

## Column One SPORTS TALK



**Jana Novotna**  
(Czech tennis player)

"I've been thinking about this for a very long time. I just feel the time for it is right."  
While announcing her retirement on Monday.

**BOOST sports WHIZZ KID**  
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-119

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to: *Star Daily*  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Sept 10, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who are the current FA Cup champions?  

Man United	Arsenal	Lpool
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- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?  

Whatmore	Yardley	Fernandez
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- Who won the Confederations' Cup title?  

Brazil	Mexico	USA
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- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?  

Mithunul	Akram	Aminul
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- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?  

Yokohama	Suzuki	Nagoya
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Booted wickets worry BCB

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is looking forward to rope an internationally reputed electronic media as sponsors for the two one-day matches of the national team against the visiting West Indies.

The West Indies team, led by Brian Lara, will arrive in the capital on October 1 to play a couple of ODI's and a three-day match against the home side.

It was learnt that TWI, an international broadcasting giant, has indicated its interest to win the rights of both the one-day matches, to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on October 8 and October 9. Beside, some reputed local business houses are also in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, the Grounds Committee is planning to hold both the one-day matches and the three-day affair at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Although the ground condition of the 'all-purpose' venue, which the BCB got only yesterday after BFF's Bangabandhu Cup, is terribly bad, the secretary of the Grounds Committee

Alam Chowdhury said that they are hopeful of holding all the three matches on the Bangabandhu ground.

"I'm not sure about the ground, which needs a lot of time to get back to its original shape. But the two pitches look all right at this moment", said Alam.

## Trial cricket tie starts today

Sports Reporter

Wet ground condition caused by overnight rain forced BCB to postpone the three-day trial match for the players of the conditioning camp at BKSP in Savar yesterday.

Weather permitting, the match is likely to start today, according to a Cricket Board official.

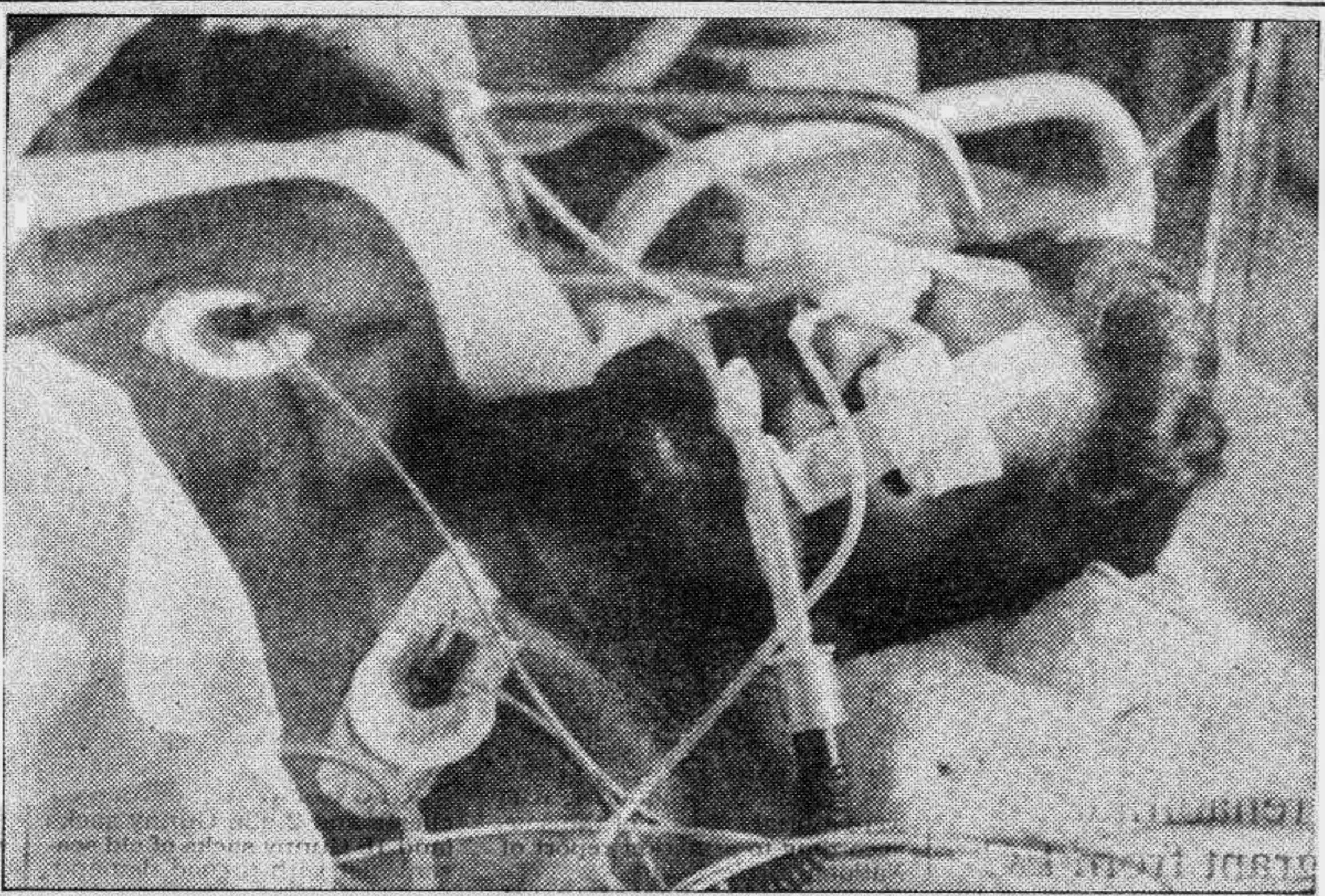
BCB's newly appointed Director of Development and former South African Test cricketer Eddie Barlow is conducting the camp with 17 players and six fillers, who have been called yesterday.

