

Star Sport

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1999 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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?	Diva	Sarah	Nisha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

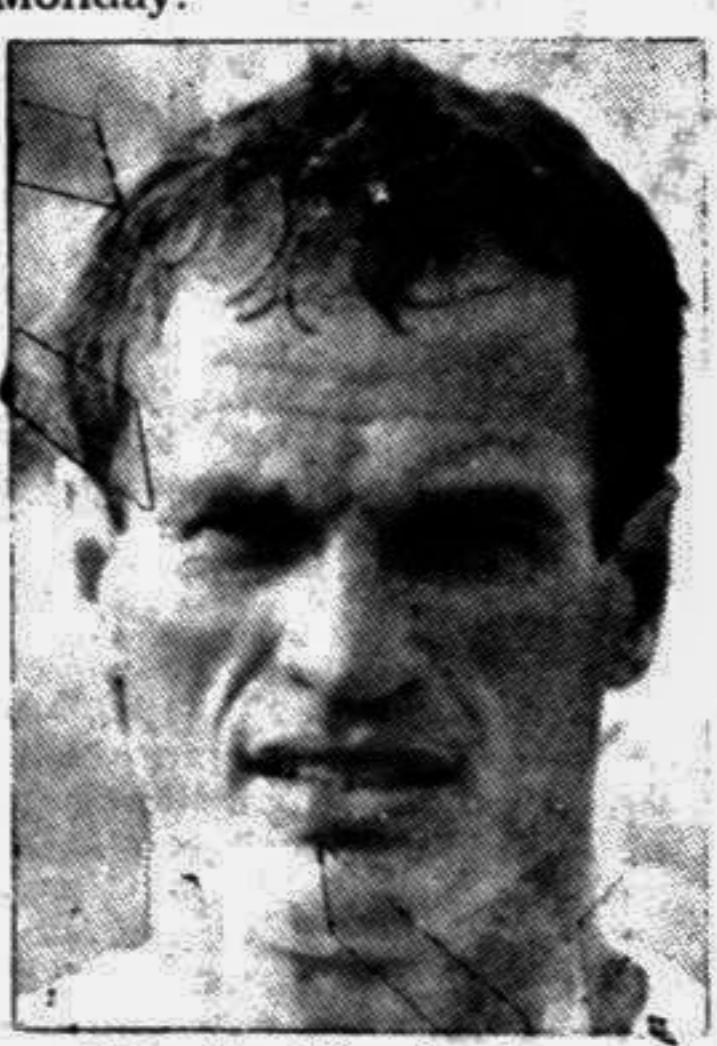


Chris Cairns

(New Zealand all-rounder)
"My personal ambition is to
be known as a successful cricketer. I would like to have that
epitaph."

Wessels bids his final bye

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 12 (AFP): Former South African cricket captain Kepler Wessels has retired from first class cricket, the Griguan West Cricket Board announced on Monday.



Wessels, 42, who has captained the Griguan team since last season, said lack of time and motivation had contributed to his decision.

"Off the field, there were a whole lot of factors which all contributed to the fact that I couldn't just concentrate on cricket, and I think if you're playing cricket at first class level, that's got to be your main focus," Wessels told public SABC radio. "But that was no longer possible."

Griguan's general manager Brian Kidson said Wessels would not be lost to the province as he would remain on as cricket consultant to the board for the remainder of the season.

Former South African national spin bowler Pat Symcox will take over the captaincy.

Wessels, who started his Test career with Australia, returned to lead South Africa back into world cricket after more than two decades of apartheid-induced isolation.

He captained South Africa in 13 Tests, drawing series with Australia and England, beating Sri Lanka and India and losing to the West Indies in a one-off Test, and he led the team to the semi-finals of the 1992 World Cup.

He handed the captaincy of the national team to Hansie Cronje in December 1994 and quit international cricket soon thereafter.



Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury makes a point during the press conference yesterday. — Star photo

Asia XI vs World XI clash at Dhaka in April?

Bangladesh in Mini World Cup

Sports Reporter

development of these two nations.

"The concept of one-day cricket has changed these days. There are as many as eleven countries accredited to play ODIs now. The nine Test-playing teams have the ODI status along with Bangladesh and Kenya. Keeping this point in consideration, the ICC has included Bangladesh and Kenya in the fray," said Saber.

"We (ICC) have also decided to confirm in February next the number of participating countries for the next World Cup after getting the final report from the England and Welsh Cricket Board on the 1999 World Cup," revealed Saber.

The BCB boss also disclosed that an inspection by the ICC team on only ground facilities will be held in January or February. This will be part of the process of evaluating Bangladesh's claim for Test status.

"As far as the development of cricket in Bangladesh is concerned, this is a great achievement. The ICC has taken the decision to include Bangladesh and Kenya in the knockout meet and, according to my own interpretation, this move will help us and Kenya get direct entry in the 2003 World Cup proper," said a confident Saber.

"The main idea behind awarding Bangladesh and Kenya ODI status was to bring these two countries into a shape to play with some consistency against the Test-playing nations. This was done for the de-

"The inspection held last year had to cover many things. But this time, they will only see the ground facilities in Dhaka, BKSP, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong," Saber said.

About the 8th Asia Cup, Saber confirmed that it would be held in Dhaka early next year.

"I had a talk with PCB president Mujibur Rehman, who is now the ACC president also. We are trying to accommodate all the four teams and, if required, we may make some minor ad-

Chang needs someone special!

SINGAPORE, Oct 12: Michael Chang is very much single and his father is on the lookout for potential girlfriends for the down-to-earth tennis superstar, reports AFP.

"Actually, I want him to find a good girlfriend first," said Joe Chang, when asked at a news briefing if he wanted his son to marry soon, the Straits Times said today.

"You know, we travel around so much. Everywhere we go, I'm always on the lookout for Michael. You could say I'm his talent scout," said his father, who is here with the tennis star and the rest of the Chang clan for the Singapore Open tournament.

The 27-year-old Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, admitted he did not have "anyone special in my life right now."

"But I do have a special group of people who are close to me. I'm obviously very close to my family," he said.

Meghna Life Athletics open

Sports Reporter

The Meghna Life 6th Summer Athletics Championship got underway at the Mirpur Shie-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The three-day meet was inaugurated by the State Minister for Sports, Obaidul Quader. Also present at the colourful opening ceremony was Managing Director of Meghna Life Insurance, Nizam Uddin Ahmed. Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation President, Kamal Ahmed Majumder MP, presided.

Although about 250 athletes took part in the march-past, to the tune of the Navy band, the BAAF chief expressed his utter frustration at the meagre number of participation. He announced he would soon begin a campaign to hunt for talent at school level.

Echoing the feeling of the president, the minister questioned the athletes what would

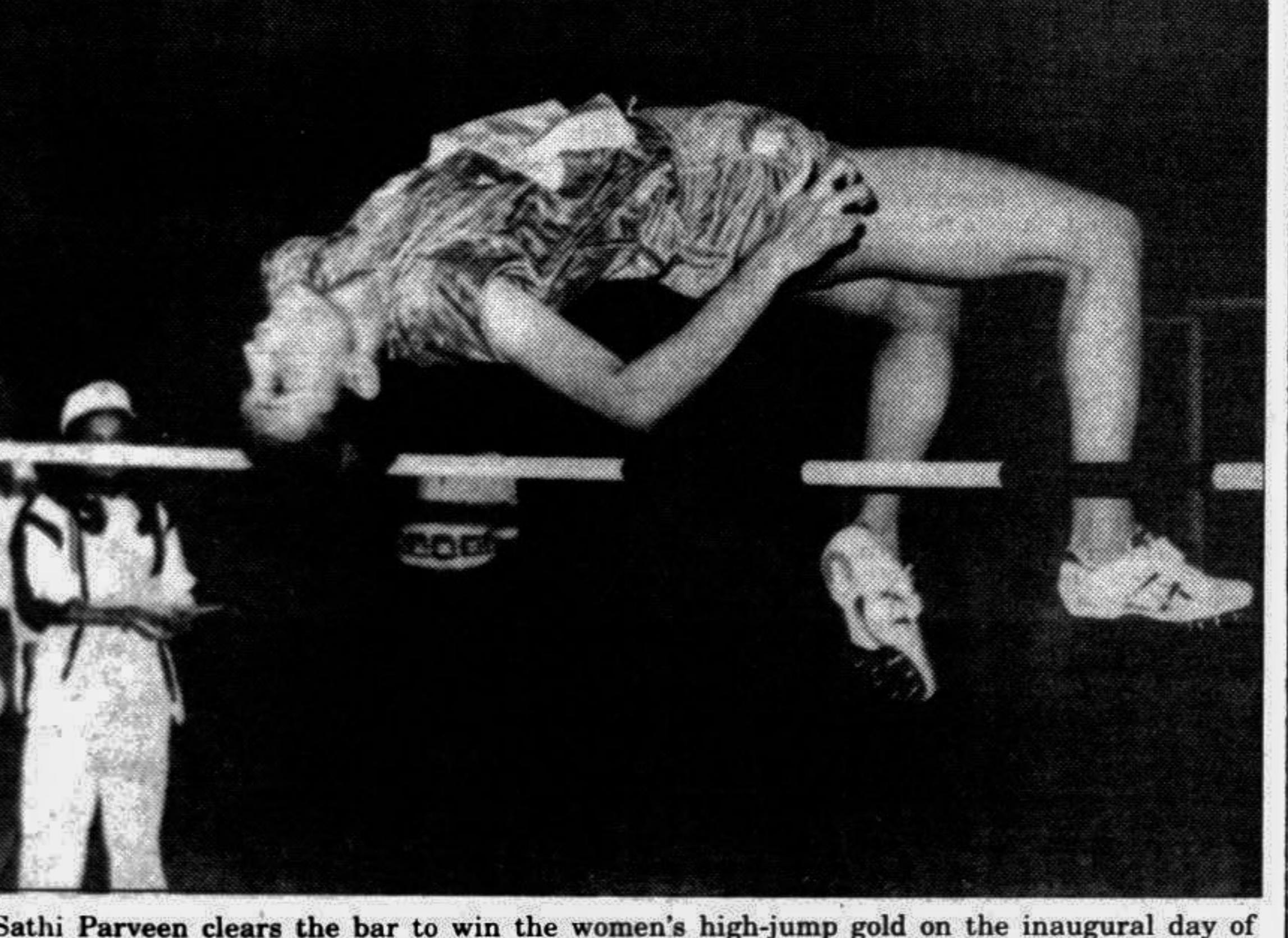
he have done had the football team not got the SAF gold. The minister did not hide his disappointment at the failure of the athletes at the Kathmandu SAF Games. Assuring the athletes of all possible help and assistance, the minister urged them to train harder to perform well at the international level.

The Meghna Life Managing Director expressed his gladness in being able to sponsor the event, and assured all present that in future they would get involved with sports and games in a bigger way.

The minister handed over Taka 30,000 to Kathmandu SAF silver medallist, Mahbub Alam.

Half of the amount was committed prior to the regional meet by the BAAF and the other half by Kamal Majumder.

Local schoolboys and girls put up a splendid display of folk dance to add festivity to the opening ceremony.



Sathi Parveen clears the bar to win the women's high-jump gold on the inaugural day of the Summer Athletics meet yesterday. — Star photo

World U-19 Cricket

Bangladesh meet India in opener

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh have been pincered in Group B for the first round of the cricket World Youth Cup (under-19) to be held in Sri Lanka from January 11 to 20 next year.

This was disclosed by Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury during a press conference yesterday afternoon.

New Zealand, India and Holland are the other three teams drafted in the same group.

Sixteen teams have been grouped into four for the first round.

Group A -- England, Zimbabwe, West Indies and a team from America.

Group B -- Bangladesh, New Zealand, India and Holland.

Group C -- South Africa, Pakistan, Kenya and Nepal.

Group D -- Australia, Sri Lanka, Ireland and Namibia.

According to the draft fixture, Bangladesh, who won the Plate in the previous meet in South Africa last year, will open their campaign on January 12 against India.

The next two matches against New Zealand and Holland will be played on January 14 and 16 respectively.

Pakistan's warning

DUBAI, Oct 12: Pakistan cricket authorities, keen to try to exorcise the spectre of match-fixing allegations, have told Sharjah Cup organisers they will not come to Sharjah again if they see bookmakers approaching the team, reports Reuters.

"If I see a mobile phone or a person with a mobile in the dressing room, we will not come to Sharjah," Mujibur Rehman, the Pakistan Cricket Board chief, told reporters yesterday.

Pakistan agreed to compete in the tournament only after receiving a firm assurance from the organisers.

Rehman refused to comment on the judicial commission inquiring in Pakistan into match-fixing bribery allegations but said the delay in publication of its report was "not beneficial for the board."

Larsen calls it a day

WELLINGTON, Oct 12: Injuries and worsening arthritics in his right foot have robbed veteran New Zealand bowler Gavin Larsen of his planned final cricket season in front of the home fans, report agencies.

Larsen, 37, has retired immediately because of the health

problems rather than his previously planned retirement at the end of the next southern season, NZ Cricket said in a statement.

"One thing I could never live with would be lowering my personal standards through playing for the sake of playing," Larsen said in the statement.

"My instinct is that I would be unable to attain the standards I expect of myself this coming season."

Larsen captained the New Zealand team on its 1994 tour of Sharjah, and was vice-captain on its tour of England later that year.

He first represented New Zealand in March 1990 in a one-day international against India in Dunedin, New Zealand.

Having played 121 one-dayers, "The Postman" — for his always accurate deliveries — collected 113 wickets at an average of 35.38 runs, for an economy rate of 3.76.

He went to the last three World Cups, and in this year's tournament in England was his team's most economical bowler, giving away just 3.46 runs an over.

He has been our most consistent performer in the one day game for many years, always giving 100 per cent and proving to be New Zealand's most economical one day bowler of the past decade," said NZ Cricket general manager Tim Murdoch.

NZ Cricket said it had planned to call up Larsen to join the tour of India for a one-day series following the current Test series.

Larsen played eight Tests between 1994 and 1996, taking 24 wickets at an average of 28.70.

Casiraghi unsure about future

LONDON, Oct 12: Chelsea striker Pierluigi Casiraghi said his serious knee injury which has kept him out of action for nearly a year has given him a lot of heartache over his future, reports AFP.

The former Lazio star hurt knee ligaments in an accidental clash with West Ham keeper Shaka Hislop last November.

Desert duel begins today

Must-win meet for Pakistan



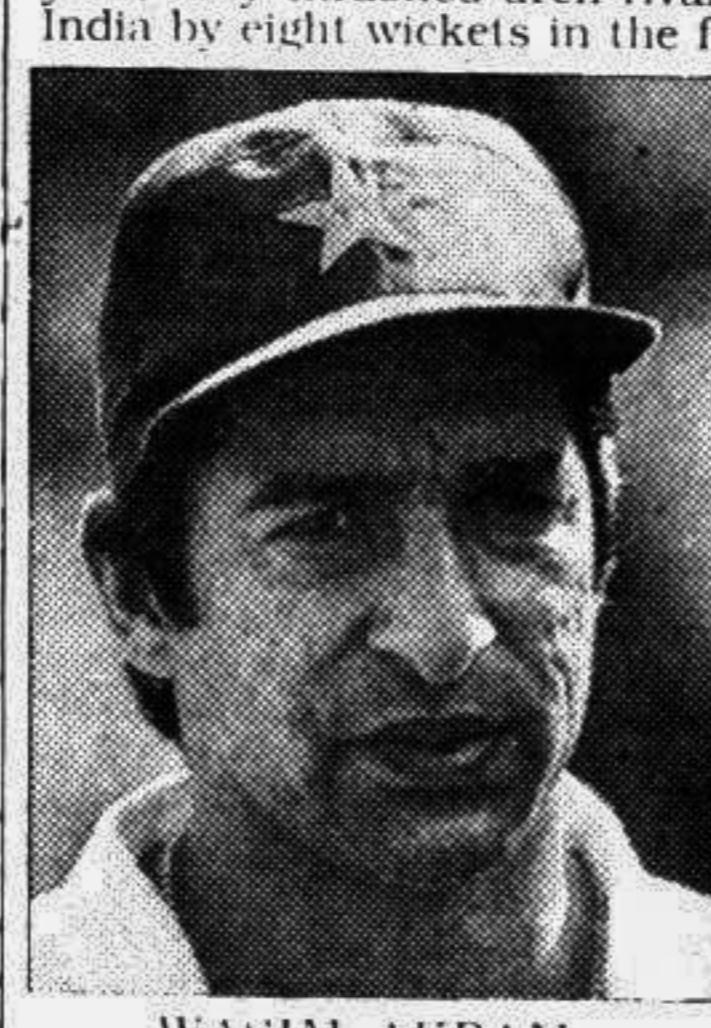
SHARJAH, Oct 12 (Internet report/ Reuters) Wasim Akram's Pakistan will be wary of losing when they clash with rejuvenated Sri Lanka and the West Indies in the Sharjah Cup from Wednesday.

Brian Lara's team is back again hoping to avenge that defeat. Sanath Jayasuriya's new-look Sri Lanka are buoyant after rolling over formidable Australia in both the one-day and Test series at home.

Pakistan's attack will be weakened by injuries to pace spearhead Shoaib Akhtar and off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, who were rested to enable them to recover fully for the Australian tour.

But they still retain the fire-power to trouble the best. Akram and Waqar Younis will be joined by recalled paceman Mohammad Akram and young tearaway Shabbir Ahmed, who destroyed the West Indies in Toronto.

The last time Pakistan played in Sharjah, in April this year, they thrashed arch-rivals India by eight wickets in the fi-



WASIM AKRAM

nal. But the victory was overshadowed by two successive defeats against India and England earlier in the tournament, which brought on fresh charges of wrong-doing and led to Javed Miandad's exit as coach.

Wasim, cleared to play by authorities pending the finalisation of a long-winding judicial enquiry at home, will not want to put a foot wrong in Sharjah. It was here two years ago that the all-rounder was stripped of the captaincy after Wasim's mind was still fresh in Wasim's mind.

Wasim said his team would be going all out to win the first prize of 50,000 US dollars. "Since the team for the forthcoming tour of Australia will be selected in Sharjah, all the boys will be keyed up to win a place in the team. We haven't played cricket for around four weeks, but I don't think we will need much time to get into the groove," said Wasim, who has

been cleared to play by the authorities pending the finalisation of a long-winding judicial enquiry at home, will not want to put a foot wrong in Sharjah. It was here two years ago that the all-rounder was stripped of the captaincy after Wasim's mind was still fresh in Wasim's mind.

Wasim said his team would be going all out to win the first prize of 50,000 US dollars. "Since the team for the forthcoming tour of Australia will be selected in Sharjah, all the boys will be keyed up to win a place in the team. We haven't played cricket for around four weeks, but I don't think we will need much time to get into the groove," said Wasim, who has

been cleared to play by the authorities pending the finalisation of a long-winding judicial enquiry at home, will not want to put a foot wrong in Sharjah. It was here two years ago that the all-rounder was stripped of the captaincy after Wasim's mind was still fresh in Wasim's mind.

Wasim said his team would be going all out to win the first prize of 50,000 US dollars. "Since the team for the forthcoming tour of Australia will be selected in Sharjah, all the boys will be keyed up to win a place in the team. We haven't played cricket for around four weeks, but I don't think we will need much time to get into the groove," said Wasim, who has

been cleared to play by the authorities pending the finalisation of a long-winding judicial enquiry at home, will not want to put a foot wrong in Sharjah. It was here two years ago that the all-rounder was stripped of the captaincy after Wasim's mind was still fresh in Wasim's mind.

Wasim said his team would be going all out to win the first prize of 50,000 US dollars. "Since the team for the forthcoming tour of Australia will be selected in Sharjah, all the boys will be keyed up to win a place in the team. We haven't played cricket for around four weeks, but I don't think we will need much time to get into the groove," said Wasim, who has

been cleared to play by the authorities pending the finalisation of a long-winding judicial enquiry at home, will not want to put a foot wrong in Sharjah. It was here two years