

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 19/99 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 Janei
- 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
Class Roll No.
School Address

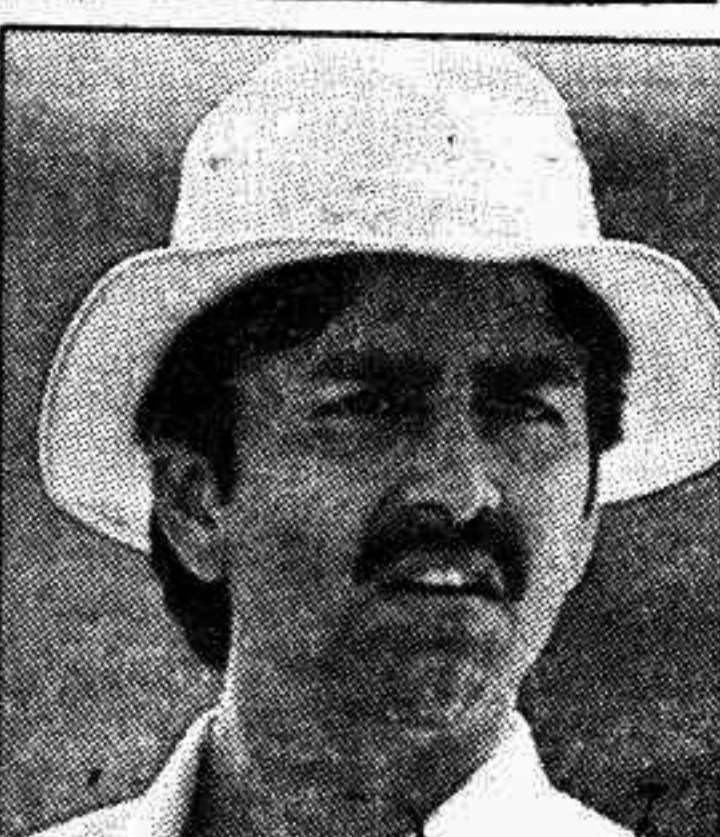
Phone: (if any)

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EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

NOTICE

Due to unavoidable reasons draw of the WHIZZ KID Competition 112 could not take place yesterday. The draw will be held on March 19.
—Sports Editor

SPORTS TALK



Manoj Prabhakar
(Former Indian all-rounder)

I have no idea. I have stopped watching cricket.
On how he rates the Indian team's chances in the World Cup '99 under Azharuddin.

Barisal cricket

BARISAL, Mar 12: Katpatti Friends Eleven beat Meghdoot Krira Chakra by 91 runs in the First Division cricket league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Opting to bat first, Katpatti Friends Eleven piled up 255 runs for nine in stipulated 40 overs with Ashu making highest 58 off 63 balls.

Mamun captured three wickets while Moni and Sumon took two wickets each.

In reply, Meghdoot were all out for 164 in 33 overs with Biplob scoring 27 runs off 21 balls.

Sumon picked up three wickets while Goutam and Ashok took two wickets each.

DD launching sports channel

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will launch Doordarshan's sports channel on March 18 at a function here, reports PTI.

The channel will be inaugurated at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at a function which will also feature a cricket match between teams led by former captain Kapil Dev and current incumbent Mohammed Azharuddin.

Parsar Bharati chief executive officer (CEO) OP Kejariwal told PTI soon after a board meeting here yesterday.

The channel will initially beam programmes for three hours a day, he said.

