

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-120

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

Competition closes at 6 pm
Oct 1, 99 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who won the Singapore Cricket Challenge?	Zimbabwe	W Indies	India
2. Who lifted the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup?	Brazil	Ghana	Japan
3. Who was the man-of-the-series in the Awa Cup?	Jayasuriya	Gilchrist	Dravid
4. Where will the next ICC mini World Cup be held?	Kenya	Canada	Sharjah
5. Who will captain Bangladesh football team in the SAF Games?	Jewel Rana	Alfaz	Masud Rana

Name

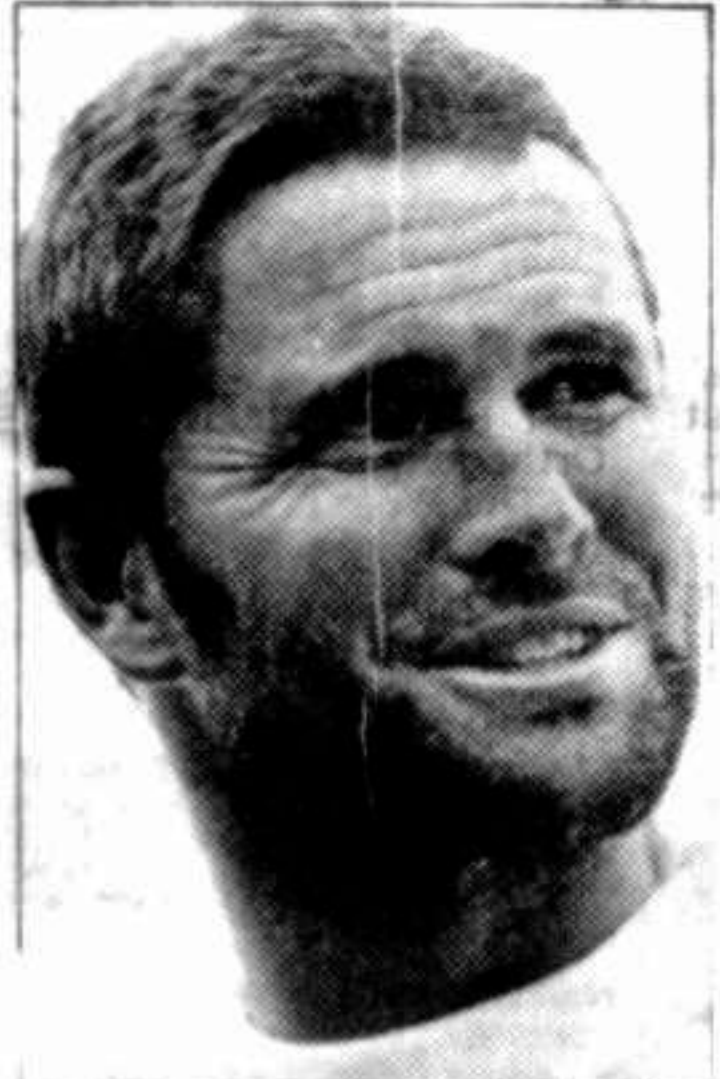
Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Chris Cairns
(New Zealand all-rounder)
"We want to do well here and win the series."

After arriving in India.

Third Division Qualifying

Wins for Kanchpur

CCS Cold

Sports Reporter

Kanchpur Sporting Club and CCS Cold won their respective matches of the Third Division Qualifying cricket at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mohakhali T & T Ground, Kanchpur defeated All Star CC by 42 runs.

Batting first, Kanchpur piled up 166 for nine wickets in the allotted 35 overs with opener Alauddin hammering a fine 61 studded with half a dozen fours.

In reply, All Star CC could manage only 119 before being bundled out with more than four overs to spare.

In the other match of the day, CCS Cold recorded an impressive 46-run win over Gopibagh Greens.

In a low-scoring affair, CCS Cold defended a not-so-impressive total of 141 for nine in the stipulated 35 overs, went on to skittle out the Gopibagh boys for a meagre 95 in 28.2 overs with Faisal claiming three wickets for 22 runs.

