

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

1 Who was the man-of-the-match in the first Indo-Pak Test?
Afriki Tendulkar Saqlain

2 How many Tests has Mark Taylor played?
102 103 104

3 South Africa won the Test series against West Indies
4-1 3-1 5-0

4 How many centuries have so far been scored in the Janakantha League?
29 30 31

5 Who clinched the sub-junior chess title?
Rakib Rajib Tuhin

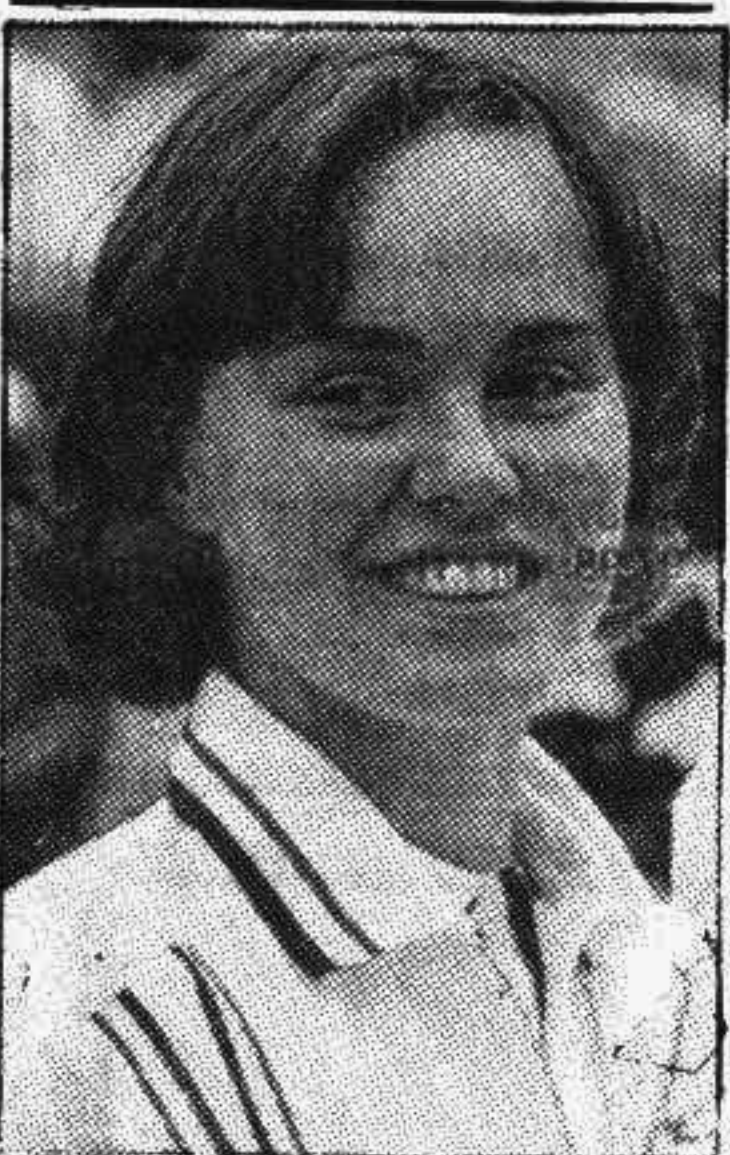
Name
Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis
(World No 1 tennis player)

"In tennis, the mind is still sometimes more important than anything else."

Selectors rapped for all-white teams

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 24 (Reuters/Internet): South Africa's touring team selectors in New Zealand have been criticised by their cricket chiefs at home for fielding two all-white sides.

The South African teams for limited overs internationals in Christchurch and Auckland last Wednesday and Saturday did not include players of colour, as stipulated in the United Cricket Board of South Africa's (UCB's) new selection guidelines.

"Owing to a misunderstanding, the Board's policy in relation to the selection of the South African team for the second and third one-day internationals in New Zealand was not complied with," said a statement signed by UCB president Ray White.

"This misunderstanding has now been resolved and I do not expect that there will be any further problems in this regard," White's statement added. White said the misunderstanding was that "the four selectors thought the one-day internationals in New Zealand were not subject to the selection guidelines."

