.72 and fellow Dane Sophia Skou third in 2:10.15 having finished second to the Australian in Malmo.

On Saturday Jacobsen who had already won the 200 freestyle upstaged the Australian by winning the 100 butterfly in 59.92 with Japanese Junko Onishi second in 1:00 and O'Neill third in 1:00.15.

Australian's Samantha Riley, without the competition of double Olympic champion Penny Henys of South Africa whom she had beaten in the two previous World Cup meetings, followed Saturday's victory in the 100 metres breaststroke with a win in Sunday's 200m event.

But Riley, double world long-course champion in 1994, was unexpectedly beaten into second place in the 50 breaststroke

Olympia equal relay world mark

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Feb 22: German club Olympia Dortmund equalled the women's indoor 4x200m relay world record here on Sunday after clocking one minute 32.55 seconds, reports AFP.

Sisters Gabi and Birgit Rockmeier, Esther Moller and Andrea Philipp equalled the mark set by fellow German club Eintracht Hamm 11 years ago.

by New Zealand's Zoe Baker, who clocked 31.54 to the Australian's 31.65.

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Usha in Cotton Group semis

Usha KC, who earlier confirmed their semifinal berth, emerged Group B champions of the Cotton Group Shaheed Smriti Hockey tournament beating Bangladesh Army 3-1 at the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Despite the defeat, Army finished joint second with Bangladesh Air Force securing four points each, but the Army qualified for the last four due to a better goal average.

Group A champions and holders Abahani will take on Army in the first semifinal on Friday while Usha will meet Group A runners-up Mohammedan SC in the other semi on Saturday.

The final match will be held on March 1.

In the day's match, Army went ahead in the 19th minute with a Rahaj goal from penalty corner.

Usha equalised in the first minute of the second half from Sadeq penalty corner. The veteran striker also netted another goal in the 64th minute from a Kamal pass.

Zia scored the other goal for the winners in the 54th minute utilising a Sadeq pass.

Earlier, Air Force beat Azad SC 4-3 after dominating the first half 4-1.

Masud put Air Force ahead with a field goal in the fifth minute. Three minutes later Ibrahim doubled the margin from a penalty corner.

Azam netted the third goal for the winners in the 31st minute while the fourth came from Dinsa Ali's in the 34th minute.

Habul of Azad reduced the margin in the 34th minute.

In the second half, Azad played very impressively as Moksed struck two field goals in the 54th and 59th minutes.

Meanwhile, to strengthen their bid for the title, Usha recruited four Pakistani players Asif Ahmed Khan, Rana Mujalid, Samir and Kavi Khan.

Lankans prepared to host India tomorrow

COLOMBO, Feb 22: Sri Lanka's cricket chief said Monday his team of both young and veteran players will give India a tough fight in their Asian Test Championship beginning Wednesday, reports AP.

"We will be without two of our stars, but we have a real good balanced side," Thilanga Sumathipala, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, told The Associated Press.

Off-spinner Muthiah Muralitharan and opener Sanath Jayasuriya are out of the team.

both nursing injuries. "We are determined to do well and I have the confidence to say that it will be Sri Lanka which will meet Pakistan in the final," Sumathipala said.

Pakistan beat India in Calcutta last week in the first Asian Test Championship. The India-Sri Lanka Test will be followed by Pakistan-Sri Lanka in Lahore March 4-8.

The final is March 12 in Dhaka. Sri Lanka, the reigning one-day champions, had a miserable recent tour of Australia, losing seven of the 10 matches in a three-nation tournament that also featured England.

Since returning home, the

team and the cricket board did some soul searching and announced a 14-member squad against India that will be the mainstay in the upcoming World Cup.

Three Sri Lankans will be playing in their first Test — fast bowlers Ruchira Perera and Eric Upasanthana, and left-handed opener Avishka Gunawardana.

Russel Arnold, a left-hander who has played only three Tests, has been recalled to take the place of Jayasuriya. Muralitharan's role will be filled by two players — left-handed spinner Niroshan Bandaratilleke and right-handed off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage.

