

Nat'l swimming begins Apr 28

The Keya Cosmetics 18th national swimming championship, organised by Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF), begins at the Mirpur National Swimming Pool on Wednesday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the three-day meet at 9 am.

Addressing at a news conference yesterday, BSF General Secretary said more than 350 swimmers, including 40 women, from 22 teams across the country would take part in the three-day meet.

BSF vice president Alhaj Solaiman and Adviser of the sponsors Keya Cosmetics Limited and eminent footballer Zakaria Pintoo also spoke on the occasion.

The participating teams are: BKSP, Bangladesh Army, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagar, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Narail, Nilphamari, Bangladesh Ansars and VDP, Narayanganj, Bogra, Khulna, Brahmanbaria, Madaripur, Kishia, Meherpur, Bangladesh Air Force, Bangladesh Navy, Jessore Education Board and Dolphin Swimming Club of Jessore.

The Federation officials are expecting some more district teams would take part in the meet.

In water-polo, 12 teams will take part while only three teams in diving to be held at the Army Swimming Pool.

Though the Mirpur Pool is equipped with an electronic timer, the BSF officials will use manual timings during the competition.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University announced its swimming team on Sunday to participate in the competition.

The team led by Mahbubur Rahman includes Faruq Ahmed, Hafizul Islam, Nibedita Das and Ting Ting Maah.

SL board free to function

COLOMBO, Apr 26: A Sri Lanka court lifted today a restriction preventing Sri Lanka cricket board officials from carrying out their functions, reports Reuters.

But the court said fresh elections would be needed if allegations of intimidation in last month's polls were proven.

Three weeks ago the court issued an order restraining president Thilanga Sumathipala and some other board officials from functioning as office-bearers after losing candidate Clifford Ratwatte alleged that gun-toting intruders had prevented free and fair elections.

The order was not extended when the case was heard today but Colombo district court judge AMA Salam said that if the trial found the elections were unfair Ratwatte could stand in fresh elections.

Salam also said a letter from Sports Minister SB Disanayake to the board was in contempt of court because it had found fault with his court order.

The judge demanded that a certified copy of the minister's letter be produced in court by May 7 and added that he was referring the matter to high judicial authorities.

He also ordered Sumathipala and other board officials to appear before courts when the interim injunction inquiry starts on April 28.

Sumathipala was re-elected president by a 79-11 margin after a walk-out by Ratwatte and his supporters.

He has denied charges of vote-rigging, saying the election was held according to the board's constitution and with the consent of the majority at the meeting.

Ratwatte, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike's brother, made a surprise entry into the presidential race, promising to clean up the administration and impose financial discipline.

Cricket authorities, fearing the court wrangle might have a negative impact on the Sri Lanka players in their bid to defend the World Cup title in England from next month, have sought the assistance of a Pakistani psychologist to assist the team.

The team left for London last Friday for preparations ahead of their opening match against England on May 14.

Nigeria to probe into poor play

LAGOS, Apr 26 (Reuters/Internet): Nigeria has set up a panel to probe the team's poor performance in the World Youth Cup which the country hosted, Abdulummini Aminu, chairman of the Nigerian Football Association, said on Monday.

The eight-member panel is headed by ex-national team captain Segun Odegbami and must submit its report by May 27, Aminu told reporters.

The Nigerians sacked youth team coach Tunde Disu after the first round matches and replaced him with national team trainer Dutch Thijs Libregts.

Nigeria eventually lost 3-1 to Mali in the quarter-finals and Libregts said his team was short of quality players.

Spain won the tournament by beating Japan 4-0 in the final while Mali took third place with a 1-0 win over Uruguay.

Flintoff's one-man show

LONDON, Apr 26: England World Cup squad all-rounder Andrew Flintoff smashed 143 off 66 balls for Lancashire Lightning in a National League limited-over match on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Flintoff played the Essex Eagles bowlers all over their home ground at Chelmsford, smashing nine sixes and 15 fours, as his side piled up 301 for six off their 45 overs.

Lancashire, despite their huge total in the First Division game, won by only three runs after Essex replied with 298 all out, medium-pace bowler Flintoff taking three wickets.