The ground was severely damaged during the Bangabandhu Cup Invitational Football Tournament. Moreover, the huge amount of sand that BFF sprayed during the Bangabandhu Cup to fill the wet patches almost destroyed the green top especially at the western end.

"It would not be possible for us to ensure a lush green top since we have only eighteen days to prepare the ground", said Alam, who however expressed his concern about the five pitches that were damaged. The BCB spent about Taka one crore to prepare seven pitches, but only two have survived the wrath of the booters.

"It is not understandable why they sprayed sand on the pitches despite repeated request from the NSC groundsmen", said Alam adding that this injudicious act by football organisers has left them with the daunting task of recovering the pitches to their original condition.

"It will require at least three months to repair the damage done by football", said Alam.



**HOPING FOR A MIRACLE:** National hockey star Rabiuddin Ahmed, with the support of artificial respiratory system, lying in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital yesterday. His condition remained unchanged. — Star photo

## Kandy Test begins today

# Old foes on war path



**KANDY.** Sri Lanka, Sept 8 (AFP): A confident Sri Lanka will face Australia here Thursday with sacked skipper Arjuna Ranatunga continuing self-proclaimed enemy Shane Warne for the first time since their World Cup war of words.

Sri Lanka, who beat World Champions Australia at the Awa Cup one-day tournament last month, will try to consolidate their gains at the Asgiriya stadium in this central town. 72



**ARJUNA RANATUNGA**  
miles (112 kilometres) from the capital Colombo.

Overshadowing the first Test is the appearance of demoted Ranatunga in his first game

against Australia after his bitter exchanges with Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne. What Shane Warne wished for Sri Lanka at the opening of the World Cup in May came true two months later when Ranatunga and his deputy Aravinda de Silva were demoted in a major make-over of the national team.

Warne wrote in a column in London's Times newspaper in May that the sport would be better off without Ranatunga because of his on-field behaviour. "Ranatunga might be a shrewd, experienced leader, but his batting is not what it was and he is terrible in the field," Warne said. "Frankly, Sri Lanka - and the game overall - would be better off without him."

"Yes, there is plenty of animosity between Ranatunga and myself. I don't like him and I'm not in a club of one."

The leggie was subsequently reprimanded, fined and handed a suspended two-game ban.

Ranatunga's replacement, Sanath Jayasuriya and his Australian counterpart Steve Waugh said last month that both of them were keen to ensure good relations between their players.

Jayasuriya said Wednesday that he was confident his team would be able to give Australia, the unofficial Test champions, a good run for their money following their success in the Awa Cup final.

"We are keen to perform well at this level of cricket as well. We are playing well together as a team and I expect my players to show the same commitment they showed during the Awa Cup," said Jayasuriya.

He makes his debut as Test captain. When he captained his country for the first time in a one-day international against Zimbabwe last year, Jayasuriya made a century.

The Sri Lankan selectors have recalled Ranatunga and De Silva to stabilise the middle-order. Both players were



**SHANE WARNE**  
dropped from the one-day squad following Sri Lanka's disastrous performance in the World Cup.

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# Dav being realistic



**KANDY.** Sri Lanka, Sept 8 (Internet report): Sri Lanka is under no illusions about the magnitude of the challenge it faces in the first cricket Test against Australia starting here tomorrow, according to coach Dav Whatmore.

