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## Column One

### Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

#### Competition-121

✓ Tick the Correct Answers  
Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes  
Competition closes at 8 pm  
Oct 15, '99 and draw  
shortly afterwards

1	Who won the DMC Cup in Toronto?	India	W Indies	Pakistan
2	Where will the next SAF Games be held?	Maldives	Pakistan	Bhutan
3	How many Test wickets has Kapil Dev taken?	432	433	434
4	Who is the fastest man in South Asia?	Anil	Bijayan	Bimal
5	What is the name of Tendulkar's daughter?	Divya	Sarah	Nisha

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....

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### SPORTS TALK



#### Shamir Sakir

(Bangladesh football coach)  
"I have only one request to you guys. Give me the gold."  
Talking before the SAF Games final.

#### Wadekar wishes Dev the best

COLOMBO, Oct 7: The former head of the national cricket selection committee has said the Indian team will prosper under their new coach Kapil Dev, who was expected to push the players to greater fitness, a newspaper said today, reports Reuters.

The state-owned Daily News quoted Ajit Wadekar as saying that Dev, who holds the record for taking the highest number of wickets in Test cricket, will emphasise team fitness as well as guide the young emerging fast bowlers.

Wadekar was replaced by Chandu Borde and Dev took over as coach from Anshuman Gaekwad recently as part of an overhaul in cricket administration following India's poor showing at the World Cup in England.

"At the moment what we (Indians) lack is fitness and good fielding, that's exactly what Kapil will harp on," Wadekar told the newspaper, adding that bowlers like Ajit Agarkar, Debashish Mohanty and Laxmi Prasad Shukla will also benefit from Dev's experience.

"The team seems to be quite good, but unfortunately they have not clicked together in all three departments — batting, fielding and bowling... but under the leadership of (captain) Sachin (Tendulkar) and the guidance of Kapil I think they will be able to do really well," Wadekar said.

He said Indian should retain former captain Mohammad Azharuddin in the team as he was a useful middle-order batsman, especially when the team played at home.

The selectors on Wednesday announced the team for the first Test against New Zealand starting in Mohali on Sunday, but Azharuddin was overlooked.

"We considered him like the others but thinking of the future we would like to give new players a chance," Borde said in Bombay.

Azharuddin, who was severely criticised for his captaincy during the World Cup, has not played since June when he underwent surgery for a shoulder injury.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presenting outgoing national football team captain Jewel Rana with a bouquet during the mass reception at Paltan Maidan yesterday afternoon. — Star photo

## Pybus deal draws flak

KARACHI, Oct 7 (AFP): Pakistan's decision to hire English-born Richard Pybus as coach of its cricket team was opposed Thursday by a former Test cricketer and also by an official from a local cricket association.

Ex-Test cricketer and selector Salahuddin Ahmed Sallu alleged Pybus had hurt the religious sentiments of the Pakistani players during the recent World Cup in England.

Pybus was assistant coach of the Pakistan team beaten by Australia in the World Cup one-day final in June.

Sallu claimed in a statement that after the semi-final victory against New Zealand in a World Cup match Pybus showed disrespect by walking around naked while the Pakistani players were offering thanks-giving prayers.

He said he witnessed the behaviour and reported the incident to the team manager who according to Sallu gave Pybus a

"strong dressing down." Sallu said at time only the people inside the dressing room were aware of the incident but now with the board going to appoint Pybus he had no option but to make it public.

He urged the ad-hoc committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) not to hire Pybus. The secretary of the Karachi Cricket City Association (KCCA), Siraj-ul Islam Bokhari, said there was no need to hire the services of a foreigner when the country's former Test cricketers could do the job.

"If we have a Pakistani coach then it will be a natural combination. He would know the language, traditions and culture which is not the case with a foreigner coach," Bokhari said.

PCB officials said a final decision would be taken in the best interests of national cricket. Pybus is due to arrive in a couple of days to negotiate terms, the board's media coordinator Mirza Iqbal Beg told the news agency on Wednesday.