Essex, spurred by 87 from wicketkeeper Robert Rollins and 55 from Australian Stuart Law, were on the verge of a dramatic victory until three run-outs dashed their hopes.

Hampshire Hawks beat Kent Spitfires by 21 runs in a rain-hit game at Southampton, thanks to an unbeaten 71 by their former captain John Stephenson.

At Edgaston, Worcestershire Royals routed local rivals Warwickshire Bears, who were skittled for 113. The Royals had powered to 287 for four, with Phil Weston (125) and Paul Pollard (70) sharing an opening stand of 149.



Bangladesh Swimming Federation general secretary Mosharrar Hossain addresses a press conference yesterday in connection with the national championship which starts on Wednesday. —Star photo

Kenya wary of weather

MANCHESTER, Apr 26 (AFP): Kenya's cricketers flew into a damp Manchester on Monday to launch their World Cup campaign and admitted the English conditions could cause them serious problems in next month's tournament.

But despite having to struggle against the weather and their underdog status, the Kenyans are still confident of pulling off another shock victory to rank alongside their famous defeat of the West Indies in 1996.

Kenya captain Asif Karim said: "We don't know the best way to approach games here yet as we are not sure of the English conditions."

"At least eight of our squad have never been to England before so we need to learn quickly. We have some warm-up games to play and from them we hope to learn how to play in the conditions."

Kenya arrived in England in confident mood following an upsurge in their form that brought a one-day win in India last year and four wins against an MCC touring team that included several Test players.

Tour manager Harilal Shah admitted: "We are the underdogs but since the last World Cup we have had far more experience in one-day games and because of that I'm sure the boys will do well."

"As well as playing in India and against the touring MCC

team we've also played in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur and in an African championship.

"Kenya have already achieved success by beating India, Zimbabwe. They are not expected to beat other group members Sri Lanka, England, India or South Africa.

Karim believes Kenya's bid for success has been boosted by some hard work on the training ground.

"We have a good set of players and we are a good fielding team. We have been working very hard on our fielding and we hope it will pay off."

Kenya have also been buoyed by the capture of former West Indian batsman Alvin Kalicharran as their coach, and he believes his team's all-round ability will be a major asset in the tournament.

He said: "We have a lot of players in the squad who have a lot of all-round ability. The good thing about Kenya at the moment is we are producing players that have more than one attribute to their game and that is important in a competition like this."

Walsh the sexiest

BARBADOS, Apr 26 (The Barbados Nation/Internet): The ladies have spoken and the verdict is clear.

Courtney Walsh is the sexiest West Indian cricketer of them all.

In a random unscientific polls conducted around Kensington Oval during the sixth Cable & Wireless One-Day International, Saturday, women voted hands down for the 36-year-old Jamaican.

Out of 50 votes, Walsh, the veteran fast bowler and former captain, had 36, with former fast bowler Franklyn Rose, another Jamaican, getting eight.

"That butt...umm," one middle-aged lady said referring to Walsh's posterior. "I've never met him, but he seems so calm, so in control, and he's tall. That has a lot to do with it."

The youngsters too prefer Walsh, and a group of three teenagers all voted for him. One said: "It's got to be Walsh for me, nobody else."

Rose, with his bald head and chiselled body, was especially a hit with one Jamaican in her mid-20s.

"I like the way he talks," she said with rolling eyes. "He seems so fearless, and has an appealing body."

New kid on the block, Barbadian Corey Collymore topped one vote, as did Jimmy Adams.

One lady said of Collymore: "I like his boyish appeal and he looks like the ideal package in the making."

Another thought Adams' legs were "the best in the team and probably the best in the world."

Jamaican new boy Nemeiah Perry received two picks. Barbadian Hendy Bryan won a lady's heart for his "quiet attractiveness", while Shivnarine Chanderpaul was next in line.

The females also had some advice for the not-so-sexy. One Barbadian suggested that Keith Arthurton should take down his collar and show his chest, while captain Brian Lara has lost favour because "he's looking a little fat", as one said.

Spirit not enough for Marseille

PARIS, Apr 26 (Reuters/Internet): Laurent Blanc says Olympique Marseille, crushed 4-0 by RC Lens on Saturday, cannot rely on team spirit alone if their season is not to end in double disappointment.

"For the UEFA Cup final and the four championship matches left, we must rediscover our real standard of play," the Marseille captain said.

"At present, OM have an average standard. We are getting results on our virtues of solidarity and fighting spirit much more than our level of play."

Marseille clung to their one-point lead in the title race only because second-placed Girondins Bordeaux also lost, 2-0 away to bottom club Sochaux on Saturday.

"Roland (Courbis) has a big squad and he makes everyone play," Blanc said. "I think that with the calendar we have, it's the right solution."

"But it is evident that it's difficult to have a style with all these changes," France's World Cup defender said.

Coach Courbis swears by his rotation system and started Saturday's away match against defending champions Lens with a star-studded bench including Robert Pires, Christophe Dugarry, Fabrizio Ravanelli and Daniel Bravo.

Five days earlier they had all played a part in Marseille's 1-1 draw at Bologna that saw them through to the UEFA Cup final against Parma in Moscow on May 12.

Pires came on in the second half with his team 1-0 down and he boosted the attack and came close to equalising.

"But the removal of ball winner Peter Lucini upset the team's balance and Lens, who are playing better in the second half of the season after falling

Hooper may play Shield cricket

SYDNEY, Apr 26 (AFP/Internet): Carl Hooper is expected to move to South Australia and possibly play Sheffield Shield cricket following his shock resignation from the West Indian team, according to reports here Monday.

The veteran all-rounder's resignation was delivered to the West Indies Cricket Board over the weekend and will force the selectors to add another player to their 15-man squad for next month's World Cup in England.

Hooper, who made 80 Test and 182 one-day appearances, missed the first two Tests of the Caribbean series against Australia after deciding to stay with his wife and ill baby son in Adelaide.

He is expected to return to Adelaide and live with them now.

Australian Associated Press said South Australian cricket officials would sound out Hooper, 32, about playing for the state side next season.

"He's been a wonderful cricketer, there's no doubt about that, he won't be easily replaced but the point is that cricket moves on and we have to find somebody, give a young player a chance in the World Cup and beyond," said Windies manager Clive Lloyd said in Barbados.

"We have a lot of cricket to play and unfortunately he had to retire at this early age because I still think he's wonderful player."

Asked the circumstances surrounding Hooper's announcement, Lloyd said, "He was in Australia and didn't play a lot, he said he wanted to come back and help the team and now he's retired."

"I really don't know what's caused that."

AAP said that Hooper appeared distracted during what turned out to be his last appearance for the Windies in Bridgetown in the final match of the seven-match one-day series against Australia.

Aus-World XI clash on June 12

SYDNEY, Apr 26 (AFP): Glasgow Celtic striker Mark Viduka is expected to lead Australia's attack against the FIFA World XI when the Socceros squad is announced here this week.

Caretaker coach Raul Blanco said Monday every overseas-based Australian player he had contacted to play in the June 12 showpiece to officially open Sydney's new Olympic stadium had responded positively.

More than 100 Australians are playing in overseas leagues and Blanco is expected to include midfielder Ned Zelic of 1860 Munich, Leeds United star Harry Kewell and Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich in the 18-man squad.

FIFA are expected to announce their squad this week with Juventus' French maestro Zinedine Zidane heading a glittering team.

Blanco must decide whether to chance Glasgow Rangers defender Craig Moore, in doubt with medial ligament problems and Lazio's Paul Okon is working his way back to fitness after a long-term injury.

With Middlesbrough's Mark Schwarzer's stated unavailability to play second-fiddle behind Manchester United-linked Bosnich it could give Blackburn Rovers' keeper John Filan the number two position.

Organisers are expecting a sellout crowd for the match and, even with the line-ups still unknown, 80,000 seats are sold with 20,000 tickets left.

Biman Cup soccer Hosts beat Rajshahi

Hosts Joypurhat made a good start in the Biman Cup Under-14 national football championship with a 2-0 win over Rajshahi in the final round which began at the Joypurhat Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Khan M Shahabuddin inaugurated the meet.

In the opening match, Mahbob scored first for the home side in the 4th minute while Happy widened the margin in the 10th minute.

What happened when Sherwin Campbell was run out.

The captain said he had consulted with Julian and wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist after the dismissal, as well as the umpires, and everyone appeared to agree it was legitimate.

However, after reviewing a video tape of the incident during the meeting in the break brought on by the crowd anger, Waugh said Row told him Julian may have tried to interfere.

The Australian captain said Campbell's dismissal was similar to Michael Bevan's earlier in the day, when he was run out after a West Indian player ran in front of him going for the ball.

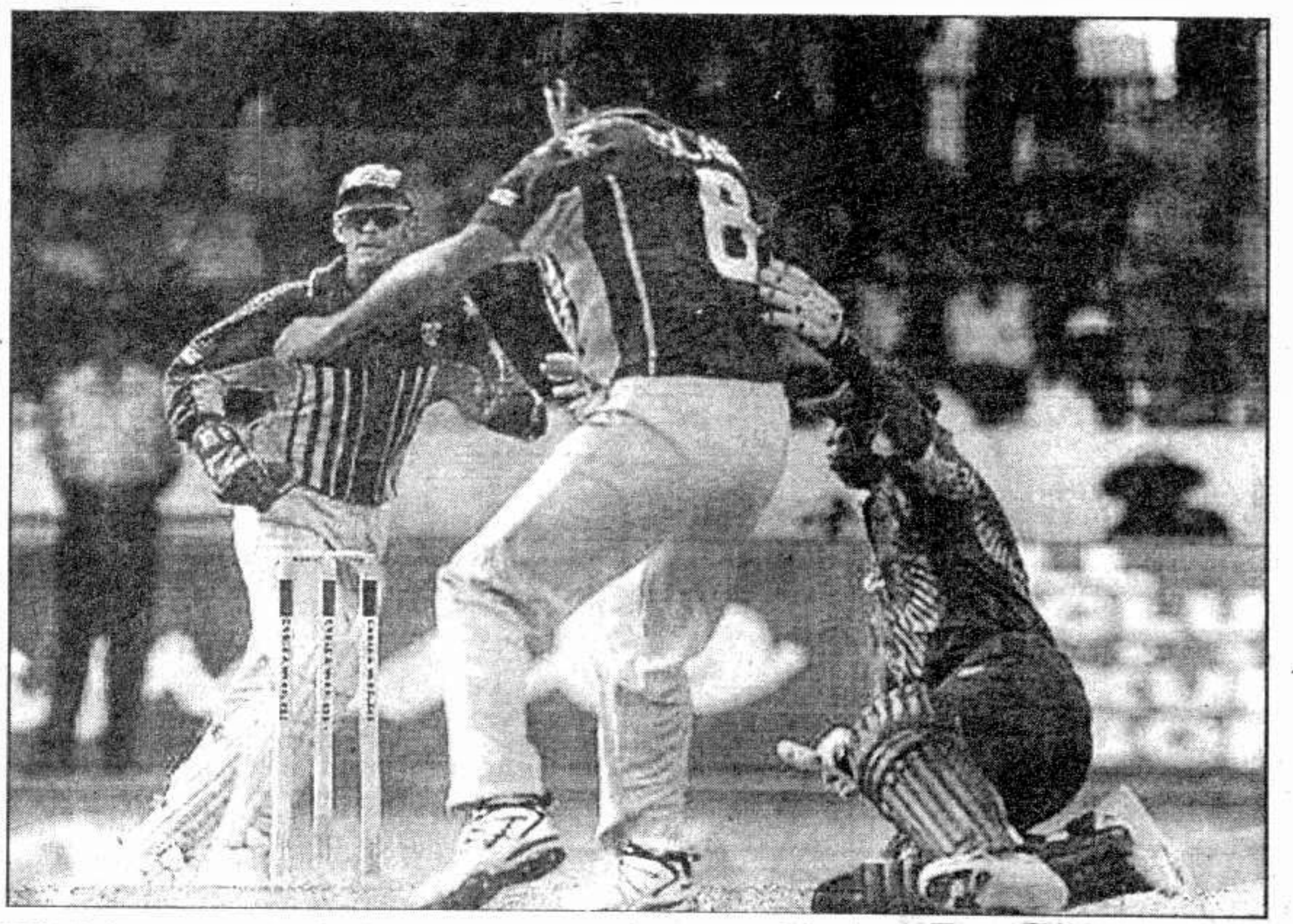
The option was to recall Sherwin and get the game going or not to have a game at all," Waugh was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press.

Waugh said the outcome of the match, which West Indies won by eight wickets to tie the series at 3-3, was irrelevant.

"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."

He said one bottle missed his head by less than a foot.

"It's just pure luck that someone didn't get hit on the



THAT STARTED IT: West Indian opener Sherwin Campbell who fell after colliding with Australian Brendon Julian, watches in disbelief as wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist prepares to run him out during the final one-day international on April 25. —Internet photo

Crowd trouble taints Windies' win

BRIDGETOWN, Apr 26 (Reuters/Internet): Spectators throwing bottles onto the outfield interrupted the seventh and final one-day international before West Indies eventually beat Australia by eight wickets on Sunday.

The controversial dismissal of West Indian opener Sherwin Campbell, who was run out after colliding with bowler Brendon Julian in mid-pitch, sparked the crowd trouble.

crowd by former West Indies captain Sir Garfield Sobers when he went onto the field to plead for calm.

Subba Row said: "The Australians said they would like Campbell to be brought back. The run-out was six of one and half a dozen of the other. There was nothing malicious in it."

The bottle throwing came just four days after spectators invaded the pitch in the closing moments of the fifth match in Georgetown on Wednesday, preventing Australia's last pair



BARBADIAN WRATH: Groundsmen attempt to clean up the mess at the Kensington Oval on Apr 25 after the crowd showed its displeasure at the run out of local hero Sherwin Campbell. —Internet photo

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA

M Waugh	b King	26
Gilchrist	c Ambrose b Dillon	6
Ponting	c Williams b Dillon	1
Lehmann	c Jacobs b Ambrose	8
S Waugh	c Jacobs b King	30
Bevan	run out	34
Lee	b King	47
Moody	not out	50
Julian	b Arthurton	20
Warne	run out	20
Fleming	not out	0
Extras	(lb-5, w-3, nb-2)	10
Total	(For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	252

Fall of wkts: 1-6; 2-8; 3-29; 4-63; 5-80; 6-119; 7-175; 8-200; 9-250

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Ambrose	9	1	51	1
Dillon	10	2	36	2
King	9	0	59	3
Perry	5	0	22	0
Bryan	8	2	36	0
Arthurton	3	0	43	1

WEST INDIES

Campbell	c Gilchrist b Bevan	62
Jacobs	c M Waugh b S Waugh	54
Adams	not out	37
Chanderpaul	not out	31
Extras	(lb-2, lb-2, w-8, nb-1)	13
Total	(For 2 wkts in 37 overs)	197

Fall of wkts: 1-99; 2-153.

Did not bat: K Arthurton, S Williams, H Bryan, C Ambrose, N Perry, R King, M Dillon.

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Fleming	7	0	25	0
M Waugh	4	0	20	0
Moody	4	0	29	0
Warne	8	3	28	0
Lee	2	0	20	0
S Waugh	3	0	17	1
Bevan	5	0	23	1
Julian	3	0	31	0

Result: West Indies won by eight wickets (target revised to 196 off 40 overs)

Man-of-the-match and series: Sherwin Campbell.

Series result: 3-3, with one match tied.

Australians feared the worst

SYDNEY, Apr 26 (Reuters/AFP): Steve Waugh said his team feared for their lives as spectators hurled bottles onto the field during their seventh and final one-day international against West Indies in Barbados on Sunday.