Bandaratilleke, 23, has played only three Tests and Kalpage, 29, 10.

Sri Lanka have retained most of their veteran workhorses. Among them are captain Arjuna Ranatunga, a 35-year-old veteran of 85 Tests; Aravinda de Silva, 33, with 74 Tests behind him; Hashan Tillekeratne, 31 with 53 Tests; wicketkeeper batsman Romesh Kaluwitharana, 28 with 24 Tests; and Chandika Hathurusinghe, 30, who has played in 24 Tests.

The Indian team is scheduled to arrive late Monday night and will go to the nets Tuesday.

Bangladesh Jr tennis starts today

The 13th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championship '99, an ITF-approved regular International Junior meet of the country, begins today at the Ramna National Complex, reports UNB.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed will inaugurate the six-day under-18 meet at 9 in the morning as the chief guest.

The ceremonial draw of the girls event with 32 competitors was held yesterday, but the boys draw was deferred for a day.

Sixty-eight boys and 34 girls from 17 countries including Bangladesh are expected to take part in the ITF Junior World Ranking Group 3 tournament.

Fifty-eight boys and 32 girls from 15 countries except China and Slovak are already in the capital.

The top seeds are: Andrew

McDade of South Africa (world rank 36) in boy's singles, Sheetal Gautam of India (world rank 42) in girls singles and Nicole Renken of South Africa (world ranking 16) in girl's doubles.

Twelve boys and four girls will represent the hosts.

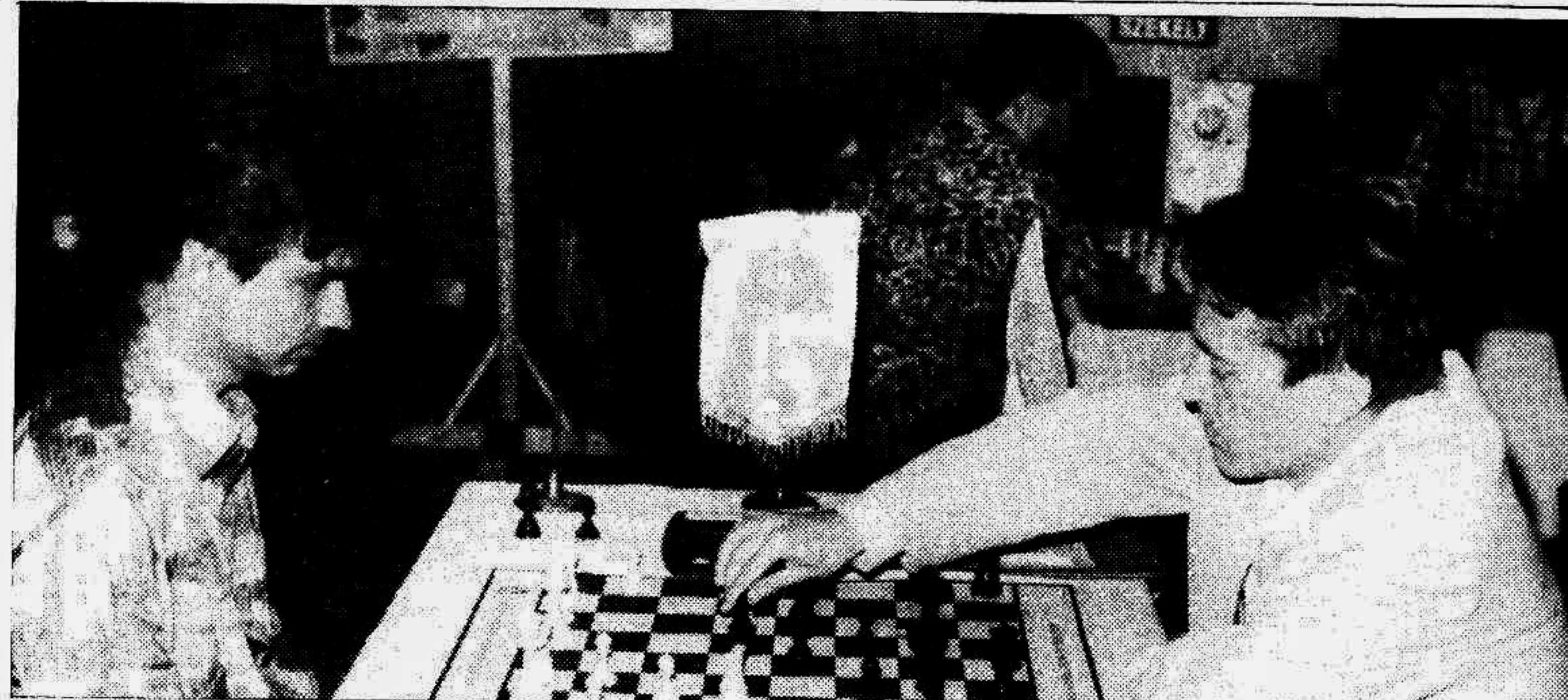
Boys: Nadim Kamran Khan, Fahim Ahsan Romi, Yasin Huda Sakib, Rahat Kamal Islam, Shahriar Haider, Moin Kabir Chowdhury, Kanchan Ram, Shafiqur Rahman Banik, Kabir Hossain, Babu Lal, Mustafizur Rahman and Alamgir Hossain.