If terms are reached there were "bright chances" Pybus would initially take over as assistant coach for the Sharjah tournament starting October 13, he said.

From Sharjah, Pakistan will leave for a three-Test series in Australia with Pybus as coach, Beg said. Pakistan will also participate in a one-day series there, involving Australia and India.

Pybus, the former Minor Counties player for Suffolk moved to South Africa in 1991 and coached Selborne College, a leading cricket school in East London.

Before the World Cup in May, Pybus coached the previously unrated Border province to the finals of both South Africa's major domestic competitions this season.

## Brawl over Miller move

SYDNEY, Oct 7: (Internet report): The Australian Cricket Association will meet Tasmanian cricket officials tomorrow in a bid to resolve the dispute surrounding the playing future of Test bowler Colin Miller before the start of the domestic season.

Miller has moved from Hobart to Melbourne for personal reasons and remains intent on playing for Victoria in this year's Sheffield Shield and Mercantile Mutual Cup competitions, despite having failed in two legal attempts to dissolve his existing contract with the TCA.

Under Australian Cricket Board rules, Miller could lodge a fresh transfer application when the Australian touring party returns from Zimbabwe under a provision established for players who return from overseas within three months of the shield season.

Miller's initial transfer application was denied by Tas-

mania and the ACB. His subsequent appeal was dismissed in August by an independent panel headed by Victorian County Court Judge Gordon Lewis.

ACA chief executive, Tim May, who will represent Miller in tomorrow's negotiations in Hobart, is hopeful further legal action can be avoided.

"We can go through this whole process again," May said. "The question is, do we really all want to go through that again... and waste a hell of a lot of time and a hell of a lot of money when perhaps things can be resolved across a table?"

"What we are trying to do is say, 'Okay, let's put all that stuff on hold, let's sit down over a table and try to resolve the matter in the interest of cricket and cricketers.'"

Miller is seen as a potential test challenge to the ACB's long-standing transfer rules, which May argued were inconsistent with the State-based player contracts introduced last season.

The ACA earlier this year

put a formal submission to the ACB calling for the abolition of the transfer rules and the introduction of an AFL draft-style transfer pool.

Miller has already bought a home in Melbourne and by the start of the shield season, will have satisfied the ACB's three-month criteria for residency. He left Tasmania to move in with his partner to begin a post-cricket career in the hospitality industry.

While Victoria are keen to gain the services of the talented seamer-cum-off-spinner, the last public comments on the matter from TCA chief executive Daniel Johnston were that Tasmania would be willing for Miller to commute from Melbourne for first-class matches.

Meanwhile, the new team uniforms, captains and cash incentives were revealed yesterday at the launch of the Mercantile Mutual competition at the North Sydney Oval, the venue for this Sunday's opening match between NSW and Victoria.

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## Everything except Graf

BASLE, Switzerland, Oct 7: World number one Andre Agassi expertly avoided the burning question on Wednesday, failing once to mention Steffi Graf, reports Reuters.

In a rambling, wide-ranging interview, Agassi displayed some fancy footwork of his own, side-stepping leading questions about the hottest tennis romance since Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert were stealing headlines in the 1970s.

On a day off at the Swiss Indoor championships, the French and US Open champion offered insight and glimpses into almost every other aspects of his life but refused to shed any light on his relationship with Graf, who has apparently replaced actress Brooke Shields as the woman in his life.

The 30-minute talk revealed Agassi the philosopher and Agassi the philanthropist. There was Agassi the psychic and Agassi the tennis player.

But at no time was there any mention of Agassi, the boyfriend. While the name Steffi Graf has been on everyone else's lips, never once did it fall from Agassi's mouth.

"It's been incredible, like I'm living a dream," smiled Agassi, when asked to describe his life. "If I wake up... I'm going to go back to sleep."

Earlier in the tournament a slightly more talkative Agassi would say only that the scrutiny he is under because of his relationship, is the worse

he's ever experienced.

