

Column One

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-127
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
March 10, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who won the tri-series down under?
India Pakistan Australia
- How many Test matches has Shepherd O'Connell in till the Bombay Test?
49 50 51
- What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthews' father?
Jack Stephen Bill
- Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?
Ronaldo Raul Vieri
- Who is the captain of Biman cricket team?
Anisul Faruque Athar

Name

