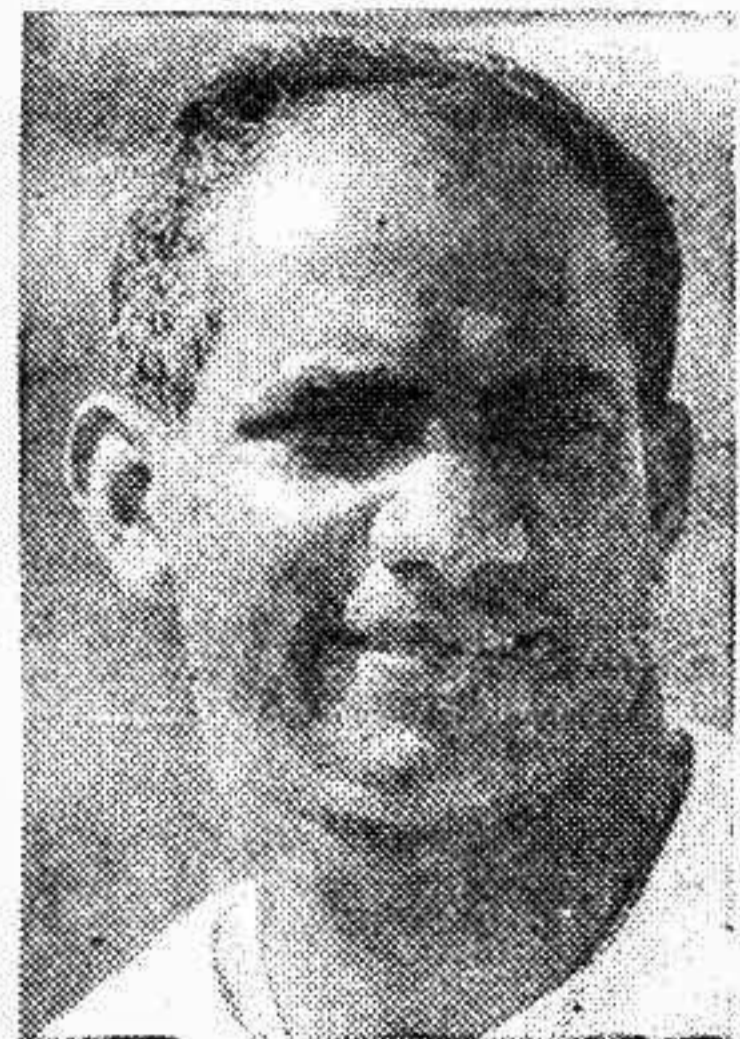


Column One
SPORTS TALK



Sanath Jayasuriya
(Sri Lankan master-bowler)
"Last time we were not the champions when we entered the tournament but this time we are more confident."
Talking about the World Cup

DID U' KNOW?
(The Professor does)

THAT, after two marriages, Pakistani fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz visited Delhi in 1982 and perched in a five-star hotel. His companion was neither of his wives, but a Pakistani cine heartthrob, Rani Naseera, who was also married twice before 2-2, as they would say in our trade. But that was the first innings.

The second was played at London immediately after. The couple got secretly married, each for a third time. Sarfraz later admitted that he was secretly in love with Rani from his adolescent days.

This was a different game, so a third innings was played when the couple arrived in Pakistan. Hostile banners greeted them. Mrs Sarfraz I sued him for desertion. When confronted by his second wife, Sarfraz had to jump out of a window and, in doing so injured his knee.

Message: If you marry third time, never leave by window. Always use the door.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-115

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

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 7, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South African cricket coach?
Ford Stewart Maah
- When England last hosted cricket World Cup?
1975 1987 1983
- Umpire Steve Bucknor is a
Guyanese Jamaican Trinidadian
- The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at
Edgbaston Lord's Oval
- The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in
Edinburgh Belfast Cardiff

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Perugia in trouble over Nakata signing

ROME, Apr 26 (AFP): Four senior directors of Serie A club Perugia are to face a disciplinary hearing for irregularities connected with last year's signing of Japanese ace Hidetoshi Nakata.