"It's as bad as it gets," said Agassi. "But by now I should be used to it."

Nestled on the border with Graf's native Germany and France, there's been no escape from the paparazzi's prying eye in Basle.

Blick, Switzerland's biggest

selling tabloid let their readers know where Agassi dined on Tuesday, what he ate (chicken wings) and who was with him (not Graf).

But if Agassi didn't have much to say about his relationship he had plenty to say about almost everything else.

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### Bridge WC qualifiers Bangladesh earn third spot

Sports Reporter  
Bangladesh men's bridge team earned the third position of the 10th Bridge World Cup qualifying round of Africa, Asia and Middle East zone now being held in Colombo, according to a Bangladesh Bridge Federation press release yesterday.

Bangladesh collected 93.5 points out of 118 points at the end of Wednesday's play. South Africa and India were in the first and second place with 108 and 103 points respectively.

A total of nine countries took part in the qualifiers from which top two teams will get the tickets of finals.

### Nat'l rowing postponed

Sports Reporter  
The 24th national rowing championships, which was scheduled for a October 16 start, have been postponed temporarily for unavoidable circumstances, according to a Bangladesh Rowing Federation press release yesterday.

The fresh date will be announced soon.

### Randell learns harsh truth

HOBART, Oct 7: Former international cricket umpire Steve Randell, convicted of sexually assaulting two of his students while he was a teacher, has been attacked by fellow jail inmates, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Three prison guards were injured in the incident Wednesday at Hobart's Risdon Jail. Randell, 43, who was not injured, was jailed for four years in August on 15 counts of sexual assault against schoolgirls.

Prison officials said he will now be segregated from other prisoners for his own protection.

### Nat'l carom

Sports Reporter  
The three-day national carom championship began at the NSC gymnasium yesterday. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader inaugurated the meet.

A total of 73 teams from all over the country are participating in the three-day competition organised by Bangladesh Carom Federation.

Twenty-two doubles, 43 singles and eight women's singles events would be held during the competition.

Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, president of the Bangladesh Carom Federation, gave a welcome address at the inaugural function.

### FAI extends McCarthy's contract

DUBLIN, Oct 7: The Football Association of Ireland has extended national team manager Mick McCarthy's contract until February 2002, reports Reuters.

