

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-112

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 12 '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who is the new Real Madrid soccer coach?
Hiddink Toshack Sacchi
- Pakistan won the hockey series against India by
5-1 6-3 4-3
- Who is the first woman referee to officiate a First Division soccer match?
Danielle Carolina Janet
- Who won the boys' singles title in the ITF tourney in Rajshahi?
Chang Weaver Wala
- How many players are taking part in the United Insurance GM chess tourney?
10 13 20

Name

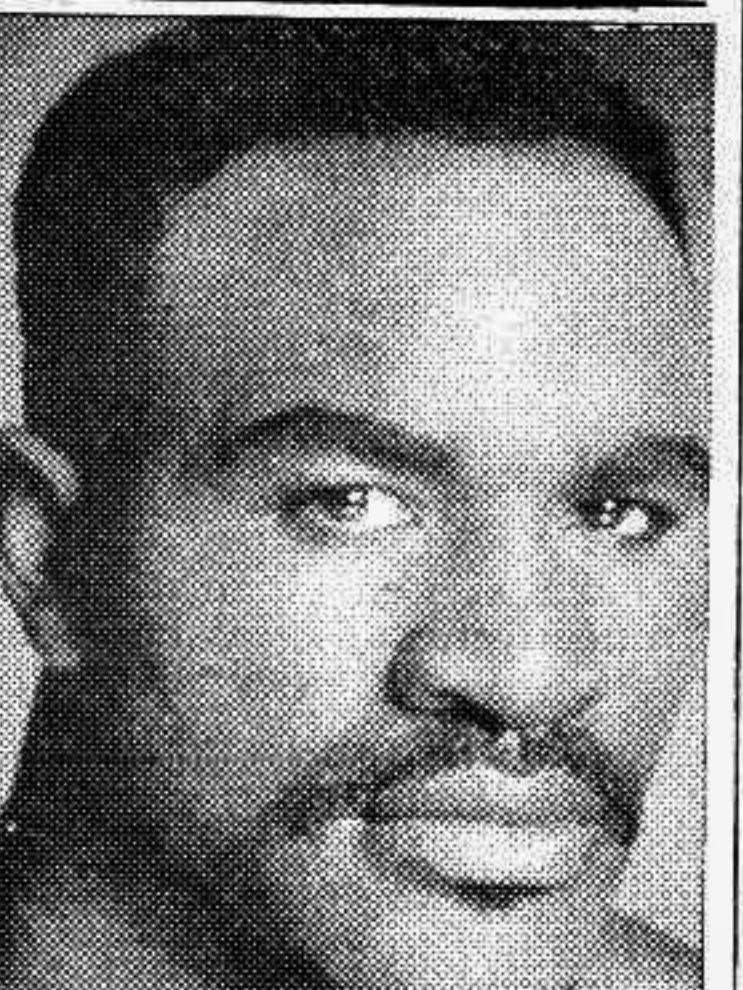
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SPORTS TALK



Evander Holyfield
(World heavyweight champion)
"I have talked about trying to achieve greatness. I want to be the very best I can be."

WHIZZ KID-111
Boost winner
Nushrat Jahan
(Ispahani Girls' High School, Dhaka)
(Please bring your ID card and a passport size attested photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star on March 3 at 7:30 pm.)

WHIZZ KID 111
correct answers
1. Who was the man-of-the-match in the first Indo-Pak Test?
A. Tendulkar
2. How many Tests has Mark Taylor played?
A. 104
3. South Africa won the Test series against West Indies
A. 5-0
4. How many centuries have so far been scored in the Janakantha League?
A. 29
5. Who clinched the sub-junior chess title?
A. Rajib

WHIZZ KID-110
winner



Ali Irteza
(Rifles Public School and College)

Carlinhos new
Flamengo coach
RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 26 (AP) — Flamengo appointed Carlinhos as coach for the fourth time on Tuesday, reports Reuters.
Veteran Evaristo de Macedo, sacked by the Rio de Janeiro club 24 hours earlier, promptly took over at Corinthians.