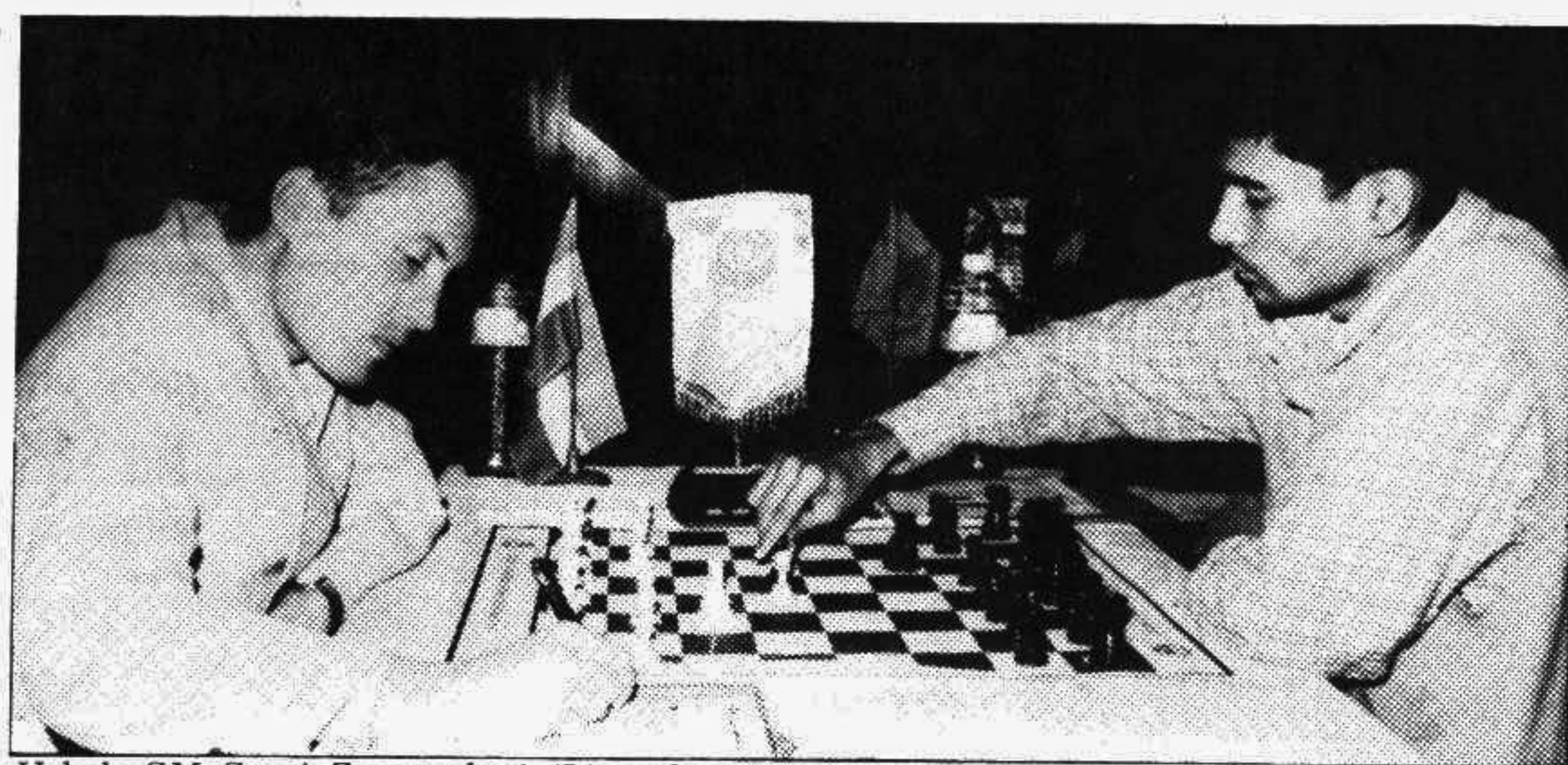
Asked if disciplinary action would be taken against the selectors, White replied, "There won't be any repercussions because it was a genuine mistake. It's been cleared up, we're sure it won't happen again and that is the end of the matter."

M United meet Rivaldo's agent

BARCELONA, Feb 24: Barcelona's Brazilian international Rivaldo confirmed on Tuesday that Manchester United made an approach for him, but he would remain with the Spanish championship leaders, reports Reuters.