An enquiry lasting several months by Italy's soccer federation concluded that the four had broken the rules by using a third-party company to secure the reported 3.5 million dollar transfer from Bellmare Hiratsuma.

Perugia's managing director Alessandro Guacci, vice-chairman Riccardo Guacci, sporting director Ermanno Pironi and club secretary Ilvano Ercoli will now come before the federation's disciplinary committee.

The club itself, which is family-owned by businessman Luciano Guacci, was also cited in the charges. It therefore risks a collective sanction by the authorities, in addition to any individual one handed out to its employees.

Coca-Cola SAFF Championship
Baichung's two, India at two

Star striker Baichung Bhutia struck a goal in each half, as India advanced into the semifinals of the SAFF Championship with a 2-0 win over Pakistan at the Nehru Stadium here Monday.

But the fancied hosts had to be content with the second slot as Bangladesh finished atop Group A by virtue of scoring more goals. Both India and Bangladesh finished at par with three points from two outings, but Bangladesh won the Group

Al-Amin writes from Margao

for their 4-0 earlier thrashing of Pakistan.

On the other hand, Pakistan, the last of the six participating teams to arrive in Goa, was the first to make their exit from the tournament.

The losing semifinalists in the first edition of the biennial event in 1997, Pakistan suffered their second defeat against India, who scored an identical victory over their archrivals in their last meeting in Nepal two years back.

Baichung gave India a 26th minute lead heading home a spectacular cross from captain

Bruno Coutinho. The nimble forward then sealed the fate of a rather one-sided affair scoring his second goal in the tournament three minutes from the final whistle.

But the Most Valuable Player award went to Pakistani custodian Mohammed Younis, who stood tall under the bar only to save his side from total humiliation. Although Younis had a disappointing first match against Bangladesh, the tall goalie rose on the occasion to parry off as many as five sure sitters from the Indians.

Younis' agility, however, not only denied the all-out Indians a place atop the table, but also forced the belligerent hosts to play the first semifinal under the scorching summer sun at 2.30 pm on Wednesday.

On the other hand, Group A champions Bangladesh will play the second semifinal against the Group B runners-up, starting at 5 pm on the same day.

SAFF SNIPPETS

From Al-Amin

GOANESE GRUDGE
Goa football fans were out to prove that they were more loyal to their local boy Bruno Coutinho than the national team. Bruno, a household name in the smallest state in India, was pulled out midway through the second half by his coach Sukhwinder Singh. But the change sparked uproar in the stands where the crowd jeered and booed the coach till the final whistle. Not only that, once the midfielder was taken off, the crowd changed their loyalty, switching their allegiance from India to Pakistan. The two countries fought two wars against each other. The Goa crowd provided full-throated support to any Pakistan counter-attack, whatever its merit.

REFeree WORRY
Thai referee Jindaman Rumsamee collapsed after 45 minutes and did not return to officiate the India-Pakistan match at the Nehru Stadium Monday. The man-in-uniform was reported to be suffering from chest pain and was replaced by Malaysian S Selearajan, the fourth referee for the match.

BANGLA TRAIN
After a day's rest, the Bangladesh team started their practice today. The booters had a training session in the

TEAMS
India: Virender Singh, Rezaul Mustafa, Ranjan Dey, Fernandes, Deljit Singh, S Venkatesh, Jules Alberto (Bashudev Mandal), Bruno Coutinho (Carlton Chapman), Deepak Mandal, IM Vijayan (Sabir Pasha) and Baichung Bhutia.
Pakistan: Younis, Amir Khan, Bashir, Zahid, Tariq, Nasir Ismail, Arshad, Babar Mahmood, Gaffar (Rasool) (Tanveer), Haroon Yousuf and Umar.