Belarusian Grand Master Yuri Shulman (R) makes a move during his encounter against Bangladeshi IM Reefat-bin-Sattar in the fourth United Insurance GM chess tourney yesterday.

No room for Minhazul

Sports Reporter

Former national skipper and veteran all-rounder Minhazul Abedin has been overlooked by the national selectors who late last night named an interim 19-member Bangladesh team for the 1999 World Cup to be held in England from May 14.

Minhazul, scorer of two centuries in the just concluded Premier Division league, could not find a place in the list drawn up at Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters. The final 15 will be selected before March 31 while four will remain as reserves.

This is a common phenomenon in this country and I am not at all surprised. They don't select according to a player's merit but more on personal preference," said a disappointed Minhazul over telephone.

Following are the 19 players: Aminul Islam (captain), Shahriar Hossain, Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar Belim, Al-Shahriar, Faruque Ahmed, Mehrah Hossain, Akram Khan, Shafuiddin Ahmed, Khaled Mahmud, Niamur Rahman, Hasibul Hossain, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque, Manzurul Islam, Aminul Islam (junior), Neeayamur Rashid, Mahbubur Rahman and Jahangir Alam.

Short tastes defeat

Indian Neelotpal Das stunned British GM Nigel Short allowing Belarus GM Yuri Shulman to take a solo lead in the fourth United Insurance chess tournament at the end of the eighth round yesterday, reports APB.

Shulman beat local IM Reefat bin Sattar. Unheralded Neelotpal forced current world number 11 to concede his maiden defeat in the meet adopting French Defence. Short found no way but to surrender after 26 moves in Win War variation game.

After the defeat, favourite Short slipped to the third position along with Polish GM Alexander Wojtkiewicz — both having 5.5 points. But Wojtkiewicz played one match less than Short.

Shulman earn his fifth win at the cost of Reefat to move to the top with 6.5 points. Reefat had run out of his time after 32 moves in French Defence game that advanced in classical variation.

For the country's lone GM Niaz Mursheed, it was yet another gloomy day when he failed to live up to his former self suffering his fourth defeat.

Second seeded Estonian Jaan Ehivest overcame Niaz in 34 moves playing against the local's King's Indian Defence.

The win enabled Ehivest to hold on to second position raising his tally to 6 points.

IM Ziaur Rahman settled for a draw with Abdullah Al Rakib while other local campaigner FIDE Master Rajib lose after 66 moves to Uzbek GM Zergevleni.

Hungarian GM Peter Szekely also lost to Indian IM Avijit Kunte.



TODAY'S MATCHES

Rakib vs Reefat
Rajib vs Zergevleni
Kunte vs Zia
Neelotpal vs Szekely
Niaz vs Short
Wojtkiewicz vs Jaan Ehivest.

Hosts have the mental edge

AUCKLAND, Feb 26 (Reuters/Inter-Net) — New Zealand, who thrashed South Africa in the third one-day international at Eden Park, have a clear home advantage for the first Test starting at the same venue on Saturday.

The New Zealanders are looking to complete their best international season for a decade after beating India 1-0 in a three-Test series.

They drew the one-day series against India 2-2 and are currently leading South Africa 2-1 in their one-day contest.

New Zealand won the third one-day international by seven wickets as the South African struggled to come to terms with the slow, low pitch.

"It will be slow and low for sure," said Nathan Astle, the match-winner in both of New Zealand's one-day victories.

Owen not linked to Lazio

LONDON, Feb 26: Soccer star Michael Owen insisted Thursday that despite being flattered to be linked with Italian giants Lazio, he would be staying with Liverpool, reports Xinhua.

The England star believes Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier will bring the good times back to Liverpool, and he ridiculed claims that he has any interest in a supposed 25 million pounds move to Italy.