Rain plays foul in Pune

PUNE, India, Sept 30: Heavy overnight rain forced play to be cancelled on the first day of New Zealand's three-day tour opener against India A here today, reports AFP.

The umpires called off play before the scheduled start as Wednesday night's downpour drenched the Nehru Stadium in this western city.

More rain is forecast over the next two days which could deny the Kiwis valuable practice ahead of the three-Test series.

Stephen Fleming's tourists have one more match in hand, against the Board President's Eleven at Jodhpur from Tuesday, before the first Test starts in Mohali on October 10.

Fowler might need surgery

LIVERPOOL, England, Sept 30: English Premiership club Liverpool has delayed a decision on whether striker Robbie Fowler requires surgery that could put him out for six weeks, reports AFP.

Welcome West Indies

Rabeed Imam and Al-Amin



BRIAN LARA

The visit by Brian Lara's side although brief, in which they play a three-day match and a couple of one-dayers against the home side, opens up Bangladesh's prospects of impressing the game's governing body who are monitoring our development as a potential Test playing nation.

For Bangladesh, who have applied for Test status to the ICC, tours from strong sides like the West Indies is bound to prove highly beneficial in terms of experience and confidence.

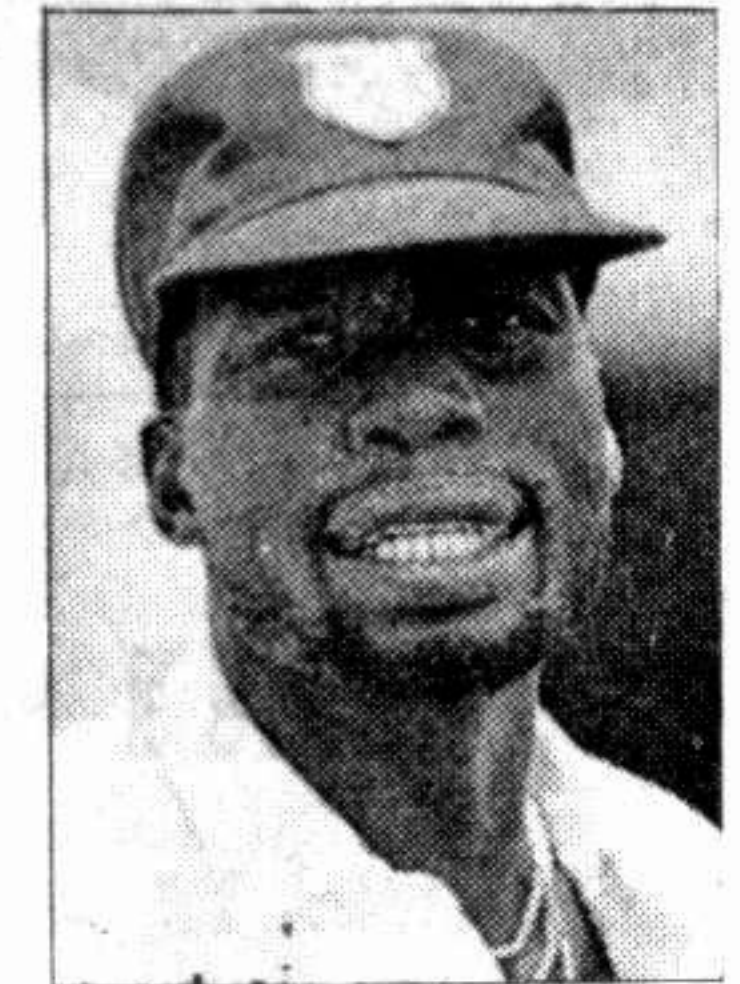
As for the West Indies, the Dhaka trip should prove a good practice opportunity ahead of their more important mission in a tri-nation tournament also featuring Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Sharjah.

However, the Caribbeans cannot afford to take the series lightly as their performance in Toronto earlier this month against India and Pakistan left a lot to be desired.

