

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Stuart MacGill
(Australian leg-spinner)

"I think I'm progressing really, really well and I'm aiming very strongly to play in the Australian series against India."

After being overlooked for the series opener against Pakistan.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-122

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

Nov 5, '99 and draw

shortly afterwards

1. Which country won the SAF

football gold?

Bangladesh India Nepal

2. Who is the captain of Brazil?

Cafu Rivaldo Ronaldo

3. How many teams will play in next

year's Asia Cup cricket?

4 5 6

4. Who won the men's 100 m in the

Summer Athletics?

Mahub Yasin Ratan

5. Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup

title?

Rusedski Agassi Kafelnikov

Name

Class

Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

AKC-East Bengal

draw in Tripura

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra of

Dhaka and East Bengal Club of

Calcutta ended their exhibition

football match in a goal-less

draw at Agartala, Tripura, yes-

terday, according to a message

received here last night.

Abahani are scheduled to re-

turn home today and take on

Arambagh Krira Sangha in the

concluding match of the Keya

Premier Division League at the

Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in

Mirpur tomorrow.

A win or a draw tomorrow

will ensure Abahani the runners-

up spot after Mohammed-

an Sporting, who clinched the

title last Sunday.

What's eating

Hooper?

SYDNEY, Nov 3: Former

West Indies Test all-rounder

Carl Hooper says he has itchy

feet and is considering an in-

ternational comeback, reports

AFP.

"I've been retired now for six

months and I'm slowly finding

out I've still got itchy feet," he

told the Sydney Daily

Hosts walking on tight rope

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh need to score another 21 runs to avoid follow on as the hosts practically threw away their

wickets, raising hopes for an unlikely victory of England A at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Despite a brilliant half-century from Al-Shahriar, Bangladesh were reeling at 186 for nine in reply to the tourists' big first innings total of 356 when bad light came as a relief for the struggling last pair of Hasibul Hossain and Bikash Ranjan.

Hasibul, who helplessly watched his five-wicket burst going down the drain due to an inexplicable batting by the top order, was battling on 3 along with number eleven batsman Bikash (2) when the stumps were drawn 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled closure on the third day of the four-day.

But with the prospect of another shiny day and as England wrecker-in-chief James Kirtley bowling with venom, Bangladesh are likely to face a tough task of surviving a full day on a deteriorating wicket today.

Bangladesh suffered a startling top-order collapse when they began their chase shortly before the lunch break.

They were reduced to 3/39 in one hour after the lunch with opener Javed Omar Belim, one-down Habibul Bashar and skipper Aminul Islam quickly perishing one after another, nibbling at deliveries better to be left alone.

The rout started when Javed, who scored 11 in an opening stand of 26 runs with Shahriar, was clean bowled by Kirtley in the ninth over.

In-form Bashar, who hammered a brilliant 143 not out in the three-day match at Chittagong, scored only two runs when the right-hander edged an attempted drive off Paul Franks to Solanki in the second slip.

Bangladesh got a major blow when Aminul, being carried away by the sudden rush of blood, chased a Kirtley delivery wide outside the off-stump and ended up offering a low catch behind the wicket. The Bangladesh captain was then on only six.

Bangladesh suffered another blow when Shahriar Hossain quite unnecessarily tried to hit leg-spinner Schofield over the top of mid-off fielder and eventually scooped it to Kirtley. The right-handed opener departed for 20, reducing Bangladesh to 54 for 4.

Al-Shahriar however lifted Bangladesh out of the quagmire with a potentially match-saving 73. Coming in to bat at number five the right-hand stroke-maker, mixing caution with aggression, held the innings together before becoming the eighth batsman out in the 67 over.

He put on 70 runs for the fifth wicket with wicketkeeper Khaled Masood before the latter departed for 30, the second

highest score in the Bangladesh innings. Masood played some exciting shots in his 70-vigil at the crease including an eye-pleasing on-driven four.

Al-Shahriar reached his 50 off 78 balls with the help of half a dozen fours. But he failed to get any support from the other end once Masood departed.

The gangling stroke-maker, who holds the record of scoring the maiden first-class ton for Bangladesh, deprived himself of what would have been another well-deserved century when played he an attempted lofted drive against Kirtley into the safe hands of Franks at mid-on. Al-Shahriar, who was dropped twice after reaching his half-century, hammered eight fours in his 150-ball stay at the crease.

Earlier, resuming the day on 279 for six, England reached the 350-mark, thanks to an enterprising 54 from Schofield. It was the fourth half-century in the visitor's innings.

The young leg-spinner, batting on 12 at stumps on the second day, reached his first fifty on the tour with the help of seven fours before being bowled by left-arm seamer Bikash.

After Schofield departed, Hasibul mopped up the England tail, claiming the last two wickets in successive deliveries. The experienced right-arm seamer returned as the most successful Bangladesh bowler with five for 85 in his 30.3 overs.

The match resumes at 9am today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day match between Bangladesh and England A at

the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

ENGLAND A: First innings

(overnight 279/6)

Ward c K Masood b Hasibul 19

Sales c sub (Nasirul) b Bashir 63

Solanki c K Masood b Bashir 55

A Habib run out 51

Alleyne lbw b Hasibul 32

R Iran c K Masood b Hasibul 22

Turner c Aminul b Enamul 24

Schofield b Bikash 54

Franks not out 18

Kirtley b Hasibul 0

Davies lbw b Hasibul 0

Extras: (b-10, lb-3, w-1, nb-4) 18

Total: (All out in 128.3 overs) 356

Fall of wkt: 1/47; 2/139;

3/150; 4/208; 5/244; 6/261;

7/309; 8/335; 9/356

Bowler: O M R W

Hasibul 30.3 5 85 5

Bikash 18 5 48 1

Mushiq 4 0 18 0

Enamul 11 17 77 1

Sabbir 16 3 70 0

Bashir 18 3 38 2

Al-Shahriar 1 0 7 0

BANGLADESH: First in-

nings

Shahriar c Kirtley b Schofield 20

Javed b Kirtley 11

Bashir c Solanki b Franks 2

Aminul c Turner b Kirtley 6

Al-Shahriar c Franks b Kirtley 73

K Masood c Solanki b Schofield 30

Mushiq c Turner b Davies 9

Enamul c Alleyne b Davies 7

Sabbir lbw b Kirtley 8

Hasibul batting 3

Bikash batting 2

Extras: (lb-8, w-1, nb-6) 15

Total: (For 9 wks in 71 overs) 186

Fall of wickets: 1/26; 2/30;

3/39; 4/54; 5/124; 6/160; 7/168;

8/180; 9/181

Bowler: O M R W

Kirtley 16 0 36 4

Franks 9 0 23 1

Irani 5 1 10 0

Schofield 20 4 66 2

Davies 21 10 43 2

BFF names 24 for Asian Cup

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday called up 24 booters to the selection trials for the Asian Cup qualifiers, scheduled to kick off in Dubai, UAE, from November 28.

Pencilled in Group 3 along with Uzbekistan, India, Sri Lanka and UAE, Bangladesh will play their first match against the hosts on November 20.

National captain Jewel Rana, who retired recently, and veteran goalkeeper Mohammad Ponir were the only players missing in the team that won the 8th SAF Games gold in Nepal last month.

Coach Samir Shakir will continue as the national coach. The 24 footballers selected: Hassan Al-Mamun, Rajani Kanta Barman, Matru Munna, Iqbal Hossain, Monwar Hossain, Sourav Majumder Raju, Alfaz Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman, Sahajuddin Tipu, Faisal, Monwar Munna, Anwar Hossain, Biplob Bhattacharya, Nazrul, Apel, Parvez Babu, Selim, Rokonzaman, Tito, Mojibur Rahman Ritu, Kingshuk, Nizam, Mizan and Shimul.

Mohammedan off to Mumbai

Sports Reporter

Premier Division League champions Mohammedan Sporting left the capital for Mumbai yesterday to take part in the Rovers Cup. The tournament will be held in Mumbai from November 6.

In the first round, Mohammedan will face Indian Airlines and JCT in the first round.

It could not be confirmed yesterday which other teams are slated in the group.

Mohammedan had to leave behind eight booters -goalkeeper Nizam, defenders Monwar Munna and Faisal, midfielders Matru Munna, Anwar and Selim, and forwards Alfaz Ahmed and Mizanur Rahman - because the Bangladesh Football Federation did not give them clearance. The eight are likely to be called to the camp beginning at the BKSP from November 5 for the forthcoming Asian Cup qualifiers.

To fill the voids, Mohammedan recruited five booters from Muktijoddha Sangsad-defender Masood Rana, midfielders Arif Khan, Tito, and Bakhtiar and striker Nakib.

The other club booters in the team are Mohammad Ponir, Hakim, Jahangir, Shahzada, Shamim, Shob, Askar Babu, Ruhul Amin, Rezaul, Andrei and Rakib.

Apart from the players, three officials - Abul Hossain (coach), Fazlur Rahman Babul and Amirul Islam are accompanying the team. Manager Imtiaz Sultan Johnny will join the team later.

Dhaka Division full of stars

Sports Reporter

Dhaka Divisional Sports Association yesterday named a 20-member strong team for the upcoming national cricket league.

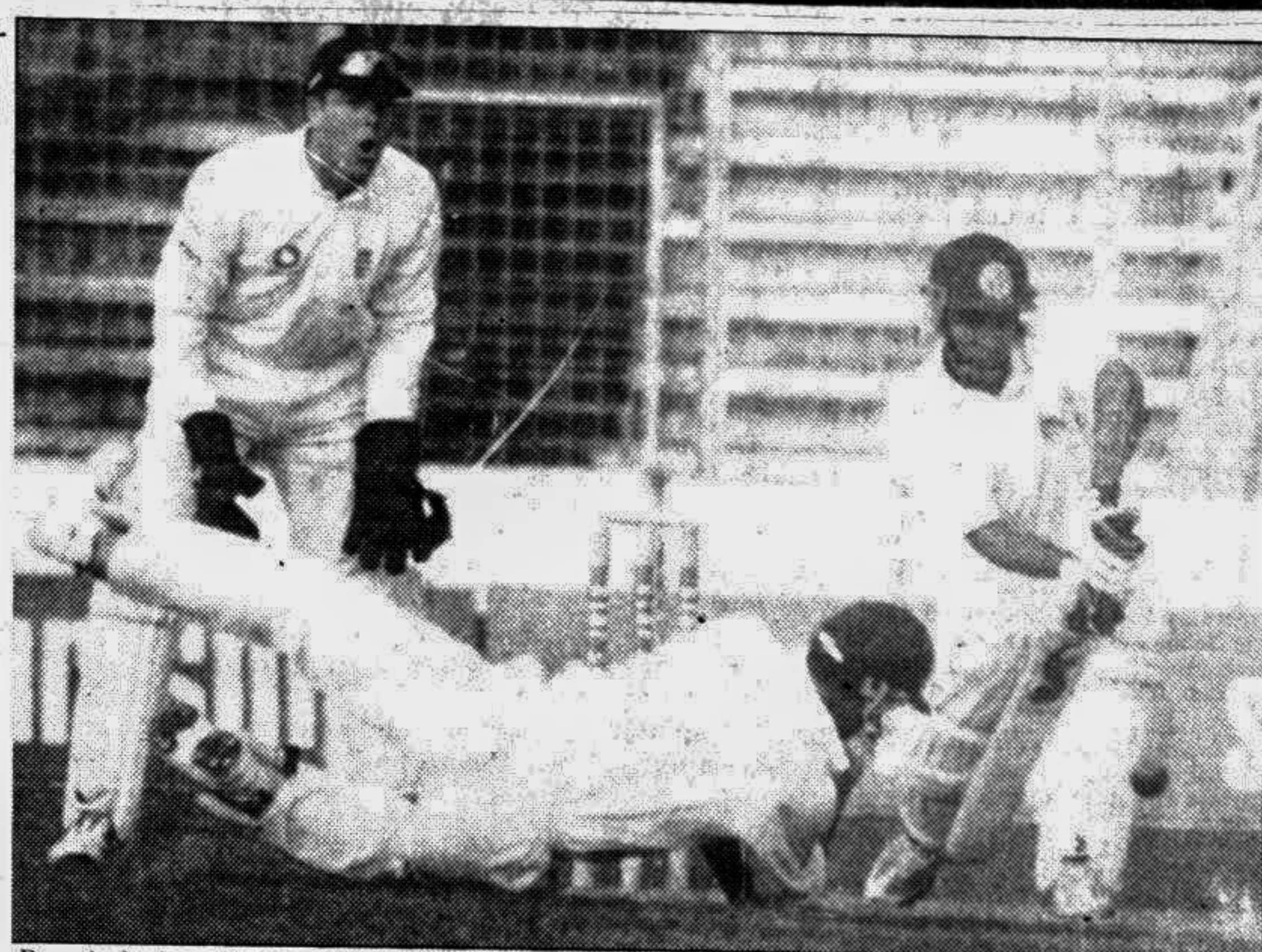
The inaugural edition of the national league, involving six divisions-Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal, Khulna and Rajshahi-- is scheduled for a November 12 start.

Mahmud Ul Haq, acting general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, said yesterday that it might be decided by three or four days after the two, home and away. Talking to the Daily Star, Mr. Haq said the tournament committee will sit on November 5 to review the final reports from all the divisions.

"It will be finalised in the meeting on November 5 whether to delay the start or not," said Haq, who also revealed that the BCB were yet to get a sponsor for the league.

Bangladesh skipper Aminul Islam will lead Dhaka, which boasts of a bevy of national players. The team includes four openers in Mehrib Hossain, Javed Omar, Shahriar Hossain and Harunur Rashid with a backup of Aminul Islam, Al-Shahriar, Sanwar Hossain, Mahbubur Rahman, Sajid Hasan and Khaled Mahmud. Veteran medium-pace Saiful Islam, Zakir Hasan and left-arm pacer Morshed Ali Khan will lead the pace attack while all-rounder Naimur Rahman and Fahim Muntasir, Mosaddek Hossain and left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique will support them in the spin department. Atiar Rahman will act as the wicket-keeper.

Dhaka cricketers have been asked to report to general secretary Nazrul Islam at the Bangladesh Cricket Board on November 5 at 5 pm.



Bangladesh middle-order Mushfiqur Rahman plays forward defensive during the third day of the four-day match against England A at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

Shoaib let off the hook



BRISBANE, Nov 3 (AFP/Internet): Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Malcolm Speed

ended the Shoaib Akhtar chucking affair with a brief telephone call to Pakistani manager Yawar Saeed Wednesday.

A 20-minute video tape of Akhtar's action sent by umpires Ross Emerson and Terry Prue arrived in the ACB's morning mail but Speed told Yawar the matter could go no further.

The match in question, Western Australia versus Pakistan at Perth last Wednesday, was not sanctioned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) so there was no official referee.

The videotape was provided to the ACB by Western Australia Cricket Association (WACA) director of umpiring, Rick Evans, who confirmed today that it was provided at his instigation and without any complaint from either of the two umpires Ross Emerson and Terry Prue.

Speed failed to query Akhtar's action in their match report, only becoming suspicious while watching television highlights the next day, meant the ACB was unable to involve the ICC's nine-man throwing committee.

"Malcolm Speed told me he had received the tape and he had watched it," Yawar said.

"He told me the tape had no official status and as far as he and I are concerned, it is all over now and we can look forward to a great Test series."

Speed, said that the issues surrounding illegal deliveries are difficult and raise strong

emotions and reactions. For this reason there are critically important processes in place to address the issue of player actions, he said.

"Only the umpires involved in the game in question had the authority to raise any concerns," said Speed.

As a result, he advised the ACB would not be jeopardising the integrity or fairness of the recently strengthened ICC processes by taking any action concerning the tape.

"There are few more serious allegations in cricket than accusing a bowler of throwing," said Mr Speed.

"Given the seriousness of such allegations, the ACB and the ICC have clear and rigorous processes to deal with them. These have built in safeguards

to ensure that the matter is dealt with effectively and, most importantly, with absolute fairness to all parties concerned."

"These systems are the cornerstone on which a proper investigation of such matters can take place and are strongly supported by the ACB."

"In this case, the umpires in charge of the match were the sole judges of the fairness or otherwise of all bowlers' actions. They have made their decision and no issues have been raised," said Speed.

The ICC process will apply to the Ansett Australia Test Series and the Carlton & United Series. Akhtar will take the field in the First Ansett Test Match starting on Friday at the Gabba in Brisbane with an Australian umpire, an International Umpire, and an ICC referee all empowered to raise any concerns.

Australia's new coach John Buchanan was unhappy the issue had been raised.

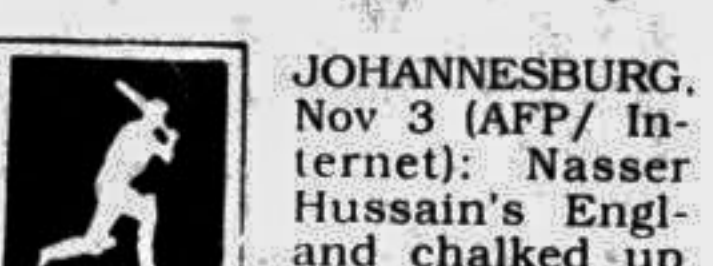
"I think it does more of a disservice to cricket than anything else," he said.

"It certainly disturbs the individual no matter who it is, I'm sure (Muttiah) Muralitharan would say the same thing," he said referring to the Sri Lankan spinner, whose action has been under intense scrutiny for a number of years - particularly in Australia.

Emerson sparked a furore last summer when he called Muralitharan for chucking in a one-day game against England, prompting Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga to lead his players off the field in protest.

SHOAIB AKHTAR

Tourists defeat Easterns



JOHANNESBURG, Nov 3 (AFP/Internet): Nasser Hussain's England and chalked up the first win of their tour of South Africa when they beat Easterns by 19 runs in a 50-over friendly at Willowmoore Park in Benoni, east of Johannesburg on Tuesday.

Sent in to bat, the tourists posted a reasonable 234-9 and were able to restrict the inexperienced local line-up to 215-7.

But beating the likes of first class fledglings Easterns by such a narrow margin was hardly impressive.

Most of the England batsmen looked more at ease than they had when they lost to a Nicky Oppenheimer XI on Monday, but in the end their collective harvest of 234 was somewhat flatting.

Both of their chief run-getters, Hussain and Andrew Flintoff, might well have been dismissed early on in their innings. Hussain was dropped in the gully when he had 13, while Flintoff survived a stumping chance on 16.

Flintoff made the most of his good fortune to club an impressive 54 off 56 balls and 32

of those runs came from boundaries - five fours and two sixes. Hussain struck eleven fours before he well taken at mid-on for 64.

Michael Atherton (29), Mark Butcher (20) and Gavin Hamilton (26) all got double figures before succumbing to an attack which included a school-boy in Albion Morkel.

The 18-year-old saw off Hussain and Flintoff to finish with a satisfying 2 for 34 from 10 overs.

But the Easterns' bowling honours undoubtedly belonged to Andre Nel, who took a career best of 4-33 from 10 overs.

The 22-year-old looked for a hat-trick after dismissing Graeme Swan and Chris Read, but Alex Tudor stood firm to deny him the treble.

At the end of the day Easterns' batting could have done with a couple of jabs. The loss of West Indian Phil Simmons for a relatively cheap 29 left them out on a limb and they lacked the experience to claw their way back in.

But thanks to wicketkeeper Dennis Smith they at least managed to bat out time.

Smith's first limited overs 50 contained just three boundaries and was scored off 74 balls. When finally bowled for 75, including six fours, by an Andy Caddick yorker Smith had also put on 97 off 120 balls with Hussein Manack for the sixth wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day friendly match between England and Easterns on Tuesday:

ENGLAND

Butcher c&b Kruger 20

Atherton c&b de Bruyn 29

Hussain c Botha b Morkel 64

Adams run out (Jordaen) 0