Girls: Sifat Nurat Baisakhli, Ishrat Jahan Eti, Dyuti Sanchayita and Disha Islam.

On the opening day, the girls' singles matches of the main draw and the qualifying round matches of the boy's singles will be held in two sessions.

Duran-Gonzalez bout called off

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 22: Panamanian boxing legend Roberto Duran's bout with Argentina's Omar Gonzalez was cancelled here Sunday because the former multiple world champion weighed in six kilograms overweight, reports AFP.



Uzbek Grand Master Sergeveleni (R) makes a move against Bangladeshi IM Ziaur Rahman during their fourth round engagement in the United Insurance GM chess tournament at the NSC yesterday. —Star photo

GM chess 3-way lead at the top

Top seeded English GM Nigel Short, local IM Abdullah Al Rakib and Belarus GM Yuri Sulman are jointly leading the United Insurance Grand Masters chess tournament with three points at the end of the fourth round yesterday, reports APB.

With the first Test against New Zealand starting in Auckland Saturday, they needed a lengthy batting workout and got it, scoring 407 for four declared in hot, sunny conditions.

In reply, Northern Districts were eight without loss, with identical twins Hamish and James Marshall on five and two respectively.

Captain Hansie Cronje was one of three batsmen to cash in on a feathered strip with a century after the South Africans had won the toss and made perfect use of the opportunity.

Openers Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs made comfortable progress to 41 before Kirsten, looking to force late medium pacer Joseph Yovich into the covers, chopped the ball on to his stumps.

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Gibbs, having completed his 50 in classy fashion, clipped a catch to deep mid on.

Cullinan and Cronje kept up the momentum, with Cullinan getting better as his innings progressed.

Having got to 100, he played a tired stroke to a ball outside his off stump from Yovich and got a bottom edge to wicket-keeper Robbie Hart.

The pair had added 120 at run-a-ball rate, but the tempo increased when Jonny Rhodes joined his captain.

He had 17 off 21 balls at tea — the middle session having produced 150 runs in 130 minutes — then dominated the scoring after the break.

With Cronje's century always appearing a formality after he had settled in, Rhodes was unstoppable as he raced to 50 in 52 balls, bringing it up with a four-six-four sequence in

SA batsmen on a run spree

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Feb 22: South Africa's batsmen got exactly what they wanted on the opening day of their three-day match against Northern Districts today, reports AFP.

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one Yovich over. Cronje's 30th first-class hundred, loaded with stylish, sweetly timed strokes, came off 154 balls, and included 12 fours and two sixes.

But at 104 he drove medium pacer Scott Styris to cover point where Neal Parlane took a tidy catch. That ended a 145-run stand in just 97 minutes and once Rhodes had brought up his century in only 96 balls with 17 fours and two sixes, the declaration was made.