After winning the Singapore Challenge in convincing style, Lara and his men were expected to have the better of a much weakened Indian side missing several of the stalwarts like Sachin Tendulkar, Ajay Jadhav, Javagal Srinath and Anil Kumble. Instead, the Windies lost

the three-match DMC Cup series 1-2 and then proved no match for Pakistan in the DMC Trophy games which the latter won 3-0.

In those six matches, one could sense a tendency of experimenting with the youth of the team by the Windies think-tank but it was difficult to understand why they would do so especially so soon after a now-crazy country.



CURTLEY AMBROSE

days rare tournament victory. In recent times, batting has been the undoubted Achilles' heel of the West Indies and Toronto was no exception. They only managed to go past the 200-run mark on two occasions and the top order apart from opener Sherwin Campbell, repeatedly failed.

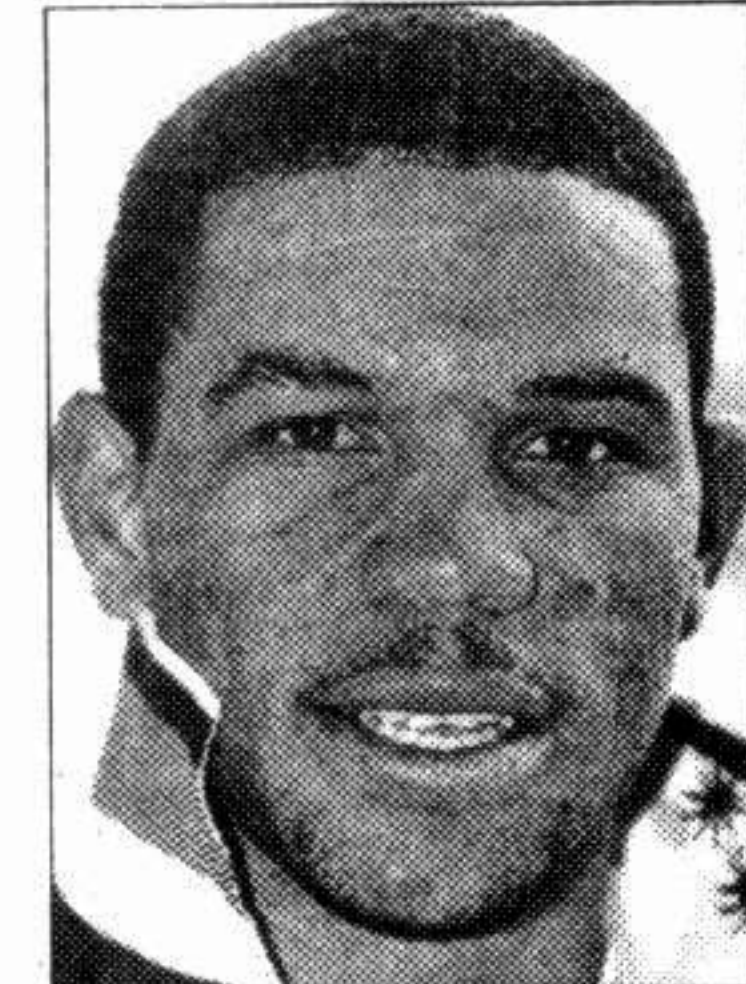
One success story from that ill-fated tour is Campbell's fellow Barbadian, 23-year-old Wavell Hinds who showed fine temperament against the testing Pakistan bowling and should be given regular opportunities.

The ever dependable Shivnarine Chanderpaul has been badly out of sorts in recent times and that has had a negative effect on the balance of the team. The Guyanese left-hander is too good a player to be out of form for too long and the Bangladesh tour is an ideal place for him to get into stride.

The whole world wants to see a Brian Lara in full flow but a prolonged run-drought (seven one-day internationals sans a half-century) is definitely not what you call reasonable form. Yet this genius only needs to put his mind into the right frame to destroy any bowling and hopefully Dhaka will be the launching pad of his awakening

from the slumber. The current sensation, Jamaican Ricardo Powell, has caught the imagination of cricket followers across the globe and seems to be drawing equal if not more attention than the great Lara.

Powell's phenomenal hitting prowess is a sight to behold and his leg-side play have brought back to some extent the



RICARDO POWELL

memories of none other than Vivian Richards. Although Powell miserably failed against Pakistan, he will be one of the prime attractions for local cricket buffs.