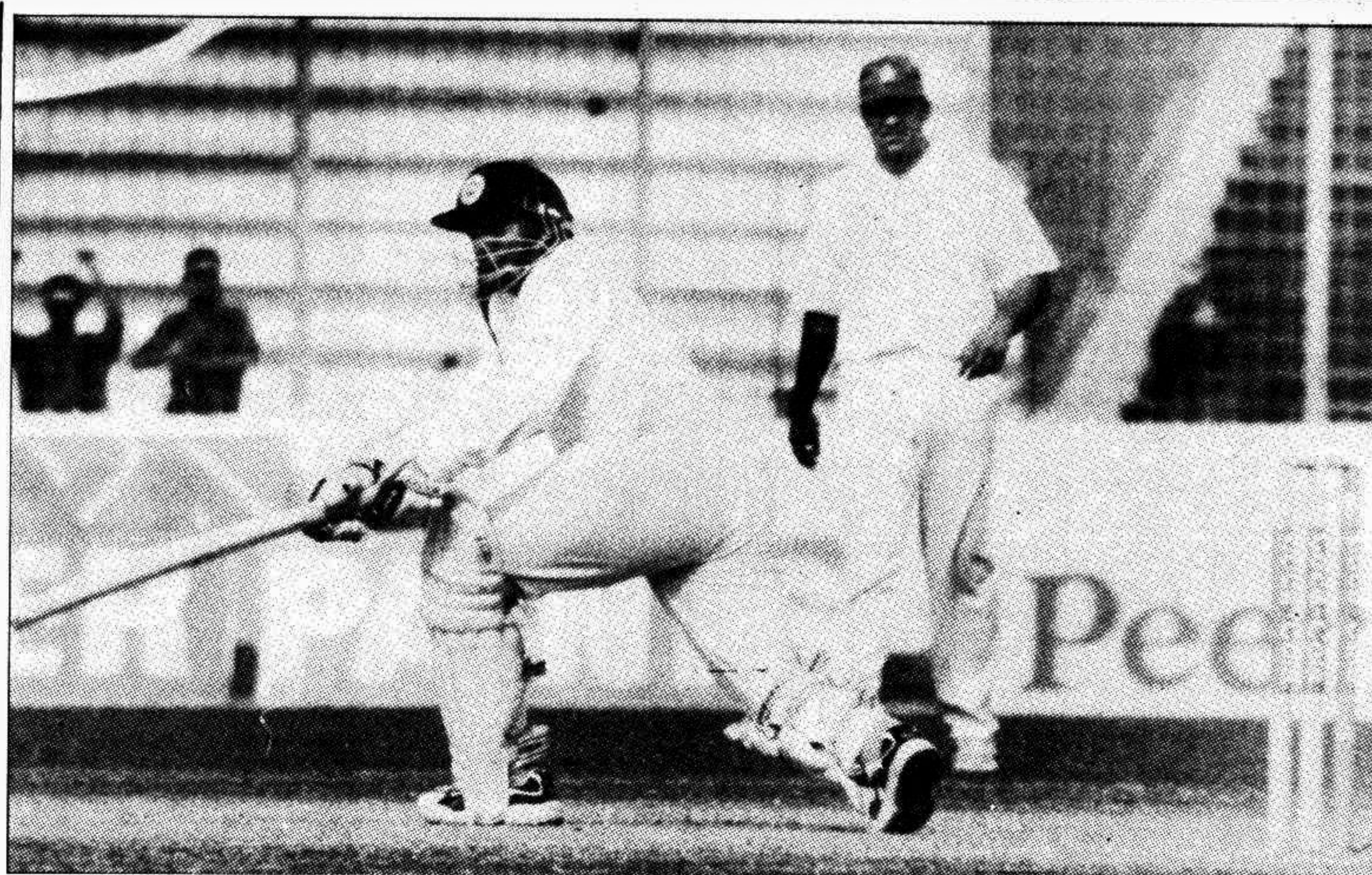
US Cup '99

Hosts win opener

LOS ANGELES, Mar 12: The US national soccer team beat Guatemala 3-1 (halftime 2-0) in the opening match of US Cup 99 on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Joe-Max Moore (22nd minute), Brian McBride (37th) and Frankie Hejduk (94th) netted for the Americans while Jorge Perez (penalty 51st) pulled one back for Guatemala.

35,000 fans attended the match.



Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva sweeps.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

TAUT AND TENSE TEST LIKELY

Shakil Kasem

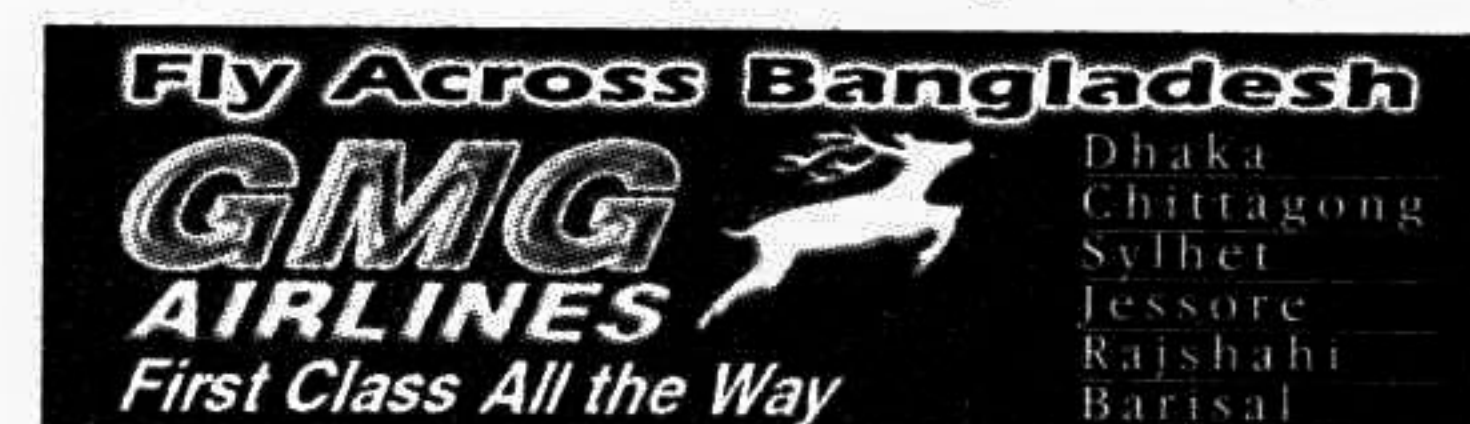
The sight of two spinners bowling in tandem within the first three hours of any Test match should not warm any season ticket-holder's heart. The average Dhakaite who has bought entries for all five days of the Pakistan-Sri Lanka Test match will be having a more fitful night than Aravinda de Silva.

Dhaka has not prepared a Test match wicket in the last thirty years. Granted, some assistance and advice have been forthcoming from Phil Russell, who has been the curator for this square in the past. But Russell is presently over 5,000 or more miles away, so obviously this has to have been a local effort. For the sake of the Dhaka Everyman, one only hopes that the wicket, such as it might be, does not decide to throw tantrums midway through the proceedings.

The Sri Lankans, meanwhile, have managed to dig themselves into a right royal hole. Winning the toss and opting to bat first, their innings curled up and died even before the butt end of the day was reached. When the top three of the order are back in the pavilion for less than twenty, any team worth its salt has its work cut out just to stay in the game. The Sri Lankans tried and looked like getting back in contention with Atapattu and De Silva, their two technically correct and accomplished batsmen coming into their own. Their 65 run partnership was ended just when Sri Lanka looked to have negotiated the choppy waters. It took a palpably bad decision by the umpire to pin the Sri Lankans back to the wall again. "Neutral umpires", whatever the term implies or means, counts for less than nothing if the man in question is not competent enough, or is just simply having

a bad day at the office. In Atapattu's case it was — and I am trying hard to be charitable — purely a case of the latter. With Moin Khan straddling the on side of the stumps waiting for the take, and Atapattu attempting

on the cards. De Silva at the end was done in by another dubious decision, again to a sweep shot. It was an uncharacteristic shot from a man who has such impeccable technique and chooses his



ing a sweep, the off-spinner's appeal for lbw was inexplicably upheld. Quite obviously the outcome of a fairly common umpiring ailment called *tichius fingeritus*, a form of malaise that affects umpires of all

shots with care. But that is of small comfort to him and in no way condones the decision. Clearly a case where the punishment did not fit the crime.