Yet to defeat Australia in 10 Test matches, Whatmore said the three-Test series against world cricket's most powerful outfit was the Sri Lankans' greatest challenge.

Whatmore, a former Victorian and Australian batsman, has returned to the position of Sri Lankan coach after guiding the country to World Cup success in 1996.

"There is no other team that stirs the hairs on the back of your neck more than the Australians," Whatmore said today.

"Mainly because they are a very good side and it's always a very good measuring stick to know where you are."

"It's a situation where the Australian cricket team has been able to produce more than 11 players at any one time and they are all very good, they are all very strong mentally and strong physically."

"Within that group you have some terrific match winners which makes them a very, very potent group of players - when their confidence is up it's very difficult to stop them. The image they create is always one of a very aggressive, strong, physical type of game and it's not easy to beat teams like that."

"Without strength in your mind and body you are unable to match it with most teams, let alone the Australians."

Whatmore said Sri Lanka's triumph over Australia in the final of the one-day tri-series had boosted the team's confidence of causing a boil-over in the Test series.

"Having won the one-day series there is no doubt it gives you confidence," he said.

"I know it's a different game and different venue and in different conditions."  
"But it still gives you the confidence to know that you can

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## Asian Club Cup C'ship Bagan due today

Sports Reporter

Mohun Bagan of Calcutta arrive in the capital today to play their return-leg match of the Asian Club Cup Championship against Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kira Chakra.

The Indian giants, who won the first leg match by 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium last month, need only a draw in the repeat clash to advance into next round of the Championship. On the other hand, Muktiyoddha will have to win the match and keep the aggregate goal difference superior to pip Mohun Bagan at the post.

The match will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Saturday. But visiting team will miss the service of their inspirational striker Chima Okori, who scored the first goal in his side's win in the first leg. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recently slapped a one-year ban on the Nigerian.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the Bangladesh Television will cover the match, scheduled to start at 5pm, live. Besides, Indian satellite channel Durdarshan has also expressed its interest to provide live coverage for the Indian viewers. It has also offered the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) 3000 US dollars to win the right for telecast.

Durdarshan however has requested BFF to start the match at 3.45pm (BST). Sources however say, it would not be possible for the organisers to change the time schedule because of the non availability of two Muktiyoddha booters - Masud Rana and Hasan al Mamun before 5pm. The two university students have got exams on that day and they may not be available before 4 pm.

Abesekera of Sri Lanka will be the match commissioner while four Nepalese referees, who are already in the city, will conduct the match. The four referees are- Ranjitkar Sriram, Shrestha Kailash, Binod KC Kusunti and Rajak Dilip Kumar.

The BFF yesterday announced the rate of tickets for the match. Each gallery ticket will cost Taka 15 while for VIP it will be Taka 25. Tickets will be on sale from stadium counters on the match day.

## 2000 cricket mini WC in Kenya

LONDON, Sept 8: Nairobi will host the 2000 International Cricket Council (ICC) one-day knockout tournament between the nine Test playing nations, the ICC said today, reports Reuters.

In a statement the ICC said the tournament would be staged from October 5-15 with the same format as the Wills International Cup staged in Dhaka and won by South Africa last year.

"Kenya, like Bangladesh, has been awarded one-day status," said ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya. "Bringing the knockout to Kenya will give the game there a major boost."

## MacGill put in a spin

**KANDY.** Sept 8 (Internet report): The spinners showdown for a place in the first Test, beginning here tomorrow, has become a no-contest. Shane Warne will resurrect his career.

Stuart MacGill, the most successful spinner in Test cricket these past 12 months, will be forced back into a shadow which may envelop him for quite some time.

There was always going to be room for only one of these exciting twerkers after the failed two-leg-spinner experiment in the West Indies and coach Geoff Marsh left no doubt it would be Warne.

"Shane's bowled very well," Marsh said, stating the obvious after the match against a Sri Lankan Board XI.

Warmed up by the one-day series, Warne claimed 2-37 from 19 overs and 3-74 from 16.1. This compared with an under-prepared MacGill's 2-42 from 13.3 and 0-54 from 13.

If anything, Warne was unlucky he did not get more wickets.

Stronger and leaner after a solid program following his disappointing West Indian tour, Warne is delighted with his progress. He has not felt so good for years.

While there must be some reservations until he shows his wares again in a Test, particularly against good players of spin like the Sri Lankans, it appears that the main thing Warne needed was time for his right shoulder to recover from last year's major operation.