The West Indies fast bowling has traditionally been their strong point. Even when they have not been their hundred percent, opposing teams have found it difficult to score freely against them.

The Dhaka crowd will be fortunate enough to witness the legendary Curtley Ambrose for the first and possibly last time coming in to send down his lethal deliveries. Fans will definitely miss another great West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh because of the rotation policy of the West Indies Cricket Board, but they will see the Walsh clone in an ever-improving Mervyn Dillon, who is set to take over as the leader of the next generation of speedsters.

For Lara and most of his team-mates, Dhaka is not at all unknown territory. Lara had earlier led the West Indies in the mini World Cup only a year ago. Besides, some of the current members of the side had earlier visited Bangladesh as part of the West Indies A and Under-19 teams.

Bangladesh to face India in semifinal

From Sports Reporter

KATHMANDU, Sept 30: Bangladesh will take on favourites India in the first semifinal of the 8th SAF Games football at the Dasharath Stadium on Saturday.

This was decided after India thrashed hosts Nepal 4-0 in their last Group A match at the same venue last night.

India, with their third win in as many matches, emerged Group A champions. On the other hand, Nepal became runners-up in the four-team group, also involving Pakistan and Bhutan.

Nepal will now face emerging force Maldives in the second semifinal, scheduled to be held on the same day.

The first semifinal will start at 3:15pm (BST) while the second match will be kicked off at 5:45pm (BST).

India, who beat Bhutan by 3-0 in their previous match, demonstrated their skill and strength once again to give Nepal a good footballing lesson.

The winners led the first half 3-0. Midfielder Jules Albert put the Indians ahead as early as 5 minutes into the match, heading home a Basudev Mandal corner while Hardeep Singh doubled the margin in the 29th minute.

Jules scored again in the 45th minute. Indians took the fate of the match beyond any doubt when Mohammad Nazif stabbed the ball home on a Deepak Mandal pass in the 50th minute.

Earlier in the day's first match, Pakistan posted their first win in the Games when they came from behind to beat Bhutan 2-1.

Nisha the new queen of pool

From Sports Reporter

KATHMANDU, Sept 30: Nisha Millet, of India earned a rare distinction when the 17-year-old clinched her seventh gold in the 8th SAF Games swimming competition at the Brendra International Sports Complex today.

The Bangalore-based swimmer bagged seven golds, out of 13 up for grabs. Nisha won her seventh gold from the 50m freestyle event in a record 28.71 seconds. The previous record was set by Bula Chaudhary of India in the fifth SAF games in 1991.

Winning the 50m freestyle event, Nisha emerged as the fastest female swimmer in this South Asian region.

Nisha's other golds came from freestyle events of 100, 200, 400m and 4x100m relay and the backstroke events of 100 and 200m.

SA survive Kenya scare

NAIROBI, Sept 30: South Africa defeated Kenya by 24 runs in the four-nation LG Cup one-day tournament today, reports Reuters.

Chasing South Africa's 220-7 in 50 overs, the hosts put up a spirited reply making 196 all out in 48.1 overs.

Star batsman Steve Tikolo kept Kenya in the hunt with an enterprising 67. He was adjudged man-of-the-match.

India play Zimbabwe in the last league match tomorrow. The final is on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening day of the third and final Test between Sri Lanka and Australia on Thursday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings: Blewett c Atapattu c Herath 70; Slater st Kaluwitharana b Amok 59; Langer c Ranatunga b Muralitharan 32; M Waugh c Arnold b Muralitharan 13; S Waugh not out 10; Ponting not out 11; Extras: (nb-8) 8; Total: (For four wickets in 88.2 overs) 203

Fall of wickets: 1-126; 2-147; 3-182; 4-183

To bat: I Healy, S Warne, D Fleming, C Miller, S McGrath.

