

## Column One SPORTS TALK



Kevin Keegan

(England soccer team's stop gap manager)  
"Some people think my style is naive, but I think my track record is good."

## 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

1 Who is the new Real Madrid soccer coach?

Hiddink Toshack Sacchi

2 Pakistan won the hockey series against India by

5-1 6-3 4-3

3 Who is the first woman referee to officiate a First Division soccer match?

Danielle Carolina Janet

4 Who won the boys' singles title in the ITF tourney in Rajshahi?

Chang Weaver Wala

5 How many players are taking part in the United Insurance GM chess tourney?

10 13 20

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (If any) .....

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## Nat'l cricket

## Barisal storm into final round

Barisal District Sports Association (DSA) reached the final round of the 25th National Cricket Championship posting an innings and 11 runs victory over Jhalakati DSA at Barisal Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Resuming with an overnight 426 for five in 94 overs, Barisal completed their first innings scoring 268 runs.

Faruque made a century playing only 52 balls while Tutan hammered 71 off 46 deliveries for Barisal.

Earlier on Tuesday, Manju made another ton of 130 runs for and adjudged man-of-the-match.

Jiban and Zabir picked up three wickets each for 54 and 93 runs respectively.

Jhalakati were all out for 210 in 68.3 overs of their second innings on the last day of the three-day final.

Number six batsman Rabi was the top scorer for Jhalakati making 43 off 56 balls while number seven Jony added 21 off 79 balls.

Shaheen claimed three wickets for 41 while Nahid, Shahid and Monu captured two wickets each for 15, 35 and 39 runs respectively. Manju took one wicket for 31 runs.

## Asian zonal chess

## Rajib stuns Dibyendu

FIDE Master Enamul Hosain Rajib stunned Indian GM Dibyendu Barua in the third round match of the Asian Zonal Chess Championship in Mumbai on Tuesday, reports APB.

With the win, Rajib managed 1.5 points from three matches. Leading International Master of the country, Ziaur Rahman is in the second position of the meet with 2.4 points from three outings. In his third round tie, Zia drew with Anup Deshmukh.

GM Pravin Mahadeb and IM Avizit Kunte of India are leading the points table with full three points.

Another campaigner Rakib has one point from three matches.

## Experiment with youngsters part of WC strategy

# Sri Lanka decry media for questioning aptitude

Hasan Masood



Sri Lankan manager Ranjit Fernando expressed his anguish for the media's attempt to undermine his team's ability to qualify for the inaugural Asian Test Championship final. He refuted that it was the mercy of Pakistan that allowed them to earn the required bonus points in the Lahore Test that concluded earlier this week.

The former Sri Lankan Test cricketer was addressing a crowded press conference at a city hotel yesterday morning after his team's arrival in the city from Karachi. Twelve of the

youngsters. "After our last game, two of those key players -- Aravinda and Chaminda -- got fit and that's why we have included them for the final," said Mendis, the former Sri Lankan captain and manager.

Mendis also confirmed that Arjuna Ranatunga, the injured Sri Lankan captain, will lead Sri Lanka in the World Cup in England two months later.

About the recent poor performance of Sri Lanka, manager Ranjit Fernando was rather philosophical.

"Yes, we must say that we had a bit of a lean run. But if you really analyse our cricket--

a better show in England," Fernando said.

About the bowling strength, Sri Lankan coach Roy Dias said that his side was missing Muralitharan like anything.

"He is our main strike bowler specially when it comes in terms of Test cricket. But anyway he is injured. I think the bowling this time will be a bit more powerful than that of the Lahore Test because Chaminda Vaas is playing here. I'm also happy with the way Wickremasinghe bowled in Lahore and got six wickets," said Dias.

On the bonus point system Fernando was quite satisfied



Sri Lanka Coach Roy Dias(L) manager Ranjit Fernando (2nd from L) BCB member Jalal Younus (2nd from R) and Lankan chief selector Duleep Mendis at the team's press conference at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

14-man squad came straight from Pakistan while skipper Aravinda de Silva and left-arm pacer Chaminda Vaas joined the team later in the afternoon as they came from Colombo via Bangkok.

Bangladesh Cricket Board member Jalal Younus, Sri Lanka coach Roy Dias and tournament director Duleep Mendis, who is moreover Sri Lanka's chief selector, were also present at the press conference.

"I think it does hurt! Particularly when you have a young side and you have done everything possible to get into the final. It hurts at that time. But, say there are times, you don't have to worry about things you can't control. I mean the media at times can be sort of not kind enough. So there is not much purpose in trying to worry about it," said Fernando.

"We had to prove ourselves. We did prove ourselves in the match against Pakistan by getting those required points. We have to naturally try and win the final. It's not easy to get points from people like Pakistan. They are a very competitive side and I am sure they did everything possible to try and win that game. As far as we are concerned, I think if we hadn't missed the catches we missed, we probably would have performed even better than we did. So, in that respect I think we did well under that circumstances," he added.

"We like to play to the best of our ability, that's all we can do. And I am sure if we do that we certainly are going to be quite thrilled," Fernando replied to a question about his team's expectations in the final against Pakistan. The five-day match starts at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow morning.

When asked why they sent such a weak side to Pakistan, the chairman of the selectors Duleep Mendis said that five of their front-running players--Ranatunga, De Silva, Muralitharan, Jayasuriya and Vaas, were kept out of consideration because of their injury problems and they had no choice other than going for the

## Div I cricket

An all-round performance by Pakistani cricketer Mirja helped Eskaton Sabuj Sangha earn a 22-run victory over Bangladesh Boys Club in the Metropolitan First Division cricket league at the Dhanomdi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Mirja made highest 60 off 113 balls with five hits across the rope. He later picked up three wickets for 17 runs.

Deciding to bat first, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha scored 236 for 9 in stipulated 50 overs.

Opener Shahjada scored 34 off 63 balls, featuring three boundaries while his partner Turki added 20 runs off 22 deliveries with four hits to the fence.

In reply, Bangladesh Boys were all out for 214 runs in 48.1 overs.

Boys' Pakistani recruit Majid hit 60 off 88 balls with four boundaries while Shawon added 35 off 57 balls, including four boundaries.

say we beat New Zealand at home in a Test series, we beat England in England and we also did well so far in the Asian Test Championship. So, in respect of Test cricket, I don't think we really have shown any deterioration. As far as the one-day game is concerned, if you look at Sri Lanka's strategy after the World Cup, when you are World Cup champions, you tend to try and continue to keep that image and I think for more than two years Sri Lanka did just that.

"Then you come to a stage where the next World Cup is due and we had to look at our newer players and try and weave a team that will be able to defend the World Cup in England. So I think the state is now where Sri Lanka is making the experimentation, looking in terms of trying to put a team that is going to win the next World Cup. And, of course, when you have a situation like that, there is always going to be a few reversals and I think we did have those reversals.

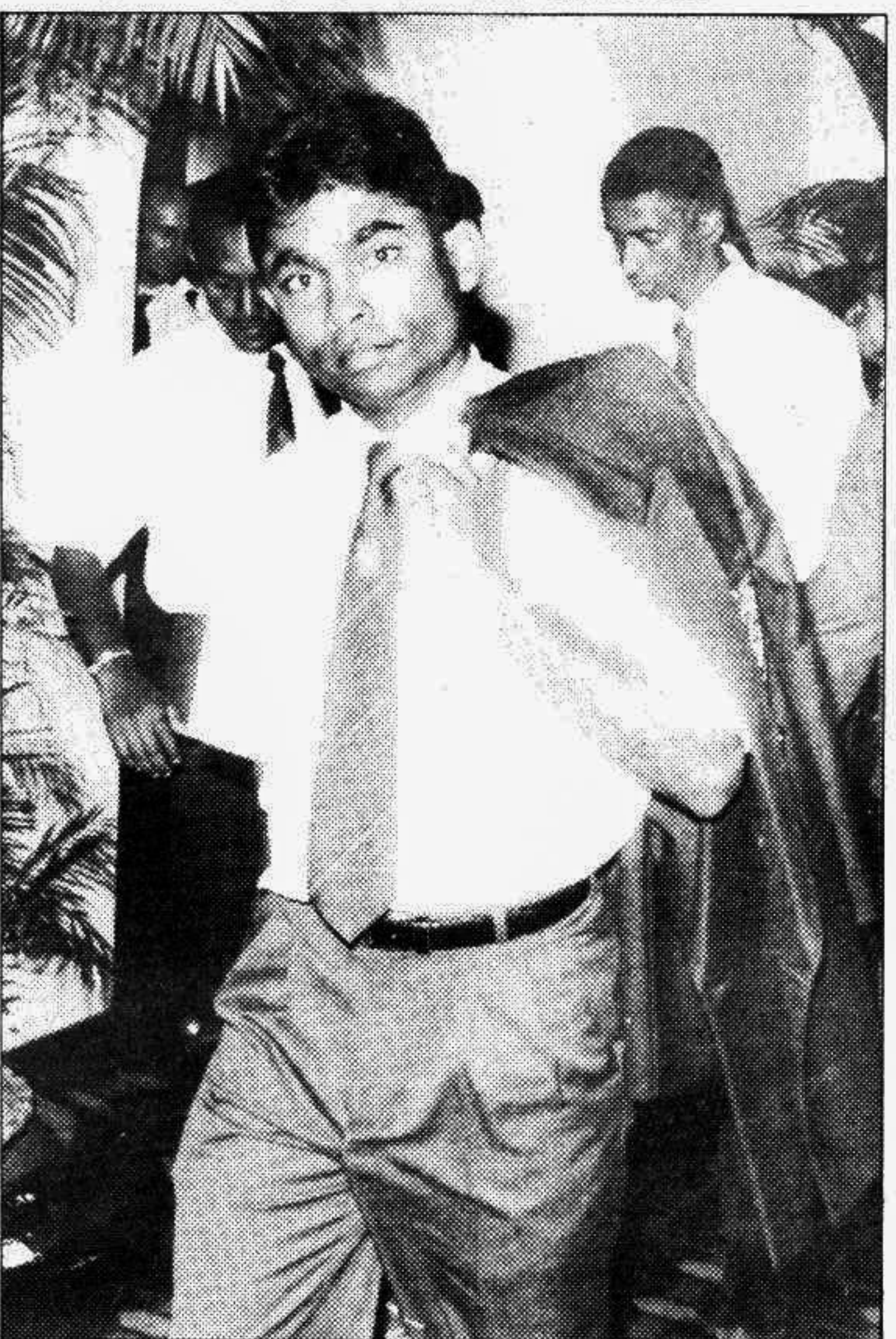
"And if you look at our performance in Australia, one really can not say that it was a failure from our point of view. We won three matches and with a side without the service of De Silva, who had been made the pivot of our batting, we narrowly lost three others and that probably were subject to a lot of pressure from outside as well. But those days are over. The youngsters are doing well and probably we are going to put up

but thought there was need for a few changes.

"I think the concept is very very good. But these have to evolve and this is the beginning. You are not going to get an ideal situation in the beginning. I'm sure lot of good brains have gone into working this points system and I am also sure that more people are going to put their inputs in the future. We probably might have to do some fine tuning," said Fernando.

In this regard, Duleep Mendis, the tournament director, who along with Majid Khan and Sunil Gavaskar made the rules for the Asian Test Championship, also made some points.

"I am sure there will be many modifications and changes. As for the start, our main idea was to have bonus points in the first hundred overs in the first innings so that the batting sides will not just go out collecting bonus points after the hundred overs. That is why we did not keep any provision of bonus points in the second innings. We wanted the sides to go for an outright. But I'm sure there will be situations rising out of these and there will be changes and modifications. Like Ranjit said, there will be some fine tuning to this points system. I'm sure in the future this will benefit a lot because the spectators at the end of game would like to see a result," said Mendis.



A DHAKA BOY: Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana, who was a familiar face in Dhaka cricket, arrives at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel along with teammates.

## BCB rue poor sale of tickets

Sports Reporter  
Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), hosts of the inaugural Asian Test Championship final, is unhappy with the disappointing sale of tickets over the last two days. The tickets of the five-day match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, scheduled to start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow morning, are on sale through eleven branches of Al Baraka Bank.

According to BCB vice-president Tanveer Mazhar Islam, tickets worth about Taka 14 lakh were sold till yesterday. All the tickets of the five-day match is valued at more than two crore Taka.

According to local cricket experts, the picture would have been different had the final been played between India and Pakistan.

## Quader, Saber inspect Bangabandhu

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader and Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and President of Bangladesh Cricket Board Saber Hossain Chowdhury visited the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, reports BBS.

The ministers inspected the facilities at the stadium themselves and talked to the concerned officials. Both Quader and Saber expressed their satisfaction at the preparations taken to hold the final of the Asian Test Championship and the tri-nation one-day series.

Officials at the National Sports Council and BCB were present.

## No captain as yet

## Windies name WC probables

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 10: West Indies have selected an initial squad of 19 players for this year's World Cup in England without naming a captain, reports Reuters.

Brian Lara has been chosen as captain for the first two Tests only of the current four match series against Australia.

West Indies lost the first Test by 312 runs after they were dismissed for 51 in their second innings.

A final squad of 15 will be named before March 31.

## SQUAD

Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Keith Arthurton, Ridley Jacobs, Rawl Lewis, Jimmy Adams, Courtney Walsh, Suruj Ragoonath, Stuart Williams, Junior Murray, Mervyn Dillon, Curtly Ambrose, Shivnarine Chandepaul, Reon King, Neil McGarrell, Dave Joseph, Henderson Bryan, Clayton Lambert, Phil Simmons.

## Cricket camp from March 18

A 10-day "cricket development programme," jointly organised by International Cricket Council (ICC) and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), will begin at Savar BKSP on March 18, reports APB.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the camp. Deputy Minister for LGRD and BCB President Saber Hossain Chowdhury will be present on the occasion.

Under the programme, 45 local boys and 15 from associate member countries of Asia will undergo coaching to be conducted by former Pakistan Test captain Mustaq Muhammad.

The BCB chief will distribute certificates among the participants on the concluding day of the camp on March 23.

The programme also includes a course for umpires from March 17-23 under Mahboob Ali Shah. Twenty-five umpires, including 15 from Bangladesh, will attend the course.

Besides, a coaching clinic for schoolboys in the 10-13 age group and a mini-cricket match will be held at Dhanomdi cricket stadium on March 20-22.

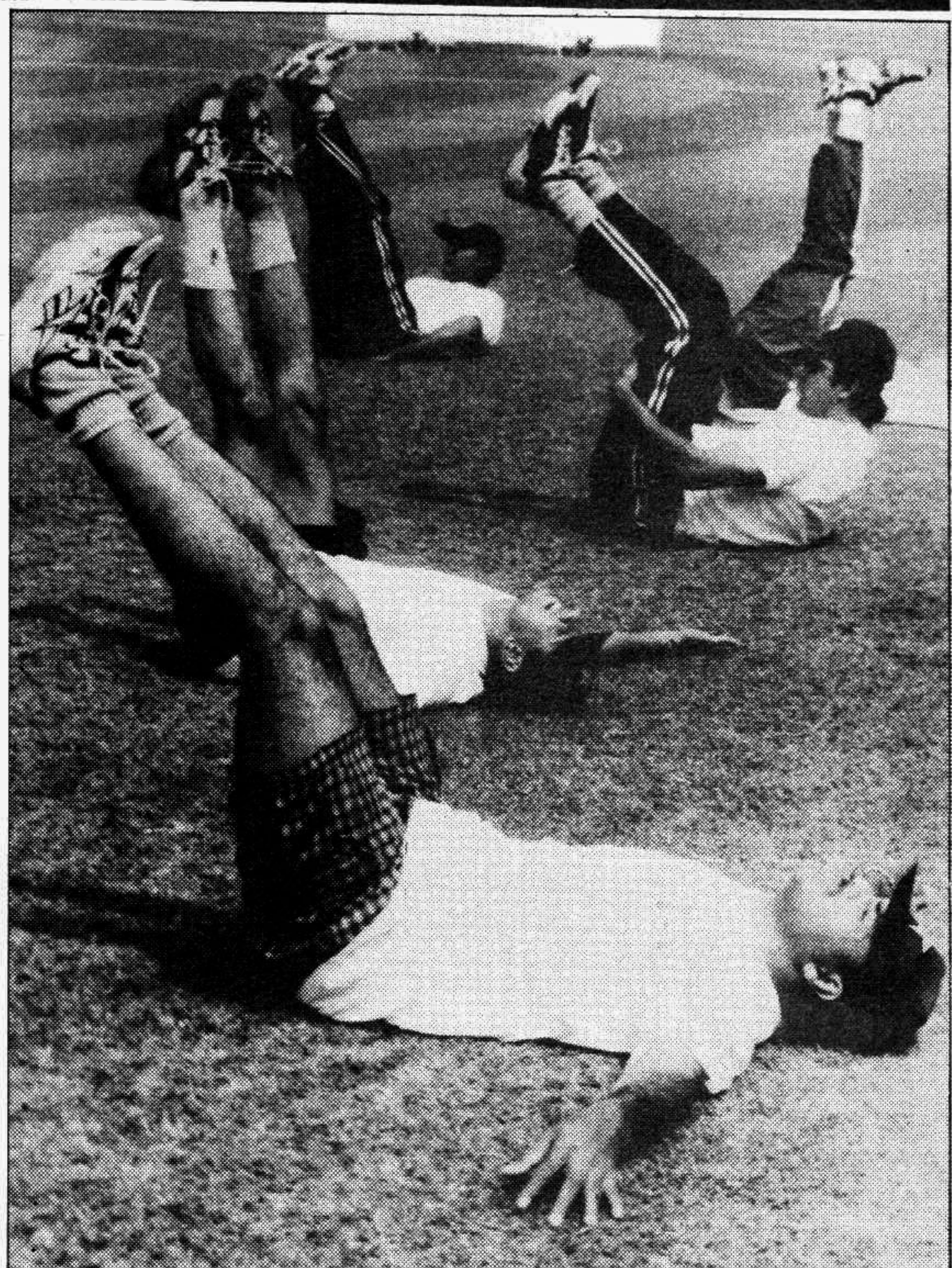
## Symcox acquitted

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 10 (AFP/Internet): The United Cricket Board of South Africa late Tuesday cleared recently retired veteran off-spinner Pat Symcox of allegations of misbehaving on a flight home last month.

A board disciplinary committee heard from Symcox and South African Airways staff but was "unable to establish exactly what transpired, and accordingly, Pat Symcox is exonerated," it said.

Cabin crew had complained that Symcox, 38, was rude and aggressive to them on a flight to South Africa on the way home from New Zealand, where he had played in one-day international. Symcox denied the allegations.

Earlier this month, only days after the claims came to light, Symcox announced his retirement from international cricket, despite being named in the country's provisional 19-man squad for the World Cup. He cited family reasons for the shock decision.



The Pakistani cricketers stretching it out at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Asian Test Championship final

# None shall be equal

Sports Reporter



Five options have been kept to decide the winners of the First Asian Test Championship final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. provided neither can win the match outright.

According to the rules of the championship, organised by the Asian Cricket Council, if the match is drawn and the first innings of both teams have been completed, the team that accumulates higher bonus points in terms of batting and bowling in the first 100 overs of the first innings shall be declared winners.

Or, if still equal, the team having a better run-rate in the first 100 overs of the first innings shall be the winners.

Or, if still equal, the team that has claimed maximum wickets in the first 100 overs of the first innings shall be the winners.

Or, if still equal, the team having a better net run-rate in the first 100 overs of the first innings it had batted and bowled shall be the winners.

Or, if still equal, the team that calls the coin correctly shall be the winners.

Bonus points for batting and bowling in the first 100 overs of the first innings will be awarded as follows:

BATTING	Points
Runs scored	1
150-224	2
225-299	

300-349	3	11:30 am to 12:10 pm	Lunch
350 or above	4	12:10 pm to 2:10 pm	2nd session
BOWLING		2:10 pm to 2:30 pm	Tea
Wickets claimed		2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Last session

3-4	1	UMPIRES
5-6	2	David Shepherd (Eng)
7-8	3	Douglas Cowie (NZ)
9-10	4	Third umpire: VK Ramaswami (Ind)
		Match Referee: Cammie Smith (WI)

## MATCH TIMINGS

9:30 am to 11:30 am

1st session



Englishman David Shepherd (R) and New Zealander Douglas Cowie, the umpires designated to officiate the Asian Test Championship final, pose at their hotel in the city yesterday.

—Star photo

## Davis Cup Group 3

# Happy outing for the hosts



Hosts Bangladesh began their Davis Cup Asia/Oceania zone Group-3 campaign on a winning note beating Syria 2-1 in one of three opening ties at the international tennis tourney kicked-off yesterday, at the Ramna Tennis Complex, reports UNB.

With this creditable win, Bangladesh brightened their chances to stay in the Group-3 of the ITF tournament.

From the ongoing seven-team Davis Cup Group-3 fray, two top teams will be elevated to Group-2 while two bottom teams relegated to Group-4.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim inaugurated the five-day tourney.

The meet has been organised

by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) under the auspices of International Tennis Federation (ITF).

BTF president and Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury and federation General Secretary Engr M Sanaul Haq were also present at the inauguration.

In the day's opener at court number one, Moinuddin Waliullah Jhelan of Bangladesh came from behind to beat Samir Saadeddin of Syria by 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in a marathon singles game that lasted 118 minutes.

In the second singles, Nadeem Kamran Khan Rohan lost to Syrian rival Rabi Bou Hassoun 4-6, 3-6 in a 57-minute affair.

But in the doubles, Jhelan pairing former national num-

ber one Shovan Jamaly snatched victory defeating Samir Saadeddin and Rabi Bou Hassoun 4-6, 6-1, 8-6.

In the day's other fixture, Malaysia beat Hong Kong by 3-0 matches while Pacific Oceania defeated Saudi Arabia 2-1.



WALIULLAH JHELAN

## STANDINGS

Standings after yesterday's matches: (Tabulating under teams, points, matches won, sets won, set lost, games won and games lost).

Group A:	COUNTRY	Pts	MW	SW	SL	GW	GL
	Bangladesh	1	2	4	4	42	39
	Malaysia	1	3	6	1	42	32
	Hong Kong	0	0	1	6	32	42
	Syria	0	1	4	4	39	42
Group B:	Pacific Oceania	1	2	4	2	29	30
	Saudi Arabia	0	1	2	4	30	29
	Tajikistan	0	0	0	0	00	00