That is not to say Warne was rushed back too early. Given his record as the most successful spinner in history the selectors rightly showed faith in him.

Equally, Warne's dropping for the last Test in the West Indies may have been a blessing. Certainly it helped refocus his mind. He could take nothing for granted.



**DESERVING WINNERS:** Brian Lara (L), the West Indies captain, proudly holds the Coca Cola Singapore Challenge trophy after his team's four-wicket victory over India in the final yesterday. — AFP photo

## Windies win Singapore tourney

# Powell plunders India



**SINGAPORE.** Sept 8: West Indies' Ricardo Powell stamped his class on the replayed final of the Singapore International Challenge cricket tournament here today, blasting a dazzling innings and handing his team a four-wicket win over India, reports AFP.

Powell smashed 124 off a mere 93 balls as the West Indies mopped to victory at the Kallang ground here.

India, put in to bat, scored 254 for six in their 50 overs, while the West Indies replied with 255 for six in 47.4 overs.

It was a display of merciless hitting by Powell.

The 20-year-old Jamaican was playing his fourth international match, having been picked for the West Indies World Cup squad after Carl Hooper announced his retirement.

The Kallang ground seemed to favour the free-stroking Powell more as he hammered sixes to all parts of the ground.

When Powell arrived at the crease, West Indies looked in complete disarray. Debashis

Mohanty had removed openers Sherwin Campbell and Ridley Jacobs cheaply. Off-spinner Nikhil Chopra added to their woes by getting rid of skipper Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams in successive overs.

That was the launching pad for the young Powell and he rose to the challenge.

His first fifty needed 44 balls and the next fifty only 28. In all he struck nine fours and eight sixes in his 124 and was involved in two big stands where he was the dominant partner.

He put on 61 runs for the fifth wicket with Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who scored 20 off 48 balls and hit one four.

The decisive fifth wicket stand with Nehemiah Perry was worth 118 off 114 balls and snatched the match away from the Indians, who seemed happy till then after recovering from a disastrous start themselves.

Powell's superlative effort earned him both Man of the Match and Man of the Series awards.

India had breathed a sigh of relief when Tuesday's scheduled final was washed out by a

downpour with them struggling on 149 for six.

But they returned a different side, ripping into the West Indies attack to finish their innings on a competitive 254 for six off 50 overs.

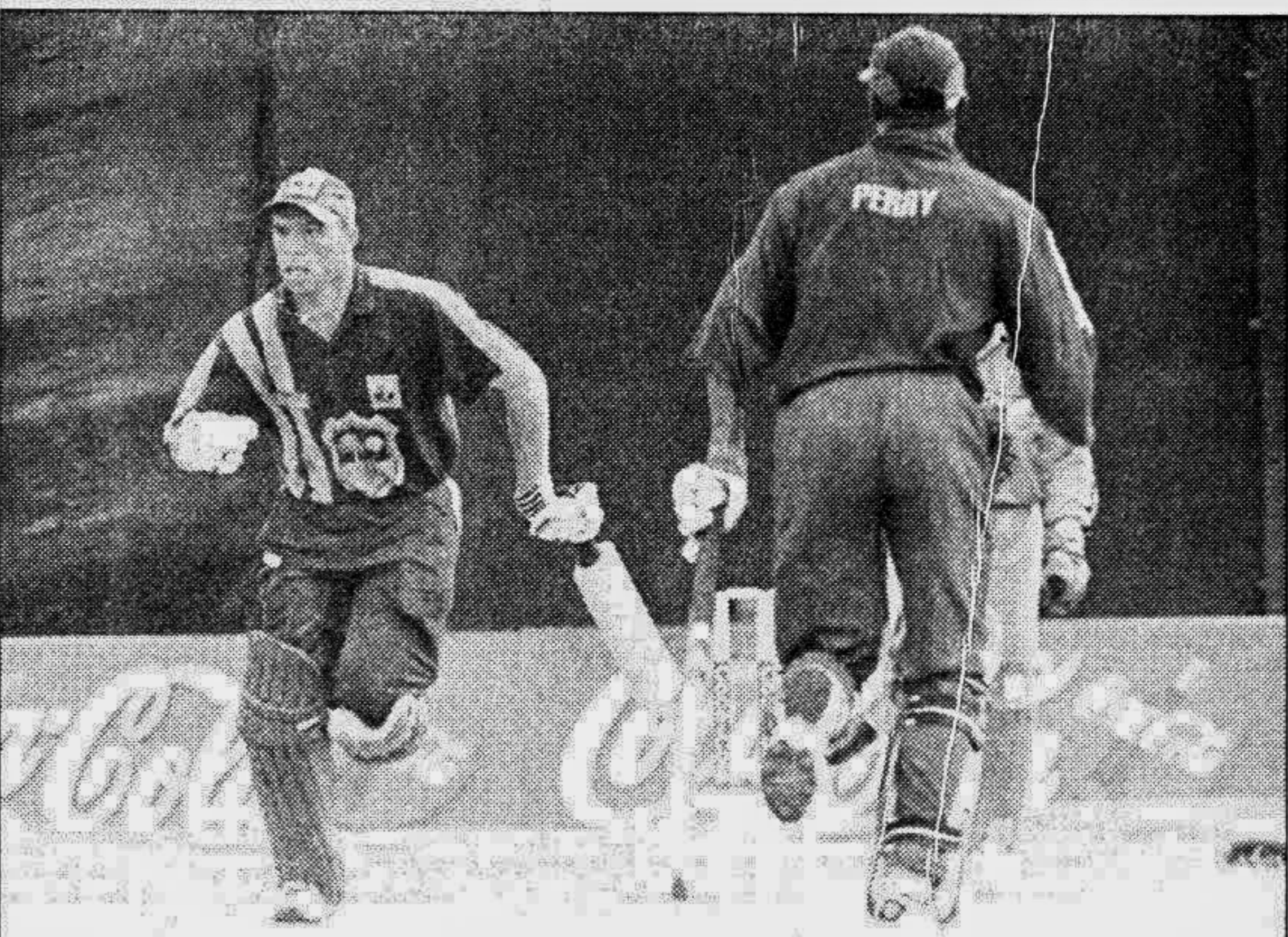
After a slow start, where skipper Sachin Tendulkar was removed in the opening over followed soon afterwards by Sadagoppan Ramesh with the total at 27-2, Dravid and Saurav Ganguly steered the ship.