Bowler: O M R W

Vaas 12 2 32 0

Zoysa 6 4 8 0

Herath 23.2 7 64 1

Muralitharan 32 3 83 2

Jayasuriya 8 2 13 0

Arnold 7 4 3 1

SRI LANKA: S Jayasuriya (captain), M Atapattu, R Arnold, A de Silva, M Jayawardena, A Ranatunga, R Kaluwitharana, C Vaas, R Herath, N Zoysa, M Muralitharan.

Gaffar hits out at booters

From Hasan Masood



ABDUL GAFFAR

KATHMANDU, Sept 30: Bangladesh football manager Abdul Gaffar denied all allegations made against him and lashed out at the players claiming that they lacked 'commitments' for the cause of the country.

It was footballers' lack of commitment for which they were not giving their 100 per cent in the 8th SAF Games football competition here, retorted the manager while talking to this correspondent at his hotel lobby this morning.

"You will see how their performances change when they start playing the remaining matches of the Premier Division football league from the 15th of October. It is only the money for which they play, and they never play for the country," alleged Gaffar.

"Players get plenty of money from the clubs and that's why they put in their best for their employers. On the other hand, they don't get any money for playing in the national team," the manager in question reasoned.

When asked about the complaints raised by the booters against him, Gaffar readily rebutted those charges adding that the management did their best for the welfare of the team members.

"Only in one day I was late in supplying them with the drinking water and they had to buy it, but it did not happen every other day. Besides, when they asked about the laundry, I then and there arranged that for

them in the hotel. You can check it with the laundry department here," said Gaffar.

"I think they are not mentally fit for playing in the national team. They will be on creating lots of fuss unless they change their attitude.

"It's true that footballers from a country like Bangladesh hardly get money for playing in the national team. Even if you have love for your country, you

should have the mentality to always play under any adverse condition.

"Since they are playing for the country and not for their clubs, they are always out there to take refuge in different excuses," blamed the footballer-turned-manager while pointing to the dismal performance of the pre-tournament favourites.

Bangladesh lost to Maldives 2-1 in their first league match and then managed to crawl into the semifinals

with the blessing of a penalty-kick goal (1-0) against Sri Lanka.

"They always say they are tired. And I tell you, they will not be tired when they play for their own clubs after 15 days," said the Bangladesh manager.

"The Indians are also tired because they had been playing football for the last eight months. But, you've seen their commitment and conviction on the field. This is the difference between them and us," he said.

"I think they need a psychiatrist if they are to improve their game," Gaffar said bitterly.