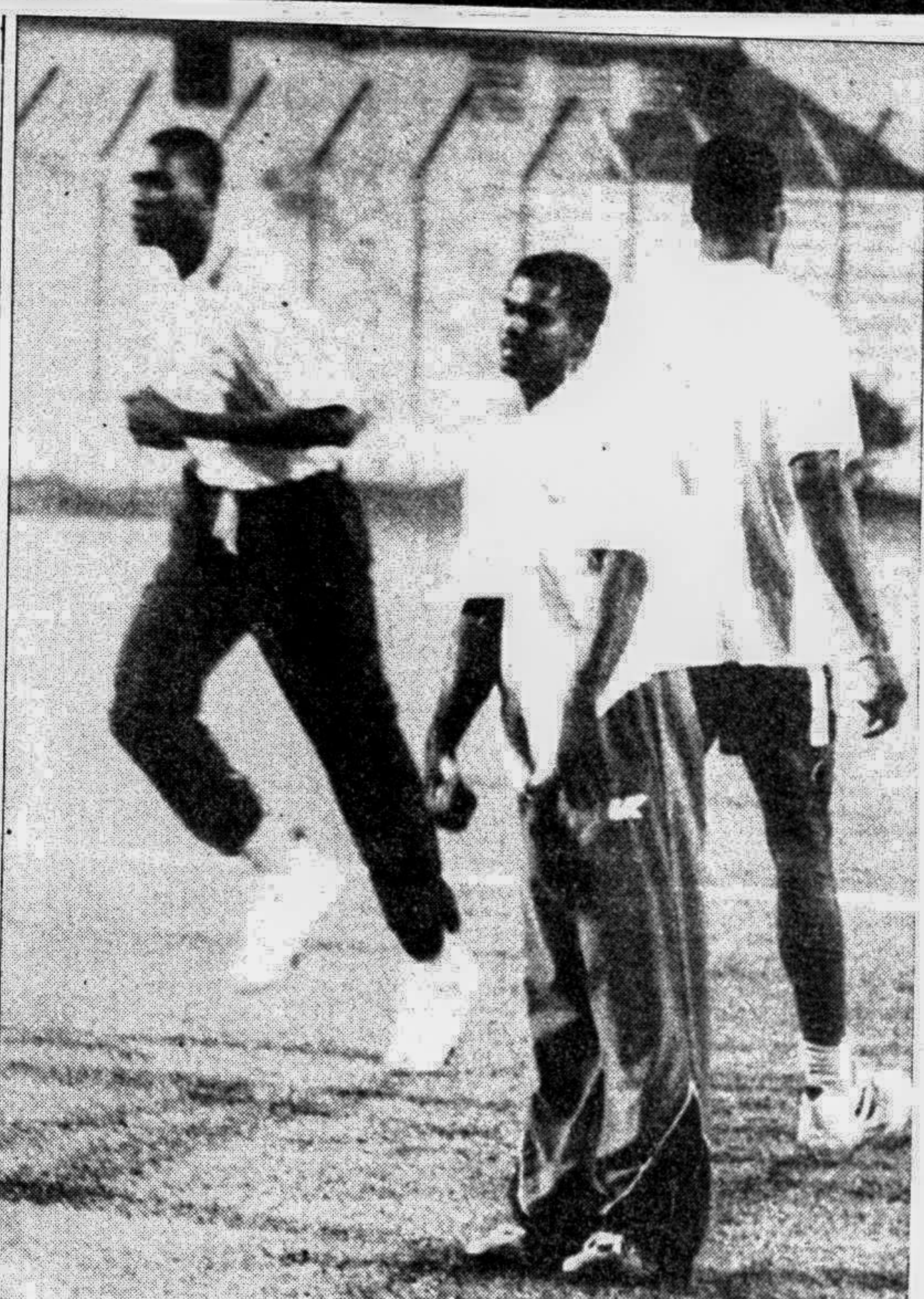
"We believe that considerable progress has been made in the past four years and we want Mick to continue the development of this young team," Pat Quigley, president of the FAI, said in a statement on Wednesday.

McCarthy, who took over from Jack Charlton as Ireland boss in 1996, welcomed the extension.

"It has always been my ambition to lead Ireland to the finals of a major championship. Now we have got the best opportunity we could have hoped for and we have got to grasp that chance," McCarthy said.

Ireland meet Macedonia in their final Euro 2000 group eight qualifier on Saturday. They are second a point behind Yugoslavia and need a win to either qualify for the finals or to earn a play-off spot as runners-up.

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West Indies fast bowler Curtly Ambrose (L), batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul (C) and Mervyn Dillon during practice at the Bangabandhu Stadium last night. — Star photo

## Cricketing dream spurs a row

By Barrack Otieno from Nairobi

Kenya, a recent arrival in international cricket, has backed up its good show at this year's World Cup by winning its bid to host a prestigious tournament in the year 2000. Many fans think the tournament could improve Kenya's efforts to enter the mainstream of international cricket but, reports Gemini News Service, there's some way to go yet.

THE selection of Nairobi as the venue for a one-day international cricket tournament between Test playing nations in October 2000 has kicked off a furious debate among the many cricket fans in Kenya.

That's because Kenya itself is yet to be accorded the vaunted Test-playing status by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's apex administrator. And that means the Kenyan cricket team, an energetic side that has given a fine account of itself at several international ties, will not take the field this time around.

While most Kenyans admit that hosting the tournament would give the country's quest for Test status a major boost, they say that Kenya, as the hosts, should have been allowed to participate in the championship.

Since Kenya is an ICC associate member with one-day international status, cricket administrators in Nairobi think it is not too late to convince the ICC to reconsider the position and include Kenya. Some feel it would be humiliating for Kenyans to host the championship and then watch the play from the terraces.