Owen, who signed a new contract earlier this season that will keep him at Anfield until he is 24, said: "Obviously it is flattering to be linked with a club like Lazio but I'm still very happy at Liverpool."

"The gaffer has got a good thing going at this club. We are building a lot for the future and I think in the next few years we will really start challenging for the title. I want to be part of that," he said.

Liverpool instantly denied that there was any truth in the rumours when Owen's name was linked with Lazio in the Italian media on Tuesday.

with 95 in Dunedin and 100 not out at Eden Park.

"But guys like Allan Donald are quick on anything. You still have to be prepared to take blows on the body and I am."

Javagal Srinath broke my hand in the Indian series but it



HANSIE CRONJE

hasn't broken my spirit. I'm still up for the challenge."

Pace bowler Simon Doull, architect of the series win over India with a match-winning haul of seven for 65 in the second test, said the spinners would hold the key.

"It will definitely favour them," he said. "There won't be any pace or bounce and the spinners will dominate."

New Zealand have selected a second left-arm spinner in Matthew Hart to complement Daniel Vettori while South Africa will rely on their left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams.

Hart scored his maiden first class century for Northern Districts in their drawn three-day match against the tourists.

He is, though, the likely 12th man with slow-medium pacer Chris Harris providing the backup to Vettori.

New Zealand will take the field without their regular captain Stephen Fleming and all-rounder Chris Cairns who are both injured. All-rounder Dion Nash will lead New Zealand in a test match for the first time.

South Africa, who thrashed West Indies 5-0 in their last home series, have so far failed to come to terms with the local pitches and have been distracted by political criticism at home.

United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) president Ray White issued a statement from Johannesburg, without consulting the team management in New Zealand, criticising the selection of all-white teams for the second and third one-day internationals.

"It's disappointing to hear, you don't get used to that," he said.

Whatever mistakes have been made have been honest cricket mistakes. There has been no political context to any of the selections made, they have all been purely cricketing decisions.

Cronje said off-field events would not affect the team's confidence.

"We're still hurting pretty badly after the one-dayers and everyone wants to make up for that," he said. "I don't think off-field events will affect our focus."

"We have become used to playing on pitches like this when we go overseas and we have learned to bowl on them. We'll do our talking on the field now."

History certainly favours the South Africans who have not lost a series to New Zealand or a Test on New Zealand soil.

TEAMS

New Zealand (from): Matt Horne, Matthew Bell, Roger Tose, Craig McMillan, Nathan Astle, Chris Harris, Adam Parore, Dion Nash (captain), Daniel Vettori, Matthew Hart, Simon Doull, Geoff Allott.

South Africa (probable): Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

Abahani brush Army aside

Defending champions Abahani stormed into the final of the Cotton Group Shaheed Smriti hockey tournament blanking Bangladesh Army 3-0 in the first semifinal at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday, reports APB.

The Dhamondit-based outfit studded with two Indian internationals and two young Pakistani stickwielders, made short work of Army picking all three goals within 25 minutes after the start to settle the matter.

Young Pakistani Imran Yusuf, famous Indian playmaker Dhanraj Pillai and compatriot Sabu Barki scored once each for Abahani on their way to final in a rather one-sided affair.

In the final on March 2, Abahani will meet the winners of second semifinal between league titlists Mohammedan SC and Dhaka Club Cup holders Usha KC, scheduled to be held today.

Abahani went in front when Yusuf utilised their first penalty corner in the sixth minute. Yusuf found the right corner of the net with a neat scoop.

Imran had a hand on the second goal when he let loose a beautiful through pass to Pillai who bewildered the whole Army defence in the 13th minute.

Abahani made the scoreline 3-0 in the 25th minute cashing in on a Haroon and Sabu Barki combination.

After receiving a pass from veteran Haroon, hard-built Barki dribbled past two Army men and sent it to the right of the goalkeeper.

In the second half Abahani were content to sit back and allow Army more space. Army came close to scoring when Hasan Shahid's powerfully struck effort narrowly missed the target.