"It's true, they have been talking with my agent Jose Maria Minguelia although I don't know whether they have talked to the club," the striker was quoted as saying by Spanish media.

"However, I am staying here. I am happy here and I am not going to change clubs." Rivaldo is joint top First Division scorer with 13 goals.



Uzbek GM Sergei Zagreveleni (L) makes a note while International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar makes a move during their United Insurance Grand Masters' tournament encounter yesterday.

Sulman shadows Short

Sports Reporter

Englishman 'super' Grand Master Nigel Short and Belarus Grand Master Yuri Sulman maintained their joint lead in the 4th United Insurance Grand Masters Chess Tournament by winning their sixth round ties played at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Short, who defeated Bangladesh International Master Abdullah Al-Rakib in the previous round, continued with his unbeaten run with an easy win over FIDE Master Enamul Hossain Rajib.

Playing with white pieces, the bespectacled former challenger to Garry Kasparov, overcame the Sicilian defence of Rajib after 34 moves for his fourth win in six matches. He drew the other two.

Sulman, on the other hand, playing with black and adopting King's Indian defence, took only 28 moves to checkmate IM Ziaur Rahman in this round.

Both Short and Sulman now share the top spot with five points, half a point more than Estonian GM Jan Ehlvest and Polish GM Alexander Wojtkiewicz, who won their sixth round clashes against Indian IM Kunte and IM Nilutpal.

In the other matches of the day, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib forced Hungarian GM Peter Szekely to a six-move draw to remain third in the table, with three and a half points while IM



Reefat-bin-Sattar conceded a defeat to Uzbek GM Sergei Zagreveleni.

Bangladesh GM Niaz Murshed had a break in this round. Standings (after six rounds): 5 points-N Short (England) and Y Sulman (Belarus), 4.5 points-Ehlvest (Estonia) and Wojtkiewicz (Poland), 3.5-Rakib (2.5-Niaz, Zia, Zagreveleni (Uzbekistan), 2 points-Kunte (India), 1.5 points-Szekely (Hungary), 1.0 point-Reefat and Rajib, .5 point-Nilutpal (India).

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sulman v Zagreveleni
Rakib v Zia
Rajib v Szekely
Kunte v Short
Nilutpal v Ehlvest
Niaz v Wojtkiewicz

West Bengal govt. to probe into Eden incident

CALCUTTA, India, Feb 24 (Reuters/Internet): The government of West Bengal has ordered an official investigation into the crowd trouble at Eden Gardens that disrupted a test match between India and Pakistan last week.

"The government has decided to form a one-man inquiry committee headed by the principal secretary in the Home (police) department to inquire into the incidents at Eden Gardens," an official of the eastern Indian state government told Reuters on Tuesday.

The committee will investigate the role of cricket officials, police and Pakistan cricketers during the inaugural match of the Asian Test Championship, he said.

India and Pakistan completed a test match in front of empty stands on Saturday after angry spectators interrupted play by throwing oranges and water bottles at Pakistani fielders for the second successive day.

Police first asked spectators to vacate the front rows of the galleries, but the crowd again hurled bottles on to the ground and prevented play from resuming as India faced defeat.

Police arrested 250 people and charged 49 of them with rioting, the official said.

Reaction
No cricket in Eden, please

From: Vikram Goel

I am writing this e-mail after having read the above mentioned article by Syed Mahbub Murshed. I agree with him that the crowd misbehaved, but the tone of the article itself is very biased and prejudiced.

Murshed sounds like a man full of anger against not only the Calcuttan crowd but also against the people of India. Having been exposed to the high quality of Indian journalism, I found his piece to be sub-standard and laced with grammatical errors. He definitely seems to have a grudge against India and Indians.

Honestly, I don't understand how a newspaper of your reputation can hire a person like Murshed and expect good quality articles. He very well knows that only a minority of Indians supported the Shiv Sena's call. But in spite of that he was sarcastic in his comments.

From: Shielesh Damle

The author Syed Mahbub Murshed has forgotten what happened in the last match of India's tour in 1989. If he remembers correctly then please tell him to stop his dirty writing.

Sports editor's note: Syed Mahbub Murshed's article was published in our Opinion column and the newspaper does not necessarily agree with the viewpoint of such freelance writers. However, as a policy, we welcome opinion of all shades.

ATC final

Inter-ministerial meeting today

The Youth and Sports Ministry will hold an inter-ministerial meeting today at the Secretariat to discuss preparations for the final of the first-ever Asian Test Championship (ATC) and tri-nation cricket tournament, reports BSS.

The final of the championship, featuring India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, will take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here from March 12 to 16. Pakistan won the first Test against India by 46 runs at Calcutta.

The tri-nation tournament, involving Bangladesh, Kenya and Zimbabwe, will be held at the same venue from February 19 to 27.

Besides officials of different department under the ministry, representatives from the ministries for Home, Information, Energy, Power and Mineral Resources, Finance, Civil Aviation and Tourism and Foreign Affairs will attend the meeting. The meeting is expected to discuss the security measures, uninterrupted power supply at the stadium and other related issues.

Fernandez won't return to PSG

PARIS, Feb 24 (Reuters/Internet): Athletic Bilbao coach Luis Fernandez quashed rumours he might soon leave the Basque club to return to struggling Paris St Germain.

"I feel great in Bilbao, in a club where conditions are ideal to work," he told Wednesday's edition of sports daily L'Equipe. "Athletic will be difficult to leave," he said, adding he felt hurt by the French club's problems.

Fernandez spent most of his playing career with Paris St Germain and, as a coach, led them to win the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1996.

"One day I'll return to Paris. But it would have to be an iron clad deal, allowing me to work like I do in Bilbao," he said.

Fernandez, who last season guided Athletic to second place in the Spanish first division and a place in the Champions League, has been under pressure recently after a disappointing campaign.

The team slipped out of Europe before Christmas and inconsistent domestic form left them stuck in seventh place in the table, seven points behind leader Barcelona.

Paris St Germain, currently 11th in the first division standings, have been unable to win the league title since Fernandez left and fans regularly ask for his return.

Jorge's father returns home

MEXICO CITY, Feb 24: Kidnappers freed the father of Mexico's national soccer goalkeeper Jorge Campos on Tuesday after seven days of captivity near resort town Acapulco, the attorney general's office (PGR) said, reports Reuters.

A PGR statement said Alvaro Campos, the soccer star's father, turned up at a police checkpoint on a highway 11 miles (18-km) from Acapulco saying he had been released.

Police then transported Campos, aged 66, to Acapulco, 250 miles (400-km) south of Mexico City, where he was reunited with his family.

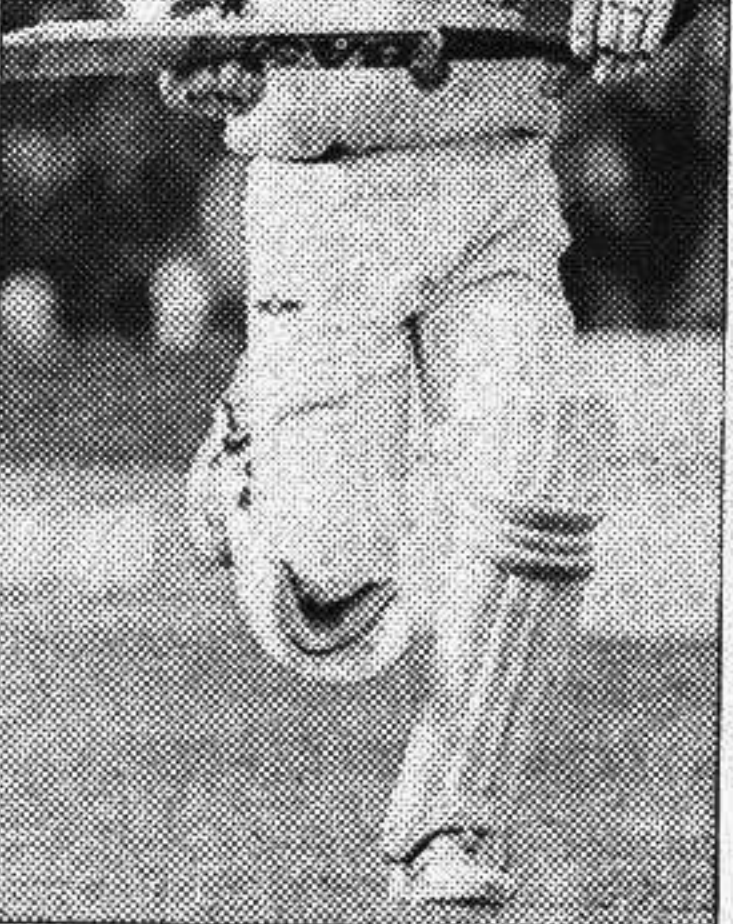
Reporters from El Sur newspaper in Acapulco told Reuters the family had called a media conference for later in the day when they would offer more details of Campos' liberation.

Tons for Ramesh, Dravid



COLOMBO, Feb 24: Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar hit imposing centuries to power India to a commanding 351 for three on the first day of the Asian Test Championship match against Sri Lanka today, reports AFP.

Ramesh was the first to reach his century shortly after tea as the pair pulled India out of a shaky 20 for one when VVS Laxman edged a delivery from paceman Ruchira Perera to be caught by Aravinda de Silva for 11.



RAMESH ... maiden ton
toss and put India in on a grassy surface but their four-man pace attack failed to capitalise on the pitch as Dravid and Ramesh played sensible cricket, eschewing rash shots.

They shared a partnership of 232 runs in 278 minutes. The Dravid-Ramesh stand

was set in 64.2 overs and ended when the latter drove a ball from off-cutter Mahela Jayawardena to short-extra cover where Arjuna Ranatunga took the catch.

The pair in the process helped India to produce a new record for the second wicket which surpassed the 173 between Sunil Gavaskar and Dilip Vengsarkar against Sri Lanka at Madras in 1982-83.

Ramesh dominated the partnership as he clobbered 18 fours, three of which came in one over bowled by Ruchira Perera after he reached his century.

It was his first century in his four Tests and came shortly after tea when he pushed a delivery from Perera to the cover point fence.

But the exit of Ramesh could not deter the Indians from making further inroads as Sachin Tendulkar joined Dravid to maintain the onslaught on the jaded Sri Lankan bowlers.

Dravid reached his first century against Sri Lanka, packing 11 fours in 297 minutes of batting while Tendulkar played a supportive role to pick an unbeaten 53 in an equal number of balls with 10 fours.

Dravid led to medium-pace Chandika Hathurusinghe in the final hour of play caught by Ranatunga at gully having faced 218 deliveries for a score of 107.

Sri Lanka took the second new ball at 289 for three after 80 overs but the gamble failed to produce any desired effect as debutants Perera and Eric Upasanthana conceded 21 runs in the first two overs.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at the end of the first day's play between India and Sri Lanka in their Asian Test Championship match in Colombo on Wednesday:
INDIA: First innings
Ramesh c Ranatunga b Jayawardena 143
Laxman c De Silva b Perera 11

Dravid c Ranatunga b Hathurusinghe 107
Tendulkar not out 53
Azharuddin not out 19
Extras: (lb-4, b-5, nb-9) 18
Total: (For three wkts) 351
Fall of wkts: 1-20; 2-252; 3-288.

To bat: S Ganguly, N Mongia, A Kumble, V Prasad, H Singh, A Nehra.

Bowler (to date): O M R W
Vaas 22 4 70 0
Perera 19 2 102 1
Upasanthana 17 0 68 0
Hathurusinghe 13 2 38 1
Arnold 13 1 46 0
Jayawardena 6 1 18 1



DRAVID ... 107
SRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Marvan Atapattu, Hashan Tillekeratne, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Mahela Jayawardena, Russell Arnold, Chandika Hathurusinghe, Chaminda Vaas, Ruchira Perera, Eric Upasanthana.

N.Districts-SA match drawn



HAMILTON, New Zealand, Feb 24 (Reuters/Internet): Northern Districts safely batted out the final session of their three day match against South Africa in Hamilton on Wednesday to reach 120 for three wickets and ensure an honourable draw.

Needing an improbable 302 in just under two sessions for victory, the home side slipped to 70 for three at tea before Scott Styris (34 not out) and Grant Bradburn (16 not out) closed up shop and survived until play was called off half an hour early.

Leading by 101 runs after the first innings, the South Africans resumed their second innings at 14 for one when play began and increased that advantage to 301 before declaring at 200 for five wickets shortly after lunch.

Herschelle Gibbs, who scored 57 in the first innings, seemed set to reach a century before a powerful square cut against off spinner Bradburn was brilliantly caught by a diving Hamish Marshall at backward point to dismiss him for 85.

His innings lasted 116 balls and contained 12 fours and two

straight driven sixes off left arm spinner Matthew Hart whose seven overs cost 39 runs.

Daryll Cullinan, a century maker in the first innings, fell for 20 after mistiming a pull off medium pacer Scott Styris to midwicket and wicket keeper Mark Boucher, promoted to number four, scored 33 with six boundaries before pushing a Bradburn delivery straight to short leg.

opener Michael Parlane completed an unhappy "pair" in the match when the home side began the last innings, a direct hit from cover point by Gibbs running him out in the fourth over.

Mark Bailey and opener James Marshall repaired the damage with a stand of 64 before both fell within four overs just before tea.

Bailey, who scored 61 in the first innings, raced to 38 from 49 balls before edging a lavish drive against Hansie Cronje to slip and Marshall prodded the last ball of spinner Paul Adams first over to short leg to depart for 30 on the stroke of tea.

"The match was excellent preparation for us. Most of the top batters made good runs and (left arm wrist spinner) Paul Adams became better and better

the more he bowled," Hansie Cronje said after play.

The tourists drove straight to Auckland after the match where they will prepare on Thursday and Friday for the first test against New Zealand which starts at Eden Park on Saturday.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at the close of play on the final day of the three-day match between Northern Districts and South Africa on Wednesday:
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 407-4 declared
NORTHERN DISTRICTS: First innings 306-8 declared
SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 200-5 declared
NORTHERN DISTRICTS: Second innings

J Marshall c Kirsten b Adams 30
M Parlane run out 0
M Bailey c Cullinan b Cronje 38
G Bradburn not out 16
S Styris not out 34
Extras: (nb-2) 2
Total: (For three wkts in 52 overs) 126
Fall of wkts: 1-1; 2-65; 3-70

Bowler O M R W
Elworthy 10 2 27 0
Mpitsang 8 1 29 0
Cronje 8 1 22 1
Boje 12 3 20 0
Adams 14 4 22 1

Mixed reaction greets WICB decision



ST. JOHN'S, Feb 24: West Indies cricket officials pleased few with their decision to keep superstar Brian Lara - widely blamed for a humiliating loss to South Africa - as captain for the floundering squad's meeting with mighty Australia, reports AP.

Lara's supporters claim their hero - criticised for everything from excessive partying to poor leadership skills - is being made a scapegoat. Opponents say he should have been fired.

And everyone seems to wonder why the decision was to basically put Lara on probation as captain for only the first two matches of a four-Test series.

"Letting him play for only the first two Tests is putting him under an extraordinary amount of pressure and is sure to make him fail," fan Denis G. wrote to a Caribbean cricket chatline on the Internet.

From London, Eric McClymont joined the Cyberspace conversation to castigate the West Indies Cricket Board. "They didn't have to guts to do what a lot expected - and that was to replace him," he said.

Grubby summed up the censure: "Lara may be the most visible clown, but the ones who placed him on the stage are equally to blame for the fiasco we have experienced and those which are to come."

On Monday, cricket board president Pat Rousseau announced Lara would lead the first two Tests of the two-month four-Test series beginning in Trinidad March 5.

handed batsman another chance. Rousseau outlined targets Lara would have to meet to remain captain.

"We have told Lara that he needs to make significant improvements in his leadership skills. We believe he has it within him to fulfill his potential, but we are not prepared to wait indefinitely for these qualities," Rousseau said.

He said the board and selectors held the management team of Lara, coach Malcolm Marshall and manager Clive Lloyd largely responsible for the 5-0 series sweep by host South Africa last November-January.

In Trinidad, where the 29-year-old captain is referred to as the "Prince of Port-of-Spain" and where a square has been named after him, there had been widespread concerns that Lara would be tripped of his title.

"Where is the help that is to be given to this young man, badly affected by the superstar status he achieved at only 23," former Trinidad and Tobago batsman Alvin Corneal asked on a radio talk-show Monday.

Others blamed the board. Guyanese-born cricket commentator Joseph "Reds" Perera said he was alarmed by the board's failure to do anything about the technical problems of batsmen and fielders exposed in South Africa.

Former West Indies batsman Andy Ganteaume said that after eight years of international cricket Lara should not have to be told that he needed to be punctual and to fraternize with his team.

Alloy Lequay, president of the Trinidad and Tobago

Cricket Board, told reporters Tuesday that he would be happy to work with Lara but that his previous attempts to help the young captain had been rejected.

"Brian has to take stock of his life and realize that it's not his cricket but his personal life which is ruining his cricket," Lequay said in his first public comment critical of Lara.

That was a reference to Lara's comment a few years ago that cricket was ruining his personal life.

Lara angered many people on his return home from South Africa, where he had said he suffered a hand injury that prevented him from playing for Trinidad and Tobago last month. Instead, he was seen at many parties and, against the advice of the cricket board, playing masquerade at rowdy carnival celebrations last week.

Barbados cricket commentator Donna Symmonds deduced that the board kept Lara because it had few alternatives. "I think all three of them should have been fired," she said of Lara, Lloyd and Marshall.

JPC badminton

The Jatiya Press Club badminton tournament begins at the club court on February 26 at 5 pm, reports BSS.

Twenty-one club members are taking part in singles and doubles competition.

REGRETS
Due to space constraint our regular item CROSSWORD could not be accommodated. — Sports Editor

Board XI bow to Dale



ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb 24: Seamer Adam Dale plundered a career-best seven for 24 as Australia ripped out a West Indies Cricket Board XI for just 55 in their opening tour match on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The Australians, 101 ahead on first innings, had stretched that lead to 277 at the close of the second day of the three day match. They were 176 for three.

The Board XI's batsmen, six of whom failed to score, were left floundering by Dale's movement after resuming at one for three.

They were bundled out before lunch, remarkably, their total of 55 represented something of a recovery after they had stumbled to 20 for seven and then 34 for nine.

Dale, having taken two wickets on Monday, continued the Board XI's woes by taking five of the eight wickets to fall during the shortened morning session.

At one stage he had figures of six for three off 9.3 overs.

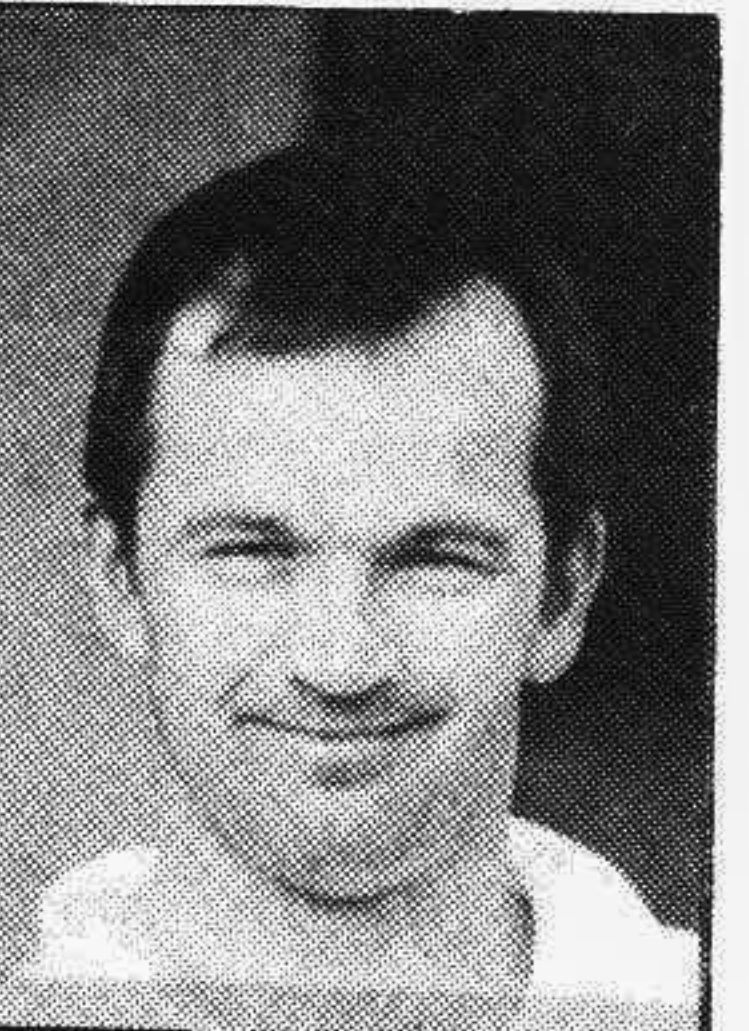
Opening bowler Pedro Collins top-scored with 21 not out, sharing a last-wicket stand of 21 with Corey Collymore.