The final few minutes were given over to fast-medium bowler Victor Mpsang having his first overs in a first-class match for his country, and left-arm spinner Paul Adams having his first overs of the tour.

Openers Herschelle Gibbs was the first man to involve the 20-year-old twins when he drove a delivery to mid on for 57 — scorers, commentators and spectators all having to wait until lunch to discover that James had taken the catch.

Then, with Darryll Cullinan on 99, Northern Districts captain Robbie Hart tossed the ball to one of the Marshalls for his first bowl of the innings. Cullinan duly completed his century but officials and spectators were again forced to wait until tea to confirm the bowler was James.

The problem appeared to be at an end when Drew Marshall, the twins' father, was tracked down in the members' enclosure and invited into the scorers' room to offer advice on recognising the brothers.

Mildly embarrassed, the proud father — watching his sons play together for just the third time in first-class cricket — was forced to admit he couldn't.

The Marshalls' appearance was made even more unusual by the inclusion of two other pairs of brothers in the Northern Districts team. Michael and Neal Parlane and Matthew and Robbie Hart.

Matthew Hart, Robbie Hart (Captain), Joey Yovich, Darryll Tuffery.

Marshalls keep everyone guessing

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Feb 22 (Reuters/Internet): Identical twins James and Hamish Marshall played for New Zealand's Northern Districts against South Africa on Monday, confusing players and spectators alike.

Impossible to tell apart, the twins fielded side by side for much of the opening day of the three-day match as the tourists piled on the runs on a pitch tailor-made for batsmen.

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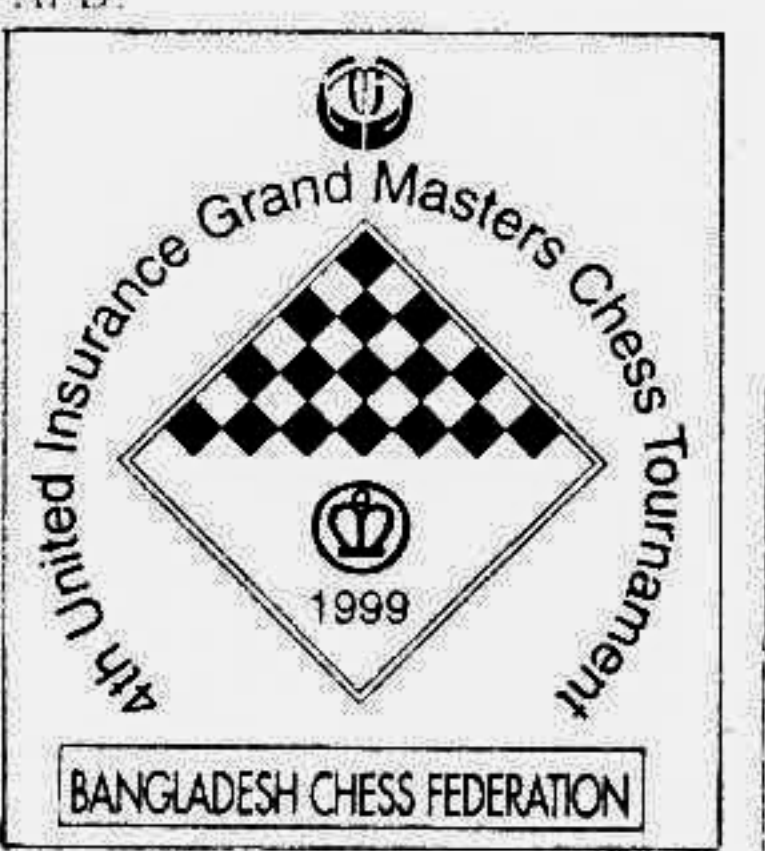
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Rakib tasted his first defeat when he lost to Jaan Elhvest of Estonia in this round after stunning Polish GM Wojtkiewicz in his third round engagement on Sunday that allowed him a solo lead.