All said and done, barring Atapattu and De Silva, the rest of the batting order dissolved to a heady chemistry of pace, swing and spin. Wasim Akram was in his elements. Shoaib Akhtar was pace personified, while Saqlain preyed on the mind all the time. In the general turmoil Arshad (who?) Khan picked up five wickets without quite being the most lethal spinner of a cricket ball in the world. He stuck to the basics and a rudimentary knowledge of line and length, and the rest was, well, history of sorts. 5 for 30-odd by an up-and-down offie on the first afternoon of a test does really send shivers down the wrong spines.

What might be the moral of the story? It's a funny game, this. All and sundry may well wait for the morning to see what transpires, if not with excitement, certainly with interest. Oh, for a Muralitharan to rewrite the script! But Pakistan look comfortable enough for the moment, unless of course complacency bites them around the ankles, that is.



climes, "neutral" or otherwise. From 84/4 with only the wrong end of the batting order for company, De Silva shouldered on manfully, putting together a masterful innings. For four and a half hours, he took on everything that the Pakistanis hurled at him, from speedster and spinners alike. The hundred was there for the taking. More importantly, the prospects of reaching 250-plus (since wickets were regularly disappearing from the other end) certainly looked like being

MSC, Usha post victories



with an early 9th minute field goal while Mukked levelled the margin for Azad SC with a field goal in the 16th minute (1-1).

After one minute, veteran striker Sadek again put Usha ahead with a field goal. Issa Mia widened the margin in the 19th minute from a penalty corner while Nixon struck the 4th goal for Azad in the 38th minute, also from penalty corner.

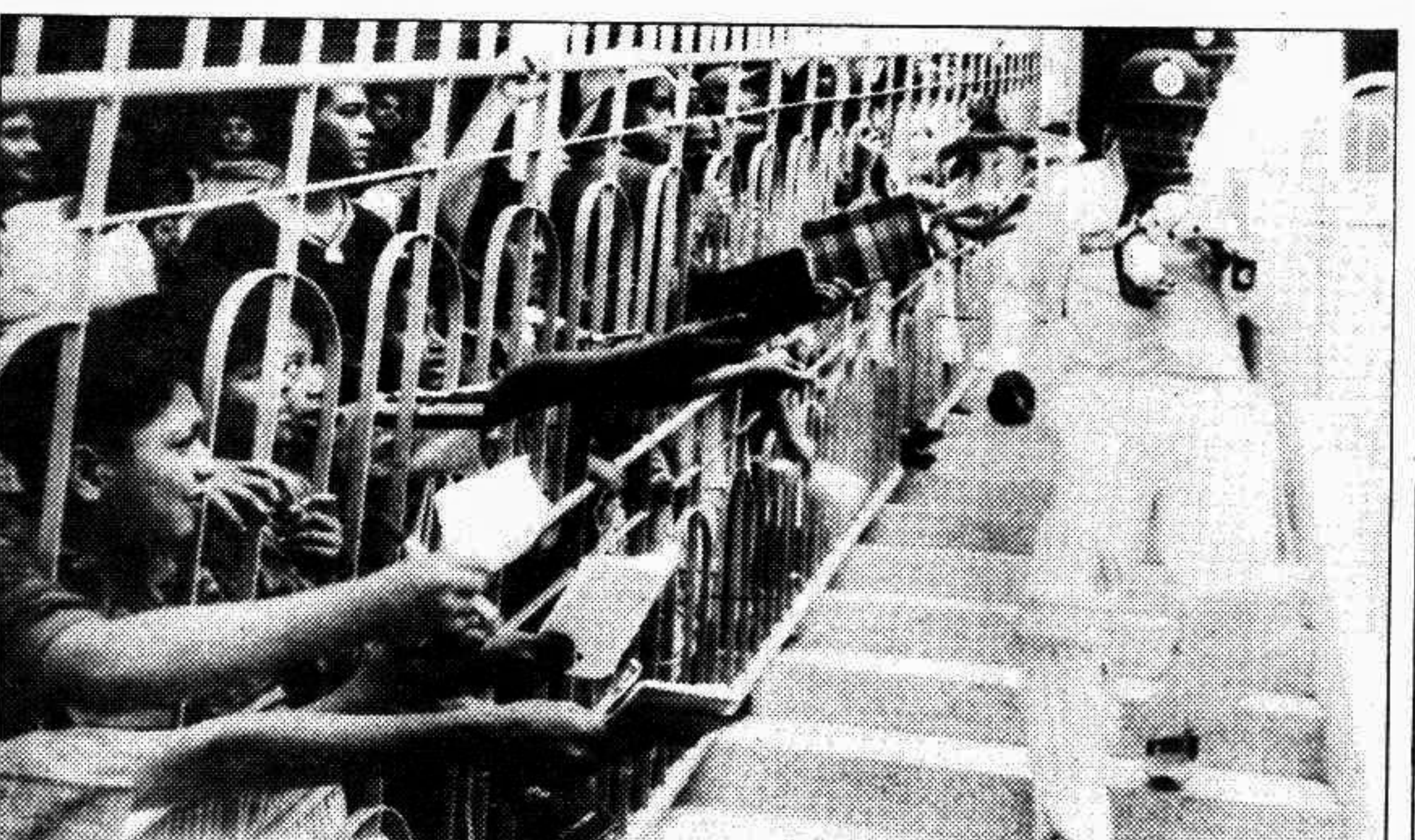
In the second half, Mukked again reduced the Azad margin scoring from penalty corner in the 41st minute. The match

reached an exciting stage when Habul of Azad scored from a penalty corner in the 53rd minute.

However, former national striker Sadek spoiled the Azad hope with a field goal in the 65th minute.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Abahani vs Ajax SC (1:15 pm)
Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club vs Sadharan Bima (4 pm)



SORRY, NOT NOW: Tiny tots in the VIP gallery seek Aravinda de Silva's autograph as he walks on to the field.
—Star photo

Championship nuggets

Hasan Masood

Pakistan-4 Sri Lanka-2

Pakistan were successful in earning all four bowling bonus points on the first day while Sri Lanka got only two points from their batting.

Pakistan, who lost the toss and were sent to field first by Aravinda de Silva, had a happy opening day as they went on to bowl Sri Lanka out for 231 runs in 78 overs.

According to the Asian Test Championship rules, any team capturing nine to ten wickets in the first 100 overs of the first innings will be awarded with maximum four points as bonus.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, had to remain satisfied with only two points from batting as they scored only 231 runs before being all out.

The rule says any team scoring 225 to 299 runs in the first 100 overs of the first innings is liable to get two points. Bonus points for batting starts from 150 runs.

Shepherd 47 n.o.

David Shepherd is very happy to be appointed as one of the two 'neutral' umpires for the inaugural Asian Test Championship final alongside New Zealand's Douglas Cowie.

The portly Englishman, who also had the distinction of officiating the 1996 World Cup final between Australia and Sri

Lanka at Lahore along with Steve Bucknor of West Indies, was talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

According to David, who also came to Dhaka last year for umpiring in the Wills International Cup, this was the 47th

Test match he was officiating. He began his Test umpiring career with the England-Australia match at Manchester way back in the summer of 1985.



ARSHAD ... career best haul

Celebrated Yorkshireman Dickie Bird was the other umpire in that match, which ended in a draw.

"My first Test match and the 1996 World Cup final are the two memorable matches in my life," said David, who played county cricket for Gloucestershire from 1965 to 1979.

Arshad defies 'no-turn' pitch

For any bowler, a five-wicket haul is a dream. And for Pakistan off-spinner Arshad Khan, who returned with his career best bowling figures of 5/38 on the first day, it was more than a dream-come-true in his third Test appearance.

"It makes me feel good that finally I have got five wickets in an innings of a Test match. I always worked hard and today I have got the result," said the tall Pathan, who played for Surjo Tarun in the Dhaka league that concluded last month.

"I was quite demoralised for being left on the bench in the last two Tests against India and Sri Lanka. But now I am excited for being able to show my talent," said Arshad, whose previous best bowling figures were 3/73 against Australia last year.

He also revealed that he did not get any help from the pitch as the ball did not turn much.

Cat in the bag

Two Sports Reporters from "Pakkhik Kirralok", a leading national sports fortnightly, have been denied media accreditation by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to cover the final.

The same two-Nasimul Hasan Dodiul and Saifur Rahman Chowdhury—were also denied accreditation to cover the Wills International Cup held in the city last October.

On inquiry yesterday, it was learnt that the two reporters have been denied by the BCB for criticising the board in an article published last year.

"I have been instructed by the board not to issue accreditation cards to these two particular reporters. We are ready to issue accreditation to anyone else from that magazine but not to these two. I don't know the reason why," said Jalal Younus, secretary of the BCB Media Committee (print) yesterday.

When this correspondent contacted BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq later in the evening, he opted not to comment.

The incident questioned the board's attitude towards the press. Can they deny a reporter for simply criticising them? Or, is there a bigger cat in the bag?

ASIAN TEST SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the Asian Test Championship final between Pakistan and Sri Lanka played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium Friday:

SRI LANKA: First Innings

Arnold	b Shoaib	11
Gunawardena	c Wasti b Akram	4
Jayawardena	lbw b Akram	0
Atapattu	lbw b Saqlain	36
De Silva	lbw b Arshad	36
Tillekeratne	c Wasti b Arshad	72
Kaluwitharna	c Youhana b Arshad	19
Chandana	c Moin b Shoaib	9
Vaas	not out	15
Wickremasinghe	c Wasti b Arshad	20
Sajeewa	c Moin b Arshad	2
Extras: (b-12, lb-9, nb-16)		37
Total: (All out in 78 overs)		231

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-16; 3-19; 4-84; 5-119; 6-135; 7-177; 8-201; 9-208

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akram	14	2	45	2
Shoaib	13	3	36	2
Saqlain	29	6	76	1
Afridi	2	0	15	1
Arshad	20	5	38	5

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Anwar	batting	16
Wasti	batting	7
Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-1)		10
Total: (For no loss in 10 overs)		33

To bat: Ijaz, Inzamam, Youhana, Afridi, Moin Khan, Wasim Akram, Saqlain, Arshad Khan and Shoaib Akhtar.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	5	0	14	0
Wickremasinghe	3	0	9	0
Sajeewa	2	1	1	0

Davis Cup Bangladesh third

Bangladesh lost to Hong Kong 0-3 despite displaying a good performance in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group-3 matches at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday, reports APB.

Bangladeshi youngster Nadim Kamran Khan Rohan, who was 5-4 ahead in the first set against Wing Luent Wayne Wong, finally fell in the tie breaker. Dilip Pashia also lost to Man Chung Melvin Tong by 1-6, 1-6 sets in the other singles.

Dilip and Jhilan pair was also handed a defeat by their counterparts. With the losses, Bangladesh finished third in Group-A.

Despite losing the matches, Bangladesh remained in the Group-3.

Malaysia were leading Group-A after beating Syria 2-1 on the day. Hong Kong and Bangladesh were trailing with second and third positions respectively.

Tajikistan defeated Saudi Arabia 2-1 to top Group-B while Oceania were placed second and Saudi Arabia third.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Malaysia vs Oceania (9.00 am)
Chinese Hong Kong vs Tajikistan (9.00 am)

Saudi Arabia vs Syria (9.00 am)

"Don't write us off yet" - Lloyd

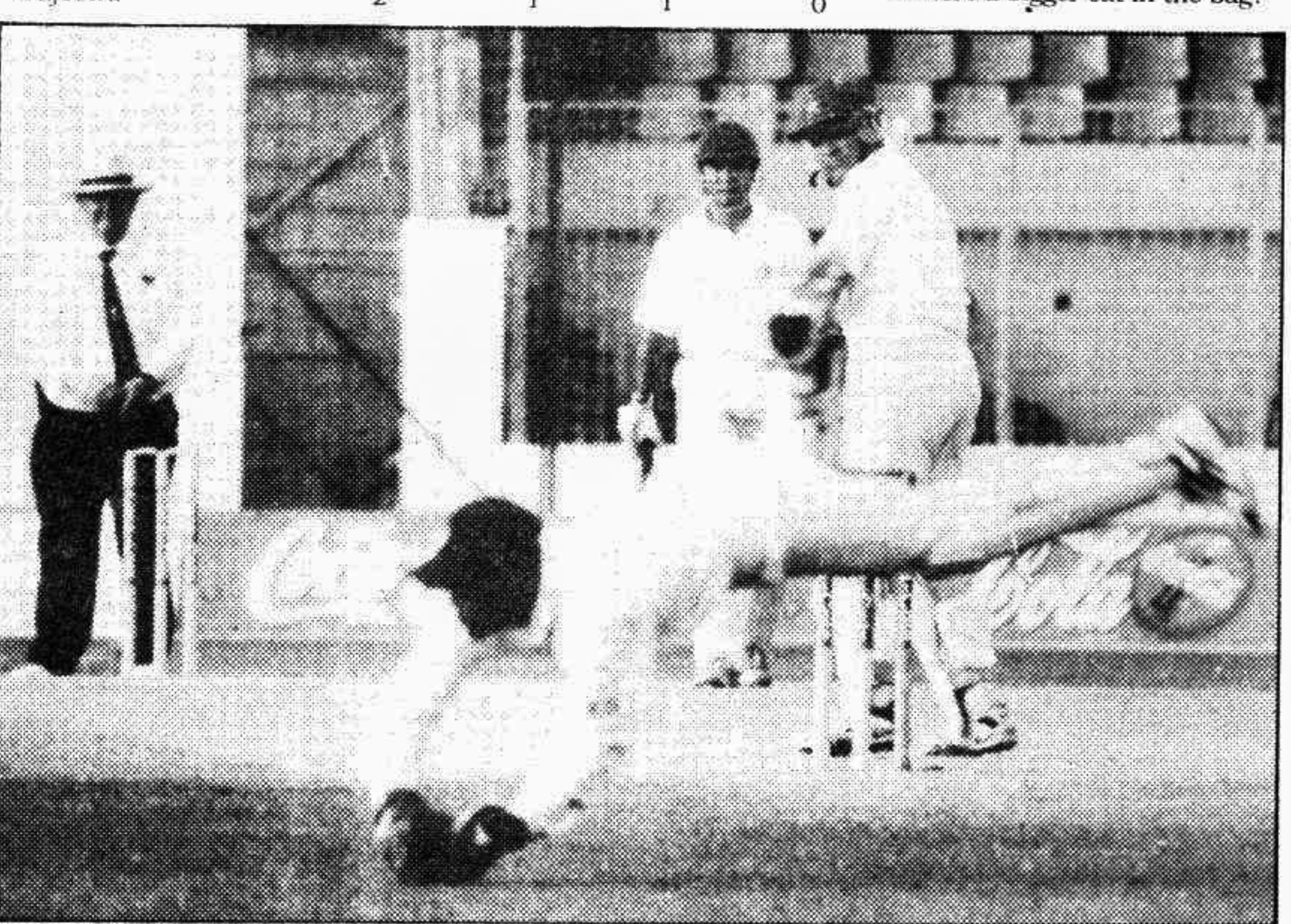
KINGSTON, Jamaica, Mar 12 (Reuters/Internet): West Indies' morale has not sunk as low as their score in the opening Test against Australia, team manager Clive Lloyd insists.