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

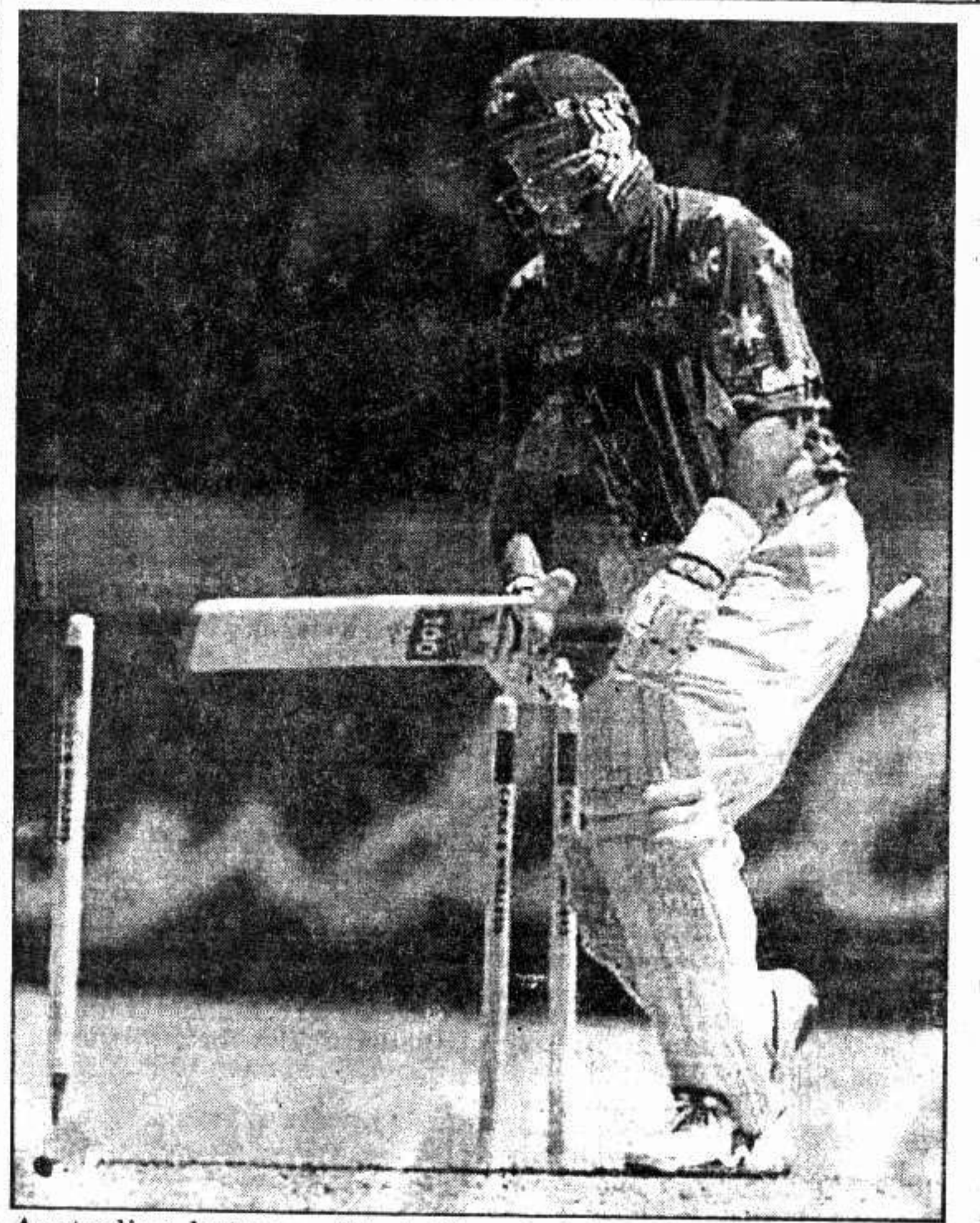
The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) today described the latest incident as unacceptable and said chief executive Malcolm Speed would be pressing West Indies for answers and raising the issue of players' safety at an International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting next month.

"Any event where player safety is put at risk is a grave concern," ACB spokesman Michael Hogan said.

But Waugh said Australia's players lost their drive after the incident as the West Indians returned to the crease with a revised target of 196 in 40 overs to Australia's 252 for nine in 50.

"As players we went out and tried to do the right thing by cricket by playing, but no one's heard in it."

Waugh said he did not see



Australian batsman Mark Waugh is bowled for 26 runs by West Indies bowler Reon King during the seventh and final one-day game in Bridgetown on April 25. —Internet photo