And if Kenya does well in the tournament, they argue, it could give its chances of becoming a Test nation by the time the 2003 World Cup is held in South Africa.

Otherwise, Kenya will once again have to fight for a place in

the tournament along with the 24 other ICC associate members. Cricket's nine Test nations — Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England, West Indies, South Africa and Zimbabwe — get an automatic berth.

In winning its bid to host the October 5-15 tournament at the Gymkhana ground, Nairobi beat off stiff opposition from Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Sharjah (United Arab Emirates). The decision followed an inspection tour of the local facilities by ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya, chief executive David Richards and Wills Cup event manager Campbell Jamieson.

Richards, who conducted a five-day inspection tour of the facilities in August, expressed satisfaction with the infrastructure and standards of the grounds but suggested improvements in some areas like installation of floodlights so that some of the games could be played at night.

He added that over 222 million Kenyan shillings would be spent on accommodation for more than 200 players and officials. Ticket sales, predicted to exceed 50m shillings, remain with the hosts.

The ICC is expected to spend over US \$4 million (\$15 300m) on the tournament, to be beamed to some 1.5 billion television viewers worldwide. Many hope it will give a major boost to Kenyan tourism, which has suffered recently from political insecurity, car-jackings and armed robbery. Thousands of cricket fans are expected to visit the country to watch the championship.

Other benefits include ICC-financed improvements to the Nairobi Gymkhana pitch, installation of floodlights and upgrading of practice grounds. The terraces will be refurbished and expanded to accommodate 15,000 spectators and the construction of an ultramodern media centre, complete with television editing facilities and broadcasting studios.

Kenya is the top-rated ICC associate member but has been advised to improve some aspects of its game if it wants to make an impact in international competitions.

"There still remains room for improvement," said Rose Turner, Australian development manager at the ICC in London. "You need to go out there in the countryside to improve cricket to the same levels of the city. Kenya needs to improve its bowling and do a little more to consolidate its cricket infrastructure."

Kenya has a highly developed cricket system with the game played predominantly by native Africans. But the man-

agement is controlled by Kenyan Asians who also own all the cricket grounds.

Until a few years ago most of the players too were Asians with a sprinkling of Europeans. But, aided by some reform-minded administrators, a crop of talented young African players have recently stormed the game.

There is also a highly developed youth programme as well as First and Second Division leagues. Nevertheless, there is very little cricket in the countryside which undermines the KCA's efforts to spread the sport countrywide.

The KCA is the best managed sports federation in the country with little government interference. But this peaceful facade sometimes threatens to collapse, when players emerge from the clubs screaming against racism-real and imagined.

About the Author: Barrack Otieno is a Kenyan journalist working for the Family Guardian. He was the deputy sports editor for The Daily Nation, Kenya's largest-selling daily newspaper.

### McMillan warning for Indians

JODHPUR, India, Oct 7 (AFP): New Zealand star Craig McMillan struck rich form ahead of the three-Test series against India with an unbeaten 168 against the Board president's team here on Thursday.

The Kiwis, preparing for the first Test at Mohali from Sunday, gave an impressive batting display before the three-day match petered out into a draw.