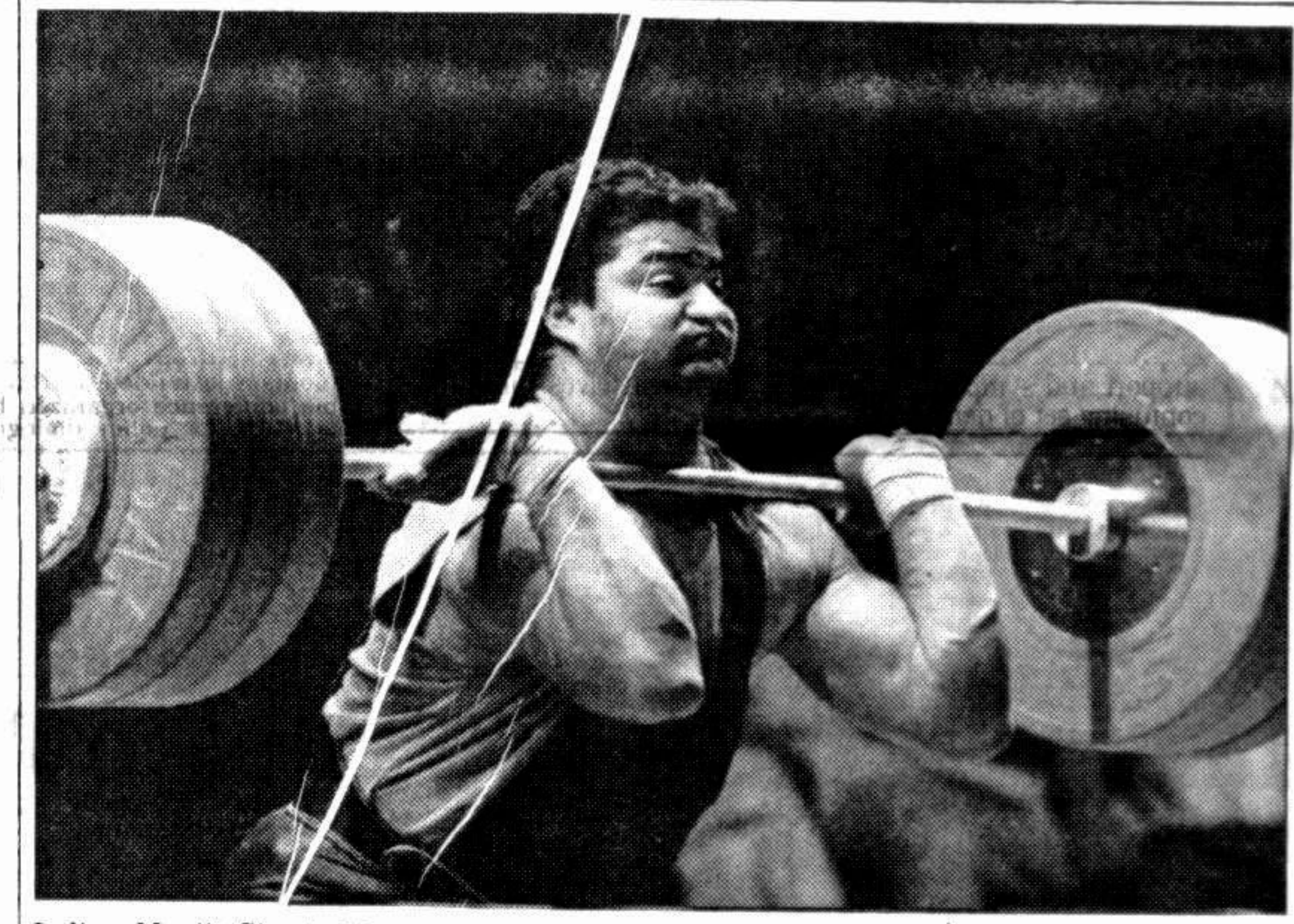
Footballers meanwhile were quite equivocal on charges they drew against Gaffar.

"They use their political influence to get the post without having the experience of how to do the managerial job. As long as this practice continues we will never have good football management," captain Jewel Rana after their defeat to Maldives.

Defender Masud said, "Three of us are sharing a double room here. Two are sleeping on the bed while the other on the floor. On the other hand, the manager is staying in a suite."

"We don't want to make all this sound as the excuse, but it affects the team morale in a way," remarked another aggrieved footballer.

The rift between the management and the team is so evident that observers here fear it might badly affect Bangladesh's semifinal performance against either India or Nepal on October 2.



Indian Manjit Singh lifts 180 kilograms in clean and jerk during the men's weightlifting final at the SAF Games yesterday. Manjit won the gold. —AFP photo

Aussies open firmly

COLOMBO, Sept 30: Greg Blewett and Michael Slater hit half-centuries and shared their second successive century opening partnership to help Australia finish the first day Thursday of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka on 203-4, reports AFP.

Blewett made a defiant 70 and Slater a well-compiled 59 as they put together a stand of 126 off 53 overs after Steve Waugh had won the toss and elected to bat on a pitch which is already taking spin.

The stand was broken by part-time spinner Russel Arnold when he had Slater stumped by Romesh Kaluwitharana ending his 191 minute stay at the crease. Slater was in the man-of-the-match award in the drawn Galle Test with a knock of 96, hit six fours.

After the stand was broken, Australia suffered a minor collapse in their middle order when they lost four wickets for 71 runs as Sri Lanka spinners spearheaded by Muthiah Muralitharan redressed the balance to some extent.

Blewett was out shortly after tea, when his intended on-drive off left-arm spinner Rangana Herath ended up in extra cover's hands. He batted 228 minutes and hit nine fours.

Both openers were given

lives by poor Sri Lankan catching. Blewett at 26 and 68 and Slater at 38. They put on a stand of 138 at Galle.

Sri Lanka grabbed two further wickets for the addition of only one run when Muralitharan had the out-of-form Mark Waugh caught at short leg for 13



MICHAEL SLATER ... 59

and then had Justin Langer edging a catch to Arjuna Ranatunga in the slip at 32.

Mark Waugh was unfortunate to be given out by Kandiah Francis, standing in his 25th and final Test when TV replays showed the ball being caught off his pads.

Steve Waugh survived a confident catch behind the wicket off Herath when umpire Peter Willey turned down the appeal, before the players came off for a night, 45 minutes before the scheduled close.

Australia trail Sri Lanka 1-0 in the three-match series.

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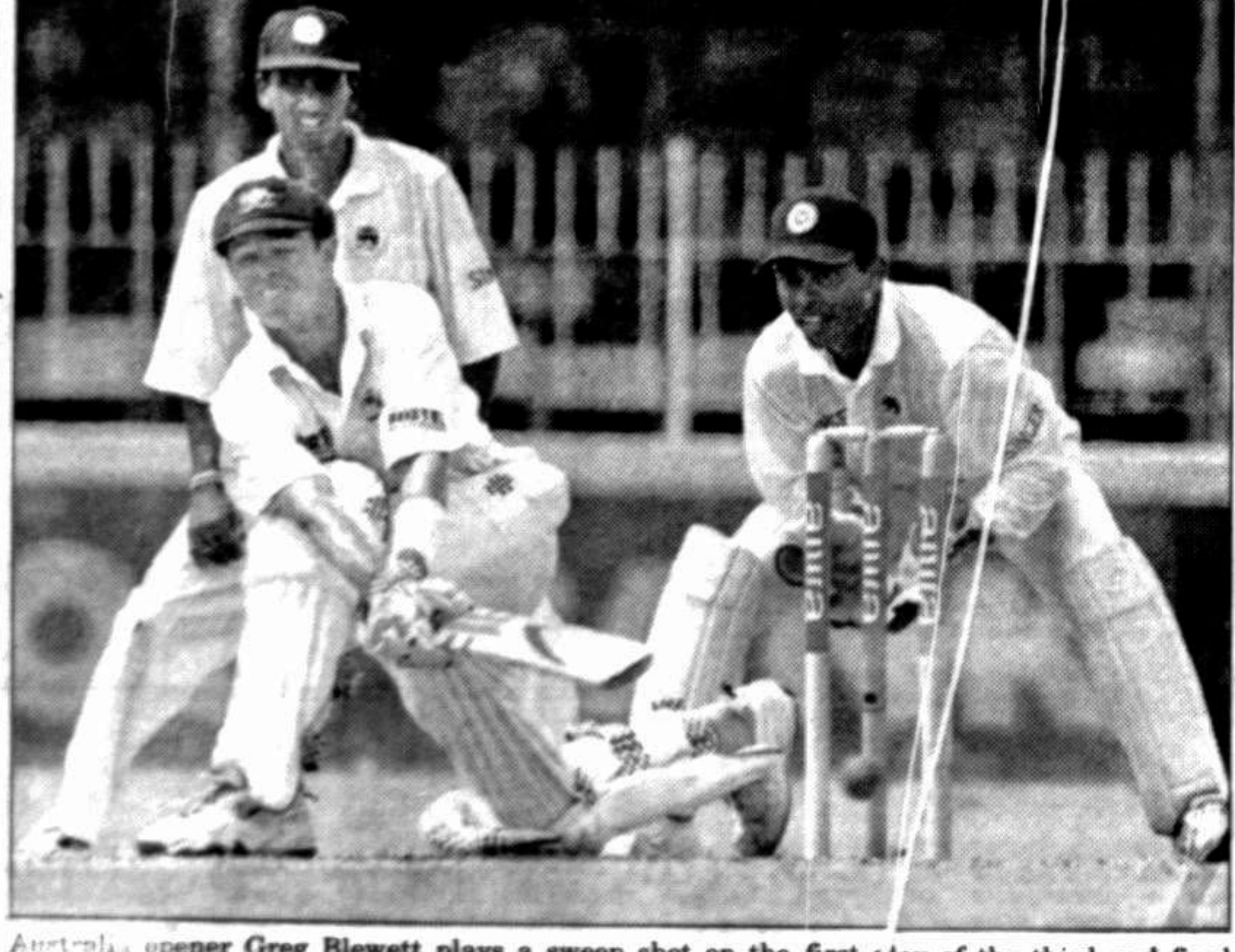
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Australia opener Greg Blewett plays a sweep shot on the first day of the third and final Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday. Blewett made a brilliant 70. —AFP photo

Kabadi shrouded in questions

From Sports Reporter

KATHMANDU, Sept 29: Officials of the Bangladesh kabadi team appeared to have played a key role to their disastrous performance in 8th SAF Games here in Nepal.

Poor game plan and questionable tactics of the coach and the manager led Bangladesh to pay dearly, especially in the matches against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

On Wednesday, Bangladesh kabadi hits its lowest ebb when it finished fourth for the first time in the history of the SAF Games. Quite ironically though,

Kabadi is the national sport of Bangladesh. And, in a bid to have a sure gold, it had introduced the game into the second edition of the seven-nation regional meet, held in Dhaka in 1987.

Although a gold remained always elusive, the game earned Bangladesh two silvers and four bronzes in the six previous meets.

Players of the miserable team revealed they were told to play defensively against Sri Lanka on Wednesday in a hope that they would easily win their

next match against Pakistan, and by doing so they would be able to clinch the silver.

On the court, the body language of the Bangladeshi players spoke for the suicidal strategy. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka earned one point each in that 40-minute long match.

The dubious decision to play for a draw against the islanders however surprised rival coaches at the spectators' gallery.

But, much to the disbelief of the Bangladesh coach and manager—Abdul Hakim and Nazrul Islam, things did not work the way they expected it to be. Their hope to win comfortably against Pakistan was ruthlessly shattered as their opponents turned just too good for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh were trailing 1-2 in the early first half, when they started arguing with the Indian referee over the point during a raid.

Bangladesh Kabadi Federation president Habibur Rahman Mollah MP and the deputy chief-delegation Manzurul Hasan Mintu were also witnessing the match along with the coach and manager. But it was noted by many that they did nothing but encourage the players to engage in verbal battle with the referee.

At one stage, in the second half, when Bangladesh were trailing 2-13, the team finally walked out of the field protesting over other decisions of the referee.

The South Asian Kabadi Federation was about to take stern action against Bangladesh. But, upon hectic persuasion by the Bangladeshi officials, the regulatory body finally warned the team officials verbally.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Kabadi Federation general secretary and former FIFA referee Munir Hossain, who is travelling Nepal as the treasurer of Bangladesh contingent, said that he was net there when all these happened but he expressed dissatisfaction over the walk-out.

He however said he did not have a clue about why the team played for a draw against Sri Lanka.

World U-19 Championship

Bangladesh in NZ, India's group

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh have been penciled in Group C. While hosts Sri Lanka, Australia, Ireland and Namibia will play in Group D.

It may be mentioned here that Bangladesh put up a sterling performance in South Africa where they defeated eventual winners England in the group league match. Although Bangladesh failed to advance in the super-six in South Africa, they finished their campaign with victory against West Indies in the 'Plate' final.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) picked up 21 cricketers to prepare a youth team for the forthcoming tour of the England A.

The second string England side will arrive in the city on October 18 to play a series of matches against different local selections.

The cricketers are: Fahim Muntasir, Hannan Sarker, Imran Ahmed, Sadiq Hasan, Razin Saleh, Nahidul Huq, Mazharul Haq, Golam Murtaza, Tariqul Hasan, Bikash Ranjan Das, Imran Rahim, Mushfiqur Rahman, M Selim, Kalim, Mahfuz Kabir, Sabbir Khan, Tahmin Bashir, Shafiq, Nayeem, Ashiq Majumder and Ashraf.

Kenya and Nepal have been penciled in Group C. While hosts Sri Lanka, Australia, Ireland and Namibia will play in Group D.

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