The pair added 78 for the third wicket before Ganguly holed out to long-on trying to clear the boundary in search of his half-century.

Ganguly's replacement Vinod Kamoli did not last long, but a swashbuckling stand with Nikhil Chopra gave India the chance to go past the 250-mark.

Dravid had kept his end up right through and even let Chopra dominate the strike as the Delhi batsman was in a punishing mood. He smashed three sixes and as many fours in his 61 and added 102 runs off just 97 balls with Dravid for the

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**MAN OF THE MOMENT:** The sensational West Indies batsman Ricardo Powell (L) sets off for a run during his epic hundred against India at Singapore yesterday. — AFP photo

## Afridi to get the axe

# Pak probe delayed again



**KARACHI.** Sept 8 (AFP/Internet report): The proceedings of a judicial commission probing match fixing in Pakistan cricket has been further delayed as the judge could not attend the hearing due to illness, court officials said Wednesday.

The commission could not hold its proceedings, as the judge, Malik Mohammad Qayyum, "is not feeling well," Lahore High Court registrar Abdus Salam Khawwar told AFP.

The hearing, expected to be the final, will now be held on September 11, after which the commission's findings would be submitted to President Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, who is also patron of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

PCB former chief executive Majid Khan, former captain Rashid Latif, Sarfaraz Nawaz and Basit Ali were summoned

for cross examination by Wasim's counsel, Khawaja Tariq Rahim, who specifically had requested their presence at the last hearing.

Latif reportedly accused batsman Salim Malik and skipper Wasim Akram of involvement in match fixing.

The News daily meanwhile reported that the wicketkeeper submitted an application with the court seeking two weeks time.

Latif sent his application on Tuesday to the commission and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), asking for two weeks time to appear along with his legal counsel.

With Latif's appearance in doubt, it will be interesting to see how the commission handles this situation since he is one of the key figures in bringing the match-fixing issue to the fore and making direct accusations against Malik.

Without Latif being cross examined, the commission might

find it difficult to justify completing its inquiry. Latif, who was in the Pakistan camp which was wrapped up today in Lahore, has interestingly also asked the commission to allow his legal counsel to question Ataur Rehman who at the last hearing withdrew his sworn affidavit in which he had accused Wasim of asking him to take part in a fixed match.

Judge Qayyum's inquiry was initiated in September last year and since then statements of more than 60 players, officials, alleged bookies and journalists have been recorded.

The charges were first levelled against former captain Malik by Australian players Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh, who said Malik offered them bribes to play poorly during their team's tour of Pakistan in 1998.

Akram, Malik and batsman Ijaz, implicated in an interim report of the PCB last year, have

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