Dale attributed his third seven-wicket haul this season to sustained accuracy.

"I don't think there were any secrets," he said. "I was fortunate building pressure. There were a few nicks and a few leg before."

"All the guys bowled well and fortunately I was lucky enough to come away with a few wickets."

His career-best figures have propelled him into the



DALE ... 7 for 24

reckoning for a berth in the first Test against West Indies beginning in Trinidad on March 5.

Michael Slater gave Australia's second innings a flying start with four fours and two sixes before holing out at deep square leg for 40.

Ricky Ponting (46 not out) and Greg Blewett (41 not out) carried on the good work with a stand of 84 for the fourth wicket to leave Australia ideally placed to push for victory today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second day of the three-day tour match between a West Indies Board XI and Australia on Tuesday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 156 (G Blewett 52; R Hinds 4-23)
WEST INDIES BOARD XI: First innings (overnight 1-3)

S Williams c Warner b Bichel 0
A Griffith lbw b Dale 0
W Hinds lbw b Dale 0
R McLean c Blewett b Dale 0
M Sinclair lbw b Dale 8
R Hinds c Elliott b Dale 5
C Gayle c Blewett b Miller 11
P Powell c Langer b Dale 0
P Collins not out 21
D Mais c Bichel b Miller 5
C Collymore c Healy b Dale 5
Extras: (b-4, lb-1) 55
Total: (All out) 55

Fall of wkts: 1-0; 2-0; 3-0; 4-12; 5-17; 6-20; 7-20; 8-30; 9-34

Bowler O M R W

Bichel 9 5 12 1
Dale 14.5 6 24 7
Miller 6 3 14 2

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

M Slater c Collymore b R Hinds 40
M Elliott c Sinclair b Collymore 28
J Langer b Collins 12
R Ponting not out 46
G Blewett not out 41
Extras: (lb-2, nb-7) 9
Total: (For three wkts) 176
Fall of wkts: 1-64; 2-80; 3-92

Bowler (to date) O M R W

Collins 11 4 29 1
Mais 9 0 46 0
Collymore 12 4 23 1
R Hinds 16 2 36 1
Powell 16 1 40 0

Pak cricketers can question accusers

KARACHI, Feb 24: Top Pakistani players facing match-fixing charges are to appear before a cricket inquiry commission to cross-examine their accusers next week, court officials said today, reports AFP.

Skipper Wasim Akram, star batsmen Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, and bowlers Mushtaq and Saqlain Mushtaq will appear before high court judge Malik Mohammad Quayum next week, court official Abdus Salam Khawar told AFP.

The match-fixing allegations have been haunting Pakistani cricket for nearly four years since Australian players Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh accused Salim Malik of offering them bribes to perform poorly during the 1994-96 tour of Pakistan.

The players, busy with preparations for the wedding of their teammate Inzamam-ul-Haq, are to appear before the third match of Asian Test

Championship against Sri Lanka in Lahore in early March, he said.

They will be given an "opportunity" to question those who have accused them of match-fixing and bribery, Khawar said. The commission will finalise its findings and recommendations in three to four days, he added.

"The government will decide the fate of the players after the report," he said.

Court sources said former cricket captain Asif Iqbal had also been summoned on Saturday after allegations that he was also involved in match-fixing.

Around 50 witnesses, including present and former players, cricket officials and alleged bookies have already appeared before the commission which started its investigation in September last year.

Pakistani cricketers have also submitted details of their assets to the commission. Meanwhile, PTI says from

New Delhi, Pakistan judge inquiring into the allegations of match-fixing and betting has said he would be recommending life ban on the guilty as he has got sufficient evidence to substantiate the charges.

"I have prima facie evidence and based on the evidence I am now fully satisfied that match-fixing is going on," Justice Malik Mohammad Qu