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Bappi, Mamun, Nakib, Rabiuddin, Miraj, Harun, Khokon, Rubel, Alamgir, Shamim, Imran Yusuf, Dhanraj Pillai and Sabu Barki.

ARMY: Jahangir, Saiful, Maksudul, Sanjit, Rahajuddin, Sirajul, Rafiqul, Thui Nu Marmar, Ferdous, Abu Sayeed and Tariqul.

Inzy ties the knot

KARACHI, Feb 26: Pakistan's star batsman Inzamamul Haq has got married but will only get a brief time to celebrate, reports APB.

The 27-year-old batsman wed Sveda Kshila Shehzad in the cricketer's home town of Multan in Punjab province on Thursday.

Teammates and a large number of friends and fans attended the ceremony.

Haq missed the Asian Test Championship victory over India last weekend due to injury but will be available to play against Sri Lanka in Lahore from March 4.

Hosts 26 runs short of safety



COLOMBO, Feb 26: Sri Lanka reached 293 for four, still in need of 26 runs to avert a follow-on, when rain stopped play on the third day of their Asian Test Championship match against India here today, reports APB.

Mahela Jayawardena hit his second century to be unbeaten on 128 as he consolidated Sri Lanka's innings with an unbroken stand of 115 runs for the fifth wicket with skipper Arjuna Ranatunga.

When the final session was disrupted by heavy rains, Ranatunga was not out on 66 and appeared pleased to call it a day after hurting his leg and having to call in a runner.

Play ended 40 minutes after the tea break with 31.2 overs of the day's quota of 90 overs remaining.

Jayawardena reached his century with a six over long-on against a ball from off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and occupied the crease for 403 minutes while facing 265 balls.

He struck 18 fours and also accounted for two sixes both against Harbhajan.

Continuing from an

overnight 59, Jayawardena survived a second chance when forward short-leg VVS Laxman failed to hold on to a catch with the batsman on 63 off the bowling of Kumble.

Jayawardena was earlier dropped on 25 on the previous day by the same fielder. But he rode his luck further with his score on 97 when Saurav Ganguly at first slip missed a catch against a ball from Harbhajan.

Resuming from an overnight 121 for 2, Sri Lanka took lunch at 184 for 4 after losing Chandika Hathurusinghe for 14 and Aravinda de Silva who was bowled round his legs by Singh for 23.

Jayawardena reached his century with a six over long-on against a ball from off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and occupied the crease for 403 minutes while facing 265 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard when rain stopped play on the third day of

the Asian Test cricket series match between India and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground in Colombo on Friday.

INDIA: First innings 518-7 dec
SRI LANKA: First innings (overnight 121 for 2)
Atapattu lbw Nehra 6
Arnold run out 34
Jayawardena not out 128
Hathurusinghe lbw Prasad 14
De Silva b Harbhajan 23
Ranatunga not out 66
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, w-4, nb-8) 22
Total: (For four wkts) 293
Fall of wkts: 1-18; 2-93; 3-129; 4-178

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Prasad	21	6	67	1
Nehra	19.2	2	64	1
Kumble	31	7	69	0
Harbhajan	22	6	77	1
Tendulkar	2	0	6	0



Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardena pulls during the third day's play in Colombo yesterday.

Cox's Bazar cricket

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 26: The First Division cricket league, organised by District Sports Association, began at the local stadium today, reports APB.

A total of 15 teams are taking part in the league.

Farid Rashid Juba Sangsadd beat Agrabati Sangsadd by 98 runs in the opening match.

The league was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

JPC badminton

The Jatiya Press Club (JPC) badminton tournament began at the club court yesterday, reports BSS.

JPC president Khondker Monirul Alam inaugurated the tournament.

JPC general secretary Swapn Kumar Saha, former JPC president's Hasan Shahriar and Mozammel Haq, vice-president Farid Hussein and convener of the sports sub-committee Kamaluddin Sabuj were present.