"The mood in the West Indies camp is pretty good at the moment," Lloyd said ahead of Saturday's start to the second Test at Sabina Park.

"The team just did not play in the first test," he said. "We played well for the first day and a half and probably just faltered towards the end of the second day, then we batted quite badly in the second innings, but that's cricket."

West Indies were dismissed for their lowest Test score of 51 on Monday and defeated by a massive 312 runs -- their sixth successive five-day loss.

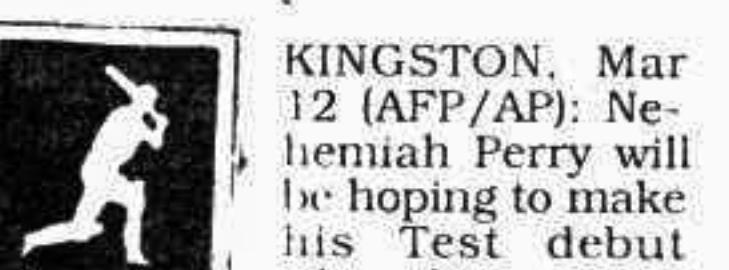
"We don't expect things to be easy and at the moment -- our cricket is going through a bit of a traumatic period and it's going to take some time for them to come through," added Lloyd. "I feel that if we try our best we can make it quite an interesting Test match."



Lankan wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana makes a brave effort, though in vain, to save four leg-byes.
— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Perry poised for debut

Sabina Test from today



KINGSTON, Mar 12 (AFP/AP): Nehemiah Perry will be hoping to make his Test debut when the West Indies face Australia in the second Test starting Saturday at Sabina Park here.

Perry, a 30-year-old off-spinner, and batsman Daren Ganga, who missed the first Test with a back injury, are two additions to the squad from the first Test in Trinidad and Tobago.

Injured batsman Roland Holder is out, and dropped from the 15 man-first Test squad along with all rounder Phil Simmons and pacemen Mervyn Dillon and Corey Collamore.

Middle-order batsmen Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Carl Hooper were not selected but veteran paceman Curtly Ambrose, who was originally announced as missing out with a back injury, still hopes to be fit to play.

Chanderpaul has not fully recovered from a shoulder injury while Hooper is still in Australia with his unwell son, but both are expected to be back

for the third Test at the Kensington Oval from March 26-30, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) said.

Chanderpaul's inavailability is a serious blow to the reeling West Indies batting.

The left-hander averaging 42.05 in his 35 Tests, returned from the series in South Africa with torn ligaments in his right shoulder.

The injury kept him out of the first Test.

Perry, who has never represented the West Indies at the highest level -- although he did make a tour to Sharjah in 1995 -- has captured 30 wickets this season and would add variety to a lacklustre home attack.

"Perry had bowled extremely well in the matches we had seen him in Jamaica and he bowled well in other matches too. West Indies selection committee chairman Mike Findlay said.

"The Sabina Park pitch that we saw took a little turn and bounce. So we thought we would include a spinner to give us a little more options in our lineup."

Ganga, 20, is fit again and in

spite of moderate returns in South Africa on his debut tour, 75 runs in three matches at an average of 12.50. He gets a recall with the unavailability of Chanderpaul.

"He is a young player, he's a player that clearly has a future in West Indies cricket if he continues to develop as we hope he will develop," Findlay said.

With the omission of Dillon and Collamore, only four fast bowlers are in the squad and it is likely that Reon King and the uncapped Perry will be vying for that last bowling spot.

The West Indies are anxious to snap their six-game losing streak after being outplayed by the Australians in the first Test in Port of Spain and their 5-0 loss in South Africa.

Captain Brian Lara's position is likely to come under review if the West Indies lose again.

REVISED WEST INDIES SQUAD: Brian Lara (captain), Sherwin Campbell, Suruj Ragoonath, Daren Ganga, Dave Joseph, Lincoln Roberts, James Adams, Ridley Jacobs, Nehemiah Perry, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Reon King, Pedro Collins.