Most Valuable Player award: Mohammed Younis (Pakistan)

TRIPLE DELIGHT FOR ABAHANI?
Abdul Gaffar has come to Goa on a mission. The Abahani official, who is accompanied by the newly appointed Sri Lanka coach Pakir Ah, is here to collect foreign players for the popular Dhanmondi outfit.

So far, Gaffar, a former national player and currently a member of the BFF technical committee, have made contacts with two Indian star players-- Baichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan-- and Nepal's Naresh Joshi, the young forward, who hit the limelight with a hat-trick against Sri Lanka on Sunday. But nothing has been finalised yet.

"I have made contacts with Baichung and Vijayan. They are interested to play in Dhaka. But they are yet to make up their mind. I'm hopeful of fielding all the three players in the forthcoming Federation Cup. But it is not possible for us to play the Indian-duo in the Dhaka League, because the transfer fee is very high", said Gaffar.

Ctg cricket
CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: Chittagong Jila Krira Parishad (CJRP) Ispahani First Division cricket league began at M A Aziz Stadium here today, reports BSS.

In the opening match, Friends Club beat Bakalia Ekadosh by 122 runs.

Batting first Friends Club scored 232 runs for five in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Bakalia Ekadosh were all out only 110 runs in 37 overs.

Nepal-Maldives tie today
Who will meet Bangladesh?

Nepal, fresh from their sensational 3-2 win over Sri Lanka, will take on Maldives in their last Group B match of the Coca-Cola SAFF Championship at the Nehru Stadium on Tuesday. It will also be the last match of the first phase.

Although Nepal will go into the match with nothing at stake since they have already qualified for the semifinals, it will be a do-or-die battle for Maldives for a place in the last four.

The team to emerge second in the group will meet Bangladesh in the semifinals. It could be Nepal, Sri Lanka or Maldives, depending on today's outcome.

The surprise package in the first edition of the biennial

event two years ago, Maldives led at least a draw to the highlanders in the knock-out stage, beginning on April 28.

Maldives, who finished second behind winners India in Nepal two year's back, failed to impress in their first appearance against Sri Lanka, who were unlucky not to get three deserving points. The match ended in a goal-less draw, as the Sri Lankan forwards muffed up as many as four sitters.

Maldives can still hope for a better fortune against Nepal. That will certainly depend on the mood of the spirited Nepalese, who captivated the Goa crowd with an attractive brand of soccer in the first match.

The recent course of events, however, suggests that Nepal will certainly not take the risk

of promoting Sri Lanka, especially after an unbridled statement from the Lankan coach Subani Hassimdeen, who went on record by saying that the Nepalese are not capable of beating them.

But, it was a nightmare for Sri Lanka, as Nepal replied in a most professional fashion enroute to their first-ever win against Sri Lanka, thanks to a fabulous hat-trick from their wonder boy Naresh Joshi.

Nepal's newly appointed German coach, Torsten Spittler, however, came up with a different frame of mind regarding their match against Maldives.

"I only believe in winning. But certainly we will not take the risk of running any injury," said Torsten.

National Chess Championship
Zia climbs, Rakib slips

Defending champion International Master (IM) Ziaur Rahman registered his fourth win in the 25th National Chess Championship defeating Khandker Aminul Islam in the sixth round played at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Playing with white pieces, Zia overhauled the King's Indian defence of Aminul in 37 moves to maintain his solo lead in the 16-player competition.

With the win, Zia, who had a somewhat bad start with successive draws in the first two

Sports Reporter

rounds, remained unbeaten in the 15-round championship, raising his tally to five points, half a point more than national junior champion Enamul Hossain, and Rezaul Haque, who are sharing the second spot with four and a half points each.

In the sixth round, Enamul defeated Khorsheed Alam while Rezaul beat Jamilur Rahman.

Playing with whites against the French defence of Khorsheed, Enamul checkmated his counterpart in 42 moves while Rezaul defeated Jamilur by time.

IM Reefat-bin-Sattar clinched his sixth round board against Sheikh Nasir Ahmed. Playing with black pieces, Reefat adopted the Sicilian defence against Nasir and won the match after 35 moves. Reefat, with yesterday's win, raised his tally to 3.5 points, equal to last year's runner-up IM Abdullah-Al-Rakib, who suffered his second defeat in the championship yesterday at the hands of Ali Amjad.