In all 21 club members are taking part in singles and doubles of the tournament.

Injury concern for top Windies stars



PORT OF SPAIN, Feb 26 (Trinidad Express): Carl Hooper's place in the West Indies team for next week's First Test against Australia has been thrown into considerable doubt.

The long-serving 32-year-old all-rounder has informed the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) that he is so worried about his new-born son's health he is not returning from Adelaide, Australia, as instructed, to play for the President's XI against the Australians at Guayaquil Park, the last match before the March 5-9 First Test.

Hooper has been in Adelaide, with his Australian wife and three-week old son since February 10 following the South African tour on which he was vice-captain. He was permitted by the WICB to miss Guyana's last two Bupa Cup matches but told he would have to turn out for the President's XI to qualify for Test selection.

Carl called on Tuesday to report on his son's condition and to advise that, in the circumstances, he was unable to leave Australia at this time," WICB chief executive Stephen Camacho said yesterday. "I asked him to outline the position in writing and fax it so that it could be considered by the Board and the selectors."

Camacho said last week that

chief selector Mike Findlay requested Hooper's presence in the President's XI so that his form and fitness could be assessed.

Hooper is the latest player whose availability is in question.

Captain Brian Lara has been unable to play in Trinidad and Tobago's last two Bupa Cup matches because of a chipped bone just above his right wrist, inflicted by a ball from Jacques Kallis during the third One-day International in South Africa.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul has also been sidelined since the South African tour by a torn muscle in his right shoulder. Camacho said yesterday he had not received a recent report on the batsman's condition.

Veteran fast bowler Courtney Walsh flew to New York yesterday for a check-up by WICB specialist Dr Answorth Allen on knee and hamstring injuries sustained in South Africa.

Walsh was yesterday reported to have been training regularly and to be fit. But he would not play in this week-end's Bupa Cup semifinal against Barbados.

Rational Gibbs

AUCKLAND, Feb 26 (AP) — Herschelle Gibbs, centre of the all-white selection row that has

rocked the South African cricket team, wants to be selected on merit rather than the colour of his skin.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa upset tour captain Hansie Cronje and coach Bob Woolmer for saying they ignored an edict to have at least one black or coloured South African in every international match.

Gibbs, one of three coloured or black players in the current touring party, played the opening limited-overs match against New Zealand but was dropped for the next two, as the tourists fielded an all-white side.

"You must earn the cap," Gibbs told The Associated Press on Friday. "Nothing in life comes free and the same should apply when it comes to representing your country. You must be picked on merit."

South African officials said it was decided before the tour that at least Gibbs, left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams or 18-year-old fast bowler Victor Mphahlele should play in the six limited-overs internationals and three Tests.

Gibbs, who made his first-class debut as a 16-year-old for Western Province, has had a roller-coaster test career but

made strong claims for a regular place with an impressive series in South Africa's 5-0 thrashing of the West Indies.

Gibbs made his Test comeback after the UCBSA adopted the policy of including at least one non-white player in all tests and one-day internationals.

"I am sure the non-white people will like to see more of them being represented," Gibbs said on the eve of Saturday's first Test. "But it should be done on merit. Not on the colour of your skin."