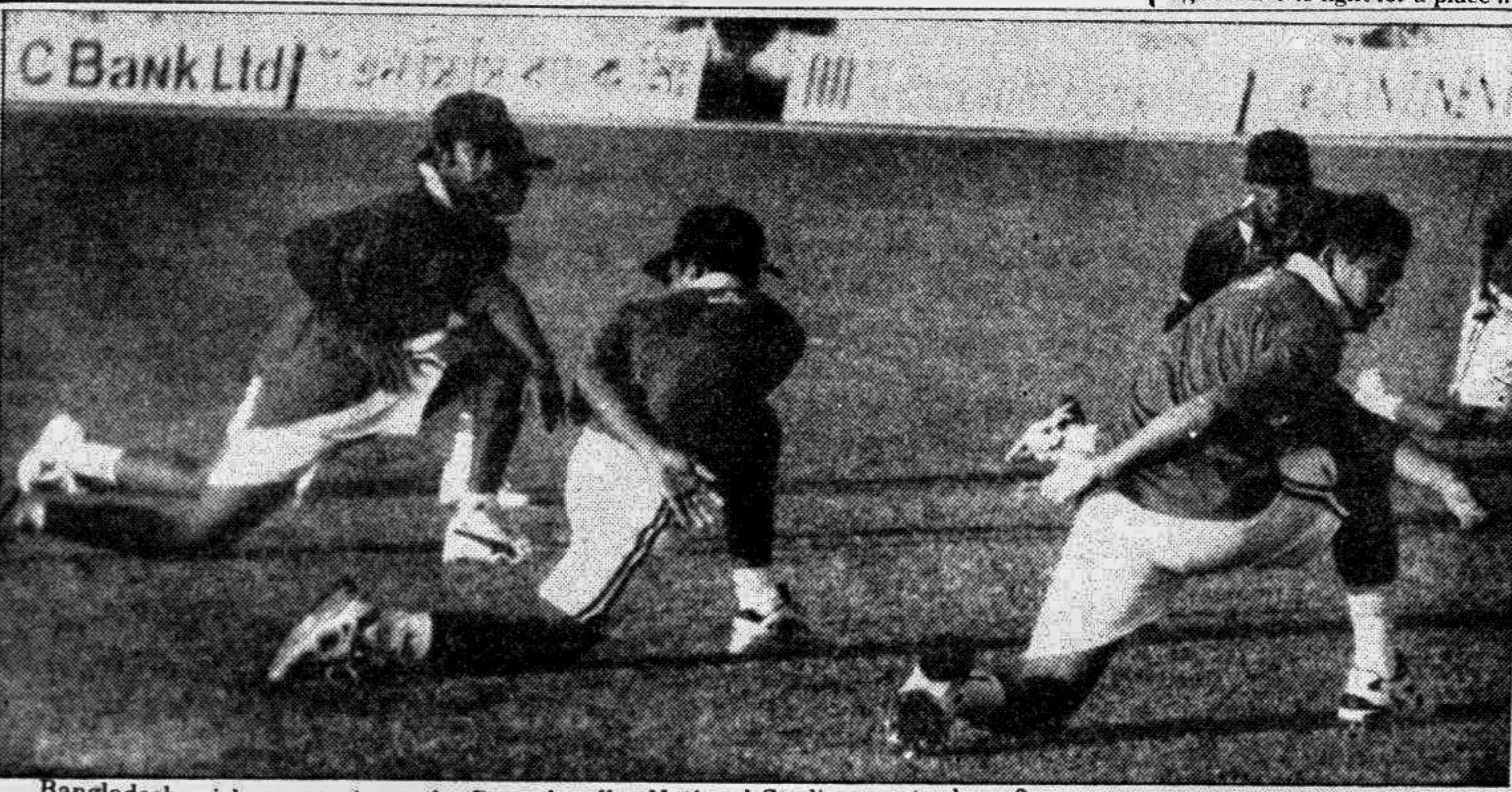
Resuming at 269 for five in reply to the home team's 298, the Kiwis were fired by an unbeaten 121 for the sixth wicket between the overnight pair of McMillan and Adam Parore.

Parore hit 72 not out as the tourists raced to 444 for five before skipper Stephen Fleming declared the innings shortly before tea.

The president's team, comprising young Test hopefuls, made 79 for four in their second knock when stumps were drawn. Left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori picked up two wickets, while Dion Nash and Paul Wiseman took one each.

McMillan, who hit 19 boundaries and four sixes during his six-hour stay, said later his aim was to dismiss Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar with his slow medium bowling.

Bowling to Tendulkar would be a big challenge," said McMillan, who has taken just eight wickets in 15 Tests so far. "I'd love to get him out."



Bangladesh cricketers train at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman