

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 Brijayan Bimal

5 What is the name of Tendulkar's daughter?

Divya Sarah Nisha

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK

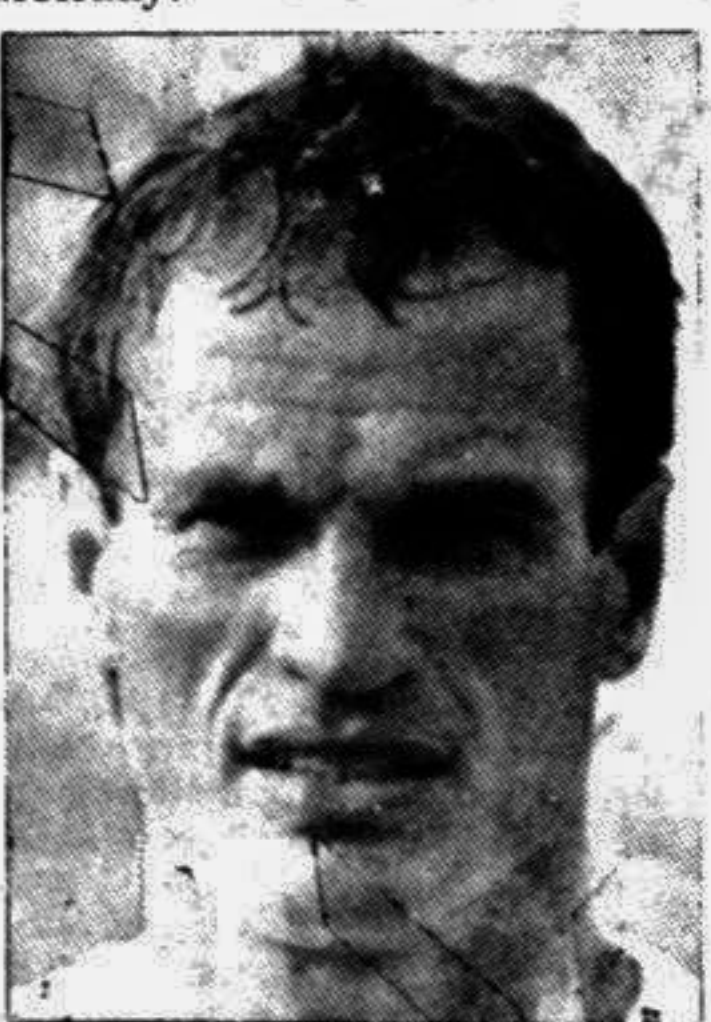


Chris Cairns

(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 Griqualand West Cricket Board announced on Monday.



Wessels, 42, who has captained the Griquas 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."

Griquas' 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.



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

Asia XI vs World XI clash at Dhaka in April?

Bangladesh in Mini World Cup

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh and Kenya will play in the 2nd ICC Knockout Cricket Tournament alongside the nine Test-playing nations. The 11-nation tournament will be held in Kenya next year from October 3 to 15.

This was revealed by Bangladesh Cricket Board president and Deputy Minister for LGRD Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday at a press briefing.

The decision was taken at the three-day executive body meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) at Dubai from October 8.

Saber attended the meeting as an ICC executive member along with BCB general secretary Syed Ashraf Hossain, who is a member of the ICC Cricket Committee.

"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 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 Wales 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.

"The inspection held last year had to cover many things. But this time, they will only see the ground facilities in Dhaka, BKS, 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 Rahman, who is now the ACC president also. We are trying to accommodate all the four teams and, if required, we may make some minor adjustments in the schedule," said Saber.

He also laid importance on domestic cricket, saying that the board's first priority was to hold the national league, which will be played on a three-day match format.

"We are set to begin the league from mid-November," said the BCB chief.

He also revealed that the ICC will observe International Cricket Week from April 2 to 9 next year to promote the game worldwide. An exhibition cricket match between Asia XI and World XI will be played during the week either in Sharjah, Kathmandu or Dhaka.

According to Saber, if the match was held in Dhaka, one or two Bangladesh cricketers might be included in the Asian squad.

Saber also said that the ICC has released a Code of Conduct for players and teams, which will be applicable for all the cricket-playing nations.

It may be mentioned that the first ICC knockout championship was held in Dhaka last year without the hosts Bangladesh. BCB officials that time said that ICC did not allow Bangladesh as the tournament was only for Test-playing nations. The ICC did not consider then that Bangladesh at ODI status. Now there appears to be a change of heart.

Meghna Life Athletics open

Sports Reporter

The Meghna Life 6th Summer Athletics Championship got under way at the Mirpur Sher-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, president.

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 that the federation 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 gratification 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 medalist, Mahub 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.

Chang needs someone special!

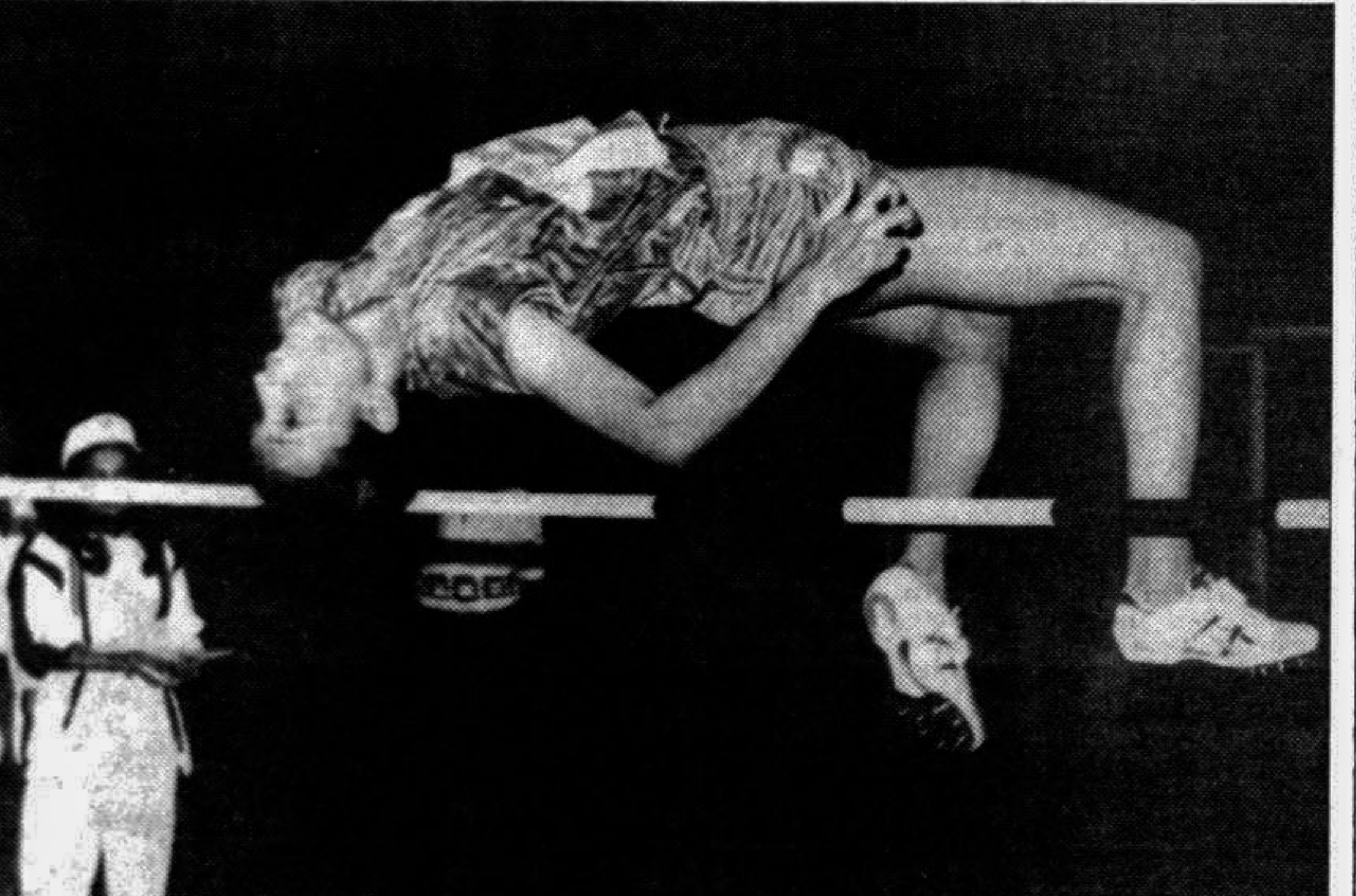
SINGAPORE, Oct 12: Michael Chang is very much single and his father is on the lookout for potential girlfriends for the down-to-earth tennis superstar, reports AFP.

"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.



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

World U-19 Cricket

Bangladesh meet India in opener

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh have been pencilled 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 held 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.

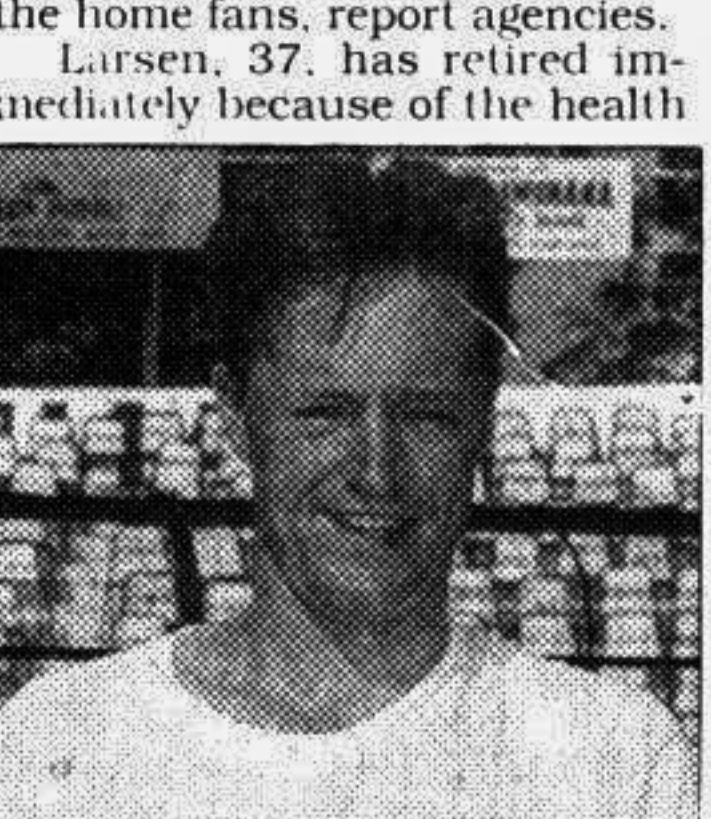
Pakistan agreed to compete in the tournament only after receiving a firm assurance from the organisers.

Rehman refused to comment on the judicial commission inquiry 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 arthritis 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 35.33 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

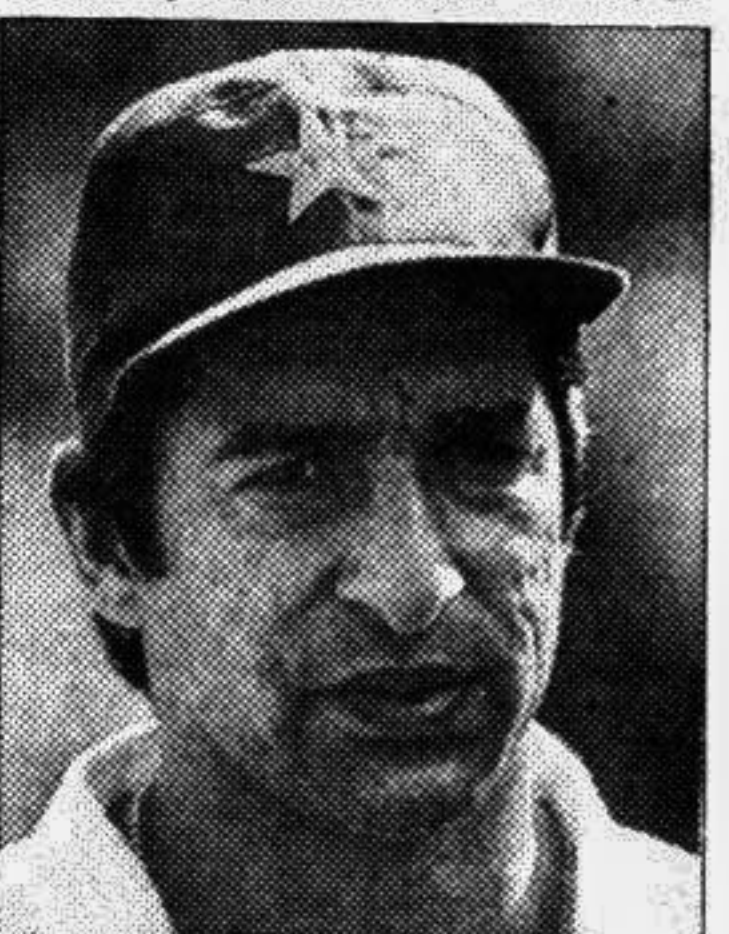


SHARJAH, Oct 12 (Internet report/Reuters) Wasim Akram's Pakistan will be wary of losing when they clash with rejuvenated Sri Lanka and the West Indies in the Sharjah Cup from Wednesday.

What was once a favourite hunting ground for the Pakistanis has heaped only embarrassment in recent years, with accusations of betting and match-fixing accompanying every defeat. Pakistan, more than any other team, simply cannot afford to lose.

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

But they still retain the firepower 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.



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 Pakistan failed to win a tournament.

The uproar caused by the one-sided defeat to Australia in the World Cup final in June, following the earlier losses to India and minnows Bangladesh, is still fresh in Wasim's mind.

Pakistan, who tour Australia soon after the Sharjah engagement, cannot afford to take victory for granted despite starting the new season with a 3-0 rout of the West Indies in Canada last month.

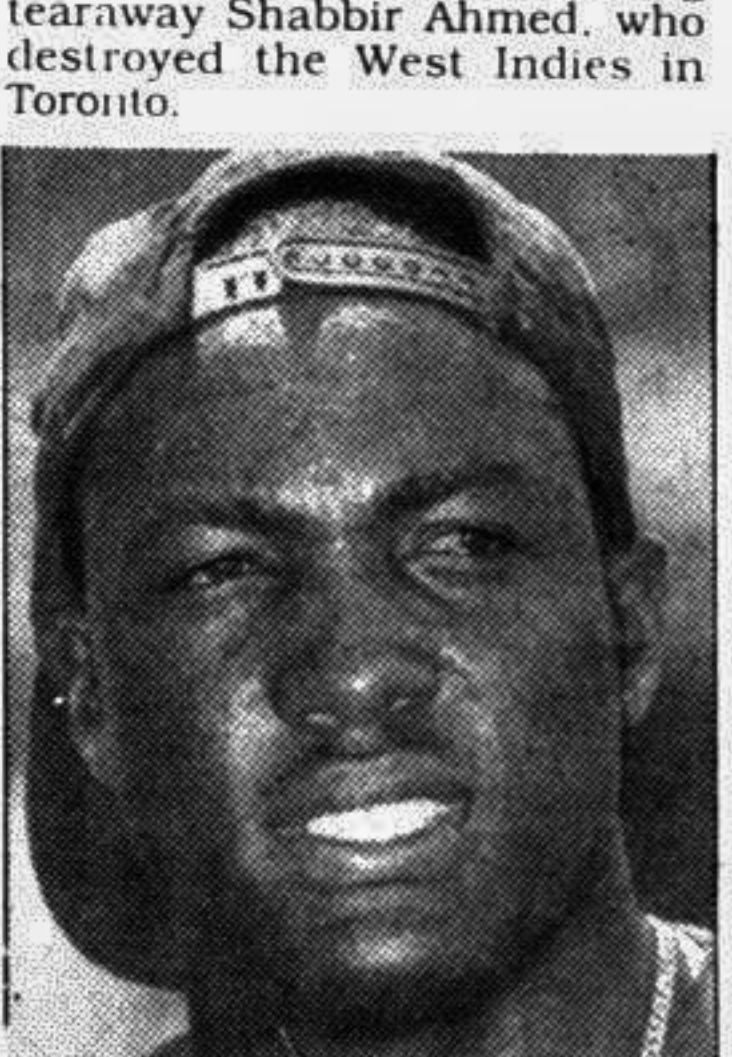
Brian Lara's team is back again hoping to avenge that defeat, while Sanath Jayasuriya's new-look Sri Lanka are buoyant after rolling over formidable Australia in both the one-day and Test series at home.

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 firepower 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.

At the moment we are a team in the making. There is a lot of young blood in the team, all out to make their presence felt. Lara said today, one day before his team opens the tournament against Sri Lanka.

"Toronto was a big disappointment, but I hope things will change a bit this time," said Lara, who slammed a 45-ball century against Bangladesh on Saturday. He said the 10-day tour to Dhaka "did a lot to re-



BRIAN LARA

build and regain our old form." "I know Bangladesh is not as strong as Sri Lanka or Pakistan, but victory is victory. It gives you faith in your abilities. I hope we can maintain the tempo at Sharjah."

Sri Lanka have two destructive batsmen in skipper Jayasuriya and Aravinda De Silva, who has shown a renewed hunger for runs after being dropped for the one-day series against India and Australia.

"This should be a great tournament between three well-matched teams," Jayasuriya said. "Everyone will come out firing."

Wasim said his team would be going all out to win the first prize of 50,000 US dollars.

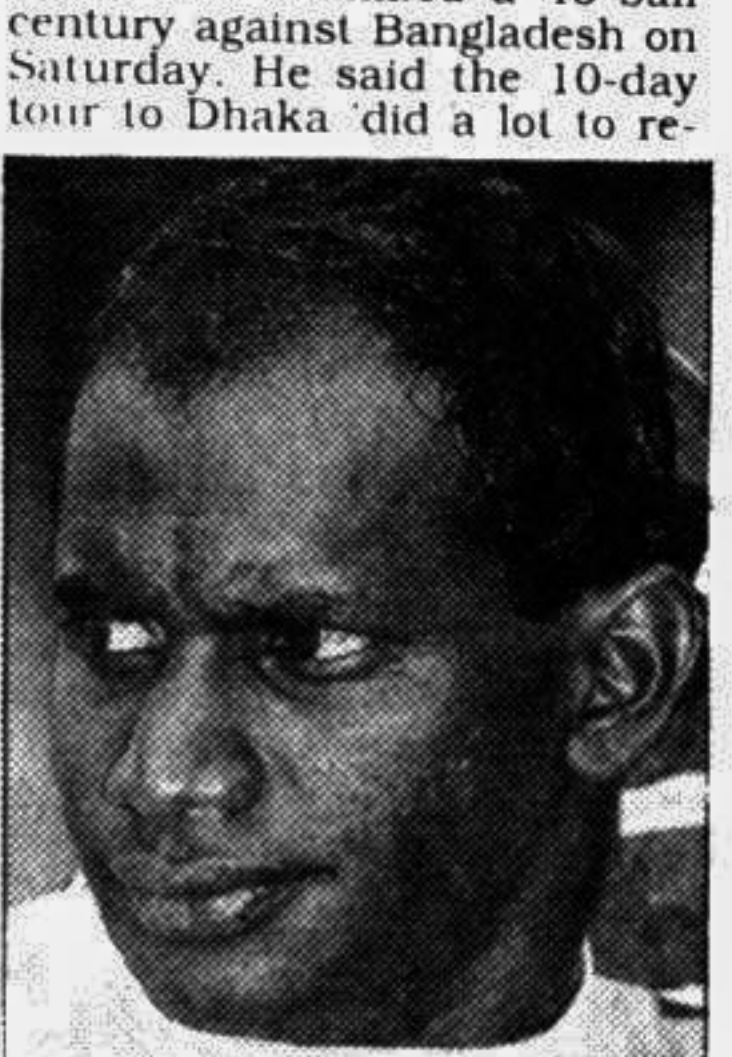
"Since the team for the forthcoming tour of Australia will be selected in Sharjah, all the boys will be keyed up to win a place in the team. We haven't played cricket for around four weeks, but I don't think we will need much time to get into the groove," said Wasim, who has

taken two hattricks at Sharjah.

Lara, showing signs of regaining the touch which once made him one of the most feared batsmen in the game, will be supported by the brute power of new sensation Ricardo Powell and breezy wicketkeeper-batsman Ridley Jacobs.

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FIXTURES

Oct 13: Sri Lanka v West Indies
Oct 14: Pakistan v West Indies
Oct 15: Sri Lanka v Pakistan
Oct 17: Sri Lanka v West Indies
Oct 18: Sri Lanka v Pakistan
Oct 19: Pakistan v West Indies
Oct 22: Final

Indians score at ease



MOHALI, India, Oct 12: India's batsmen turned around the first Test against New Zealand on Tuesday with two second innings century partnerships that gave them an overall lead of 171 runs by stumps on the third day, reports AFP.

India, shot out for just 83 in their first innings, ended the day at 303 for two — well positioned to set New Zealand a testing target.

New Zealand were bowled out for 215 in their first innings.

Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar and right hander Rahul Dravid posted an unbroken 137-run partnership for the third wicket on a slow track devoid of sharp turn or bounce.

Tendulkar was not out on 54 and Dravid on 87.

Resuming their second innings in the morning at 115 without loss, the opening pair of Sadagopan Ramesh and Devang Gandhi set the tone, playing cautious and defensive

cricket which saw the addition of just 51 runs in the opening session.

Ramesh had added 15 runs to his overnight score of 58 before he was caught and bowled by left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori.

Gandhi and Rahul Dravid then saw the home side safely through to lunch at 166 for one.

Shortly after the break, Nathan Asle maid amends for spilling Gandhi in the slips during the morning session by trapping the Indian opener leg before for 75 runs.

The arrival of star batsman Sachin Tendulkar at the crease sent a murmur of anticipation through the crowd, but the Indian skipper reined in his shot-playing instincts as he knuckled down for a long innings.

After the tea interval, the runs began to flow more easily, with Tendulkar reaching his 22nd half-century in Test matches from 126 balls.

Tendulkar survived two close leg before decisions off paceman Dion Nash and left-

arm seamer Shayne O'Connor, whom Tendulkar punished in the next over with two trademark boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first cricket Test between Indian and New Zealand on Tuesday:

INDIA: First innings 83 (Nash 6-27, Cairns 2-23, S O'Connor 2-20)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 215 (Spearman 51; Smith 6-45)

INDIA: Second innings (overnight 115-0):
Gandhi b Vettori 75
Ramesh c b Vettori 87
Dravid not out 54
Tendulkar not out 54
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, nb-4) 14
Total: (for two wickets in 140 overs) 303

Fall of wickets: 1-137, 2-181

Bowler: O M R W
Cairns 21 3 68 0
Nash 27 12 58 0
Vettori 56 22 92 1
Astle 28 8 33 1
O'Connor 11 3 34 0
McMillan 2 0 8 0

Azhar the bete noire



MOHALI, Oct 12: Former skipper Mohammad Azharuddin appears to have fallen from the grace.

Although the selectors remain tight-lipped about it, it is quite clear to many that the writing is on the wall for Azhar.

None of the teammates of Azhar really want him back in the side. Even though they have not made their thoughts public, both skipper Sachin Tendulkar and coach Kapil Dev have made it clear off the record that at the moment Azhar's services are not required. The situation has turned so grave for Azhar that he may not even find a place in the side for Australia tour.

Chandu Borde, the chairman of the selection committee, was quite frank when he said, "I have an open mind for every cricketer in this country. But tell me where does Azhar fit in now. We have kept Jadeja in the 14 as a middle-order batsman. Should anyone fail, he deserves the first opportunity."

"Azhar is no more a natural choice. He will have to keep on playing in the hope that somebody fails."

The situation stems from Azhar's distinct inability to communicate with the other team members during his second stint at the helm. Lately, Azhar had become more and

more aloof from his mates. For his trademark style of casual captaincy Azhar has reached at a stage where he may have to pay dearly.

There is not a single cricketer in the present team who has voiced a supportive statement in favour of Azhar. A number of cricketers in the side quite openly said, "Was he really missed the tournaments in Singapore, Toronto and Nairobi? We did reasonably well in Toronto and Nairobi without him."

The selectors at this moment also do not want to dampen the team spirit that has developed without Azhar. "Why affect the composition of the team, especially when they are feeling comfortable without him," said one of the selectors at Mohali.

The pointer towards the later series and tournaments do not really look too good for Azhar. With Vijay Bhadraraj performing reasonably well at Nairobi, the selectors have decided to pursue with him for some more time. Bhadraraj's ability to bowl makes him a better choice in the side for the limited version of the game.

As a result, Azhar may not really figure in the plan of actions for sometime now. And with the captain and the coach not really rooting for him, the dice of making it back is heavily loaded against him.

AFTER GANGULY IT'S GANDHI

Like