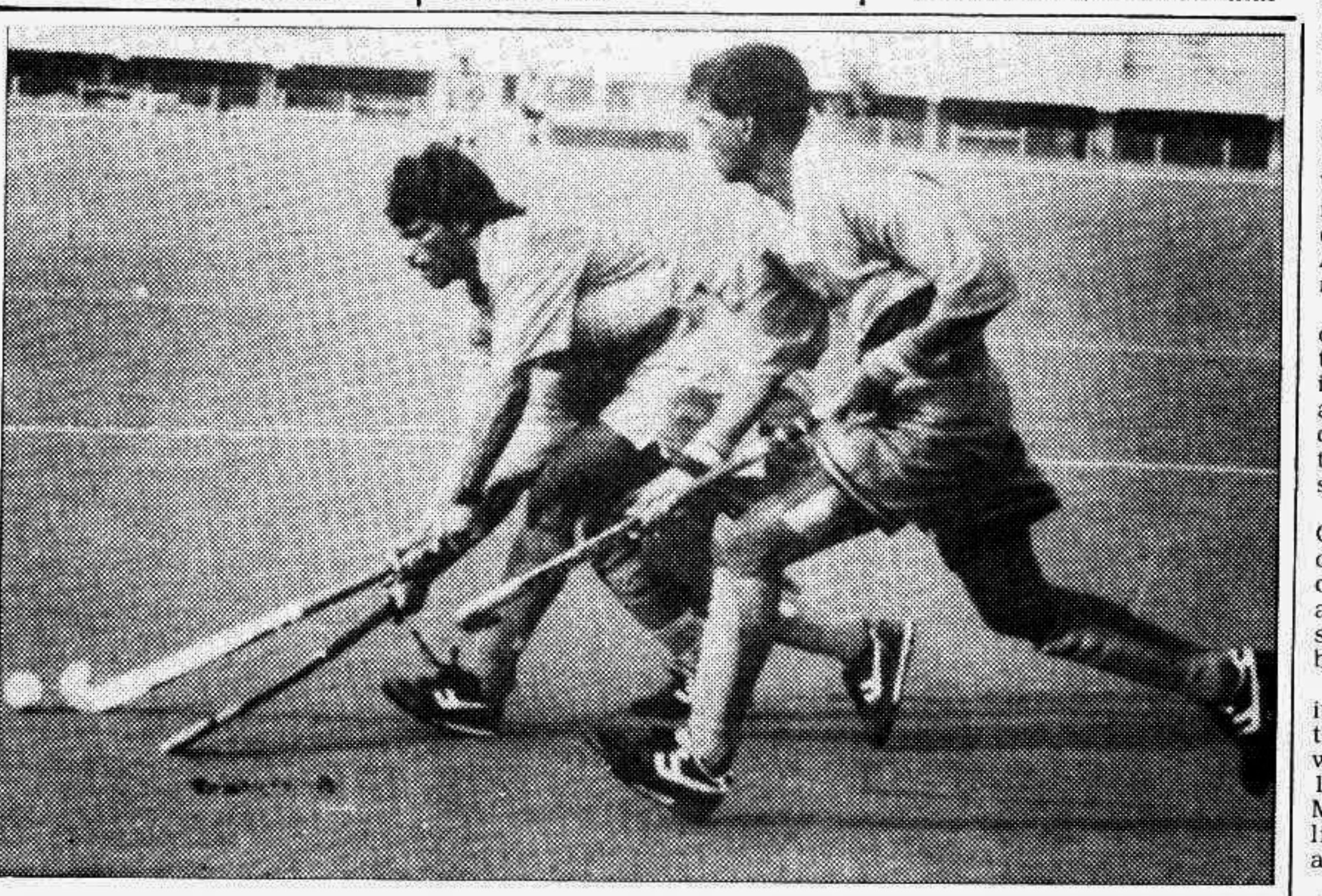
"You should feel proud of your personal achievement. You have to justify your selections by performing. The sooner people realise this it will be better for the sport."

Gibbs will open with veteran batsman Gary Kirsten in the first Test at Eden Park Saturday.

"If I was dropped for the one-dayers, it was because the selectors felt they could find a better combination. I've got no problems with that," Gibbs said.

According to the UCBSA managing director Ali Bacher, skipper Cronje has given assurance to adhere to the board policy.

In December 1998 the UCBSA launched a "Transformation Charter" and appointed a four-man monitoring panel with power of veto to endorse Test against the West Indies last year.



Scene from the Cotton Group Shaheed Smriti hockey tournament semifinal between Abahani and Bangladesh Army at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.