Playing with black, Ali Amjad checkmated his illustrious counterpart after 47 moves to raise his tally to three points.

In the day's other matches, Feroz Ahmed beat Shawkat Hossain and Taibur Rahman defeated Monir Hossain. The other match between Saifuddin Ahmed and Mohammed Javed ended in a draw.

Standings (after round six): 5

points--Zia, 4.5 points--Enamul and Rezaul, 4 points--Taibur and Feroz, 3.5 points--Reefat and Rakib, 3 points--Ali Amjad, Aminul, Shawkat and Saifuddin, 2.5 points--Javed, 2 points--Nasir, 1.5 points--Khorsheed, 1 point--Monir and Jamilur.

The seventh round will start at the same today at 3 pm.

SEVENTH ROUND FIXTURE
Zia vs Reefat
Taibur vs Nasir
Feroz vs Monir
Khorsheed vs Shawkat
Ali Amjad vs Enamul
Saifuddin vs Rakib
Jamilur vs Javed
Aminul vs Rezaul

Dhaka Bank Cricket Green beat Red

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Bank Green defeated Dhaka Bank Red by seven wickets in a friendly cricket match played at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

Batting first, the Red team scored 163 before they were all out in 29 overs. In reply, the Green team scored 164 losing only three wickets.

Rashed Imam top scored for the winners with 41 followed by Hannan, who chipped in with 29.



TAKE-OVER HARVEST: The National Sports Council, due to persistent demands, allotted the prized Bangabandhu National Stadium to football from April 25, prior to which it was being used for cricket matches. In greater national interest, the Bangladesh Football Federation has saved three cricket strips and the fourth will only have partial treatment for laying grass. The digging by workmen yesterday, however, belies the good intentions of the BFF.
--Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Navy cagers clinch crown

Bangladesh Navy lifted the Independence Cup basketball championship beating Josephites Club by 63-55 in the final at Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium yesterday, reports APB.

In the keenly contested affair, the national runners-up Navy led the first half 29-22.

Rashed, Huda and Siraj scored 16, 11 and 9 points for the winners while Fazole, Sejad and Lonan scored 11, 10 and 10 points for the Josephites.

Professor Rashid Uddin Ahmed, president of Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation distributed trophies.

ECB's excellence centres

LONDON, Apr 26: Six centres of excellence have been chosen by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) as part of a strategy to improve the development of student cricketers as potential first-class players, reports APF.

The ECB are to invest a total of 300,000 pounds (450,000 dollars) at each venue in a programme that will begin in autumn 2000 and is to come to early fruition with three matches against a first-class county for each university centre from summer 2001.

The centre of excellence status has been allocated to Bradford and Leeds, both Cambridge and Cardiff with their associated colleges, Durham, Loughborough and Oxford.

Kafelnikov to become world number one

MOSCOW, Apr 26 (AFP): Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov will next week earn the number one world ranking as Pete Sampras is not defending his title in Atlanta.

The 25-year-old righthander has not won since winning his 19th tour title in Rotterdam, Holland in February after which he moved up to his previous highest ever ranking of two.

Last week he lost in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open to a qualifier.

Russia's Sport Express newspaper said Monday it was sad that Kafelnikov will earn the top spot simply because of Sampras' refusal to play in Atlanta.

Kafelnikov has gained more points and prize money than anybody else in the world this year and won his second Grand Slam tournament, the Australian Open, in January.

He won universal popularity in his home country after winning his -- and Russia's -- first ever Grand Slam tournament, the French Open in 1996.

American Sampras will be dropping 172 points this week, meaning Kafelnikov is guaranteed to become only the 16th player in history to achieve the game's pinnacle.

Sampras' points total on May 3 will fall to 3,367, while Kafelnikov will not drop any points from his total of 3,382.

Norman's title drought over

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida, Apr 26: Eighth seed Magnus Norman of Sweden rolled to his third career ATP Tour title Sunday, pummeling Argentine qualifier Guillermo Canas in the final of the clay court tournament there, reports APF.

The 22-year-old Norman routed Canas, 6-0, 6-3. He lost just six games in his final four sets and won a title for the first time since winning at Amsterdam in 1998. His other title came at Basted in 1997 and all three have come on clay.

Limbering up for D-Day

Sports Reporter

Warm-up matches of the 1999 Cricket World Cup will begin from May 7.

There will be 36 'official' matches, although the 12 participating teams will be playing several other matches before May 7.

Each team will play three matches against county teams. Bangladesh will play warm-up matches against Essex at Chelmsford on May 8, against Middlesex at Southgate on May 10 and against Northamptonshire at Northampton May 12.

Bangladesh open their World Cup campaign against New Zealand on May 17 at Chelmsford.

APB adds: Bangladesh national cricket side will play against Northamptonshire Second XI today in their first

'unofficial' warm-up match in the run up to the World Cup scheduled to kick off on May 14. Bangladesh will play their second practice match against Hertfordshire Selected XI on April 28.

Date	Match	Venue
May 07	England v Kent India v Leicestershire Kenya v Somerset South Africa v Sussex Sri Lanka v Northamptonshire Zimbabwe v Worcestershire Australia v Glamorgan Bangladesh v Essex New Zealand v Hampshire Pakistan v Derbyshire Scotland v Durham West Indies v Gloucestershire	Canterbury Leicester Taunton Hove Worcester Cardiff Chelmsford Southampton Derby Chester-le-Street Bristol Chelmsford Harrrogate Bristol Canterbury Trent Bridge Worcester Southgate The Oval Chester-le-Street Old Trafford Edgbaston Southampton Trent Bridge Cardiff Leicester Edgbaston
May 08	England v Kent India v Leicestershire Kenya v Somerset South Africa v Sussex Sri Lanka v Northamptonshire Zimbabwe v Worcestershire Australia v Glamorgan Bangladesh v Essex New Zealand v Hampshire Pakistan v Derbyshire Scotland v Durham West Indies v Gloucestershire	Canterbury Leicester Taunton Hove Worcester Cardiff Chelmsford Southampton Derby Chester-le-Street Bristol Chelmsford Harrrogate Bristol Canterbury Trent Bridge Worcester Southgate The Oval Chester-le-Street Old Trafford Edgbaston Southampton Trent Bridge Cardiff Leicester Edgbaston
May 09	England v Essex India v Yorkshire Kenya v Gloucestershire South Africa v Kent Sri Lanka v Nottinghamshire Zimbabwe v Derbyshire Australia v Worcestershire Bangladesh v Middlesex New Zealand v Surrey Pakistan v Durham Scotland v Lancashire West Indies v Warwickshire England v Hampshire India v Nottinghamshire Kenya v Glamorgan South Africa v Middlesex Sri Lanka v Leicestershire Zimbabwe v Warwickshire Australia v Somerset Bangladesh v Northamptonshire New Zealand v Sussex Pakistan v Lancashire Scotland v Yorkshire West Indies v Surrey	Canterbury Leicester Taunton Hove Worcester Cardiff Chelmsford Southampton Derby Chester-le-Street Bristol Chelmsford Harrrogate Bristol Canterbury Trent Bridge Worcester Southgate The Oval Chester-le-Street Old Trafford Edgbaston Southampton Trent Bridge Cardiff Leicester Edgbaston Taunton Northampton Arundel Old Trafford Scarborough The Oval
May 10	England v Essex India v Yorkshire Kenya v Gloucestershire South Africa v Kent Sri Lanka v Nottinghamshire Zimbabwe v Derbyshire Australia v Worcestershire Bangladesh v Middlesex New Zealand v Surrey Pakistan v Durham Scotland v Lancashire West Indies v Warwickshire England v Hampshire India v Nottinghamshire Kenya v Glamorgan South Africa v Middlesex Sri Lanka v Leicestershire Zimbabwe v Warwickshire Australia v Somerset Bangladesh v Northamptonshire New Zealand v Sussex Pakistan v Lancashire Scotland v Yorkshire West Indies v Surrey	Canterbury Leicester Taunton Hove Worcester Cardiff Chelmsford Southampton Derby Chester-le-Street Bristol Chelmsford Harrrogate Bristol Canterbury Trent Bridge Worcester Southgate The Oval Chester-le-Street Old Trafford Edgbaston Southampton Trent Bridge Cardiff Leicester Edgbaston Taunton Northampton Arundel Old Trafford Scarborough The Oval
May 11	England v Hampshire India v Nottinghamshire Kenya v Gloucestershire South Africa v Kent Sri Lanka v Nottinghamshire Zimbabwe v Derbyshire Australia v Worcestershire Bangladesh v Middlesex New Zealand v Surrey Pakistan v Durham Scotland v Lancashire West Indies v Warwickshire England v Hampshire India v Nottinghamshire Kenya v Glamorgan South Africa v Middlesex Sri Lanka v Leicestershire Zimbabwe v Warwickshire Australia v Somerset Bangladesh v Northamptonshire New Zealand v Sussex Pakistan v Lancashire Scotland v Yorkshire West Indies v Surrey	Canterbury Leicester Taunton Hove Worcester Cardiff Chelmsford Southampton Derby Chester-le-Street Bristol Chelmsford Harrrogate Bristol Canterbury Trent Bridge Worcester Southgate The Oval Chester-le-Street Old Trafford Edgbaston Southampton Trent Bridge Cardiff Leicester Edgbaston Taunton Northampton Arundel Old Trafford Scarborough The Oval
May 12	England v Hampshire India v Nottinghamshire Kenya v Gloucestershire South Africa v Kent Sri Lanka v Nottinghamshire Zimbabwe v Derbyshire Australia v Worcestershire Bangladesh v Middlesex New Zealand v Surrey Pakistan v Durham Scotland v Lancashire West Indies v Warwickshire England v Hampshire India v Nottinghamshire Kenya v Glamorgan South Africa v Middlesex Sri Lanka v Leicestershire Zimbabwe v Warwickshire Australia v Somerset Bangladesh v Northamptonshire New Zealand v Sussex Pakistan v Lancashire Scotland v Yorkshire West Indies v Surrey	Canterbury Leicester Taunton Hove Worcester Cardiff Chelmsford Southampton Derby Chester-le-Street Bristol Chelmsford Harrrogate Bristol Canterbury Trent Bridge Worcester Southgate The Oval Chester-le-Street Old Trafford Edgbaston Southampton Trent Bridge Cardiff Leicester Edgbaston Taunton Northampton Arundel Old Trafford Scarborough The Oval

Stewart carries no grudges

LONDON, Apr 26 (Reuters/Inter-Net): England captain Alec Stewart assured his Sri Lankan counterpart Arjuna Ranatunga on Monday he would carry no grudges into the opening World Cup match at Lord's on May 14.

Stewart had an angry confrontation with Ranatunga during a one-day match in Adelaide last January after Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan had been nulled for throwing.

Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka to victory at the 1996 World Cup responded by taking his players off the playing area and Stewart told the Sri Lankan: "Your behaviour today has been appalling for a country captain."

At the launch on Monday of his book entitled "A Captain's Diary" Stewart played an impeccably straight bat when asked what he would discuss with Ranatunga at the pre-World Cup captains' meeting.

"There's no problems between me and him," Stewart said. "Come the first game, anything that happened in the Adelaide game will be finished."

"I've always played my cricket, play it hard and play it fair and don't carry things off the field."

"So by the time the first game has started I'll have forgotten about it."

The troubled build-up to the Cup took a further twist on Monday when Pakistan Cricket Board sources said five of the Pakistan team, including captain Wasim Akram, had been

summoned to appear before a judicial inquiry into match-fixing on Wednesday.

Akram, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis had been asked to appear before judge Malik Mohammad Qayum, the day after the team are scheduled to fly to England.

The sources said the five would be represented by their lawyers.

There was better news from Colombo where a Sri Lanka court lifted a restriction preventing Sri Lanka Cricket Board officials from carrying out their functions.

restraining President Thilaganatha Sumathipala and some other board members from operating as office-bearers after losing candidate Clifford Ratwatte alleged that gun-toting intruders had prevented fair and free elections.

In Bridgetown, Barbados, Australian captain Steve Waugh said his team had no choice other than return to the field after the crowd showered bottles on the field during Sunday's one-day international against West Indies.

Play was halted for 45 minutes in the seventh and final one-day match when the crowd reacted violently to a controversial run-out of West Indies and Barbados opener Sherwin Campbell.

"Once again, we go back to saying it's only a matter of time before somebody gets killed," Waugh said. "It's right, it will happen."

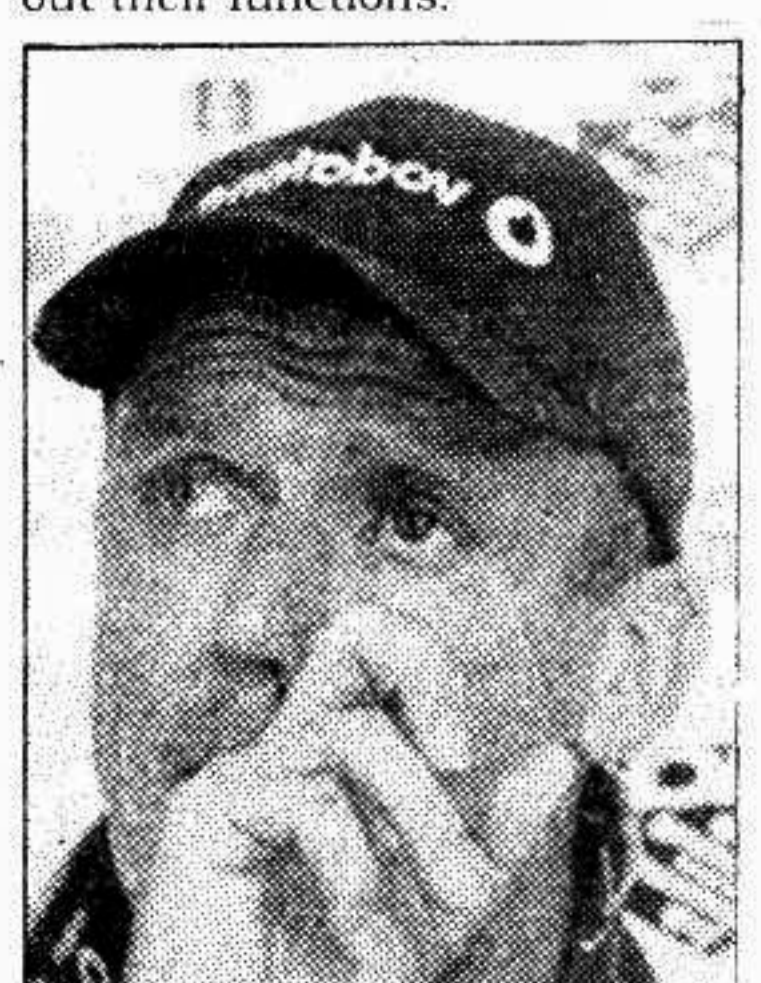
"We didn't have any guarantees for our safety if the game was called off. The police said it would be a much worse situation if we didn't go back out to play, so we had no choice in the matter."

Stewart described the incident as "very, very disappointing."

"The game had to come to a standstill," he said. "It was hugely disappointing for everyone."

Set a reduced target to win after Campbell was reinstated, West Indies squared the series 3-3.

Last Wednesday's match in Georgetown, Guyana, last Wednesday was declared a tie after spectators invaded the pitch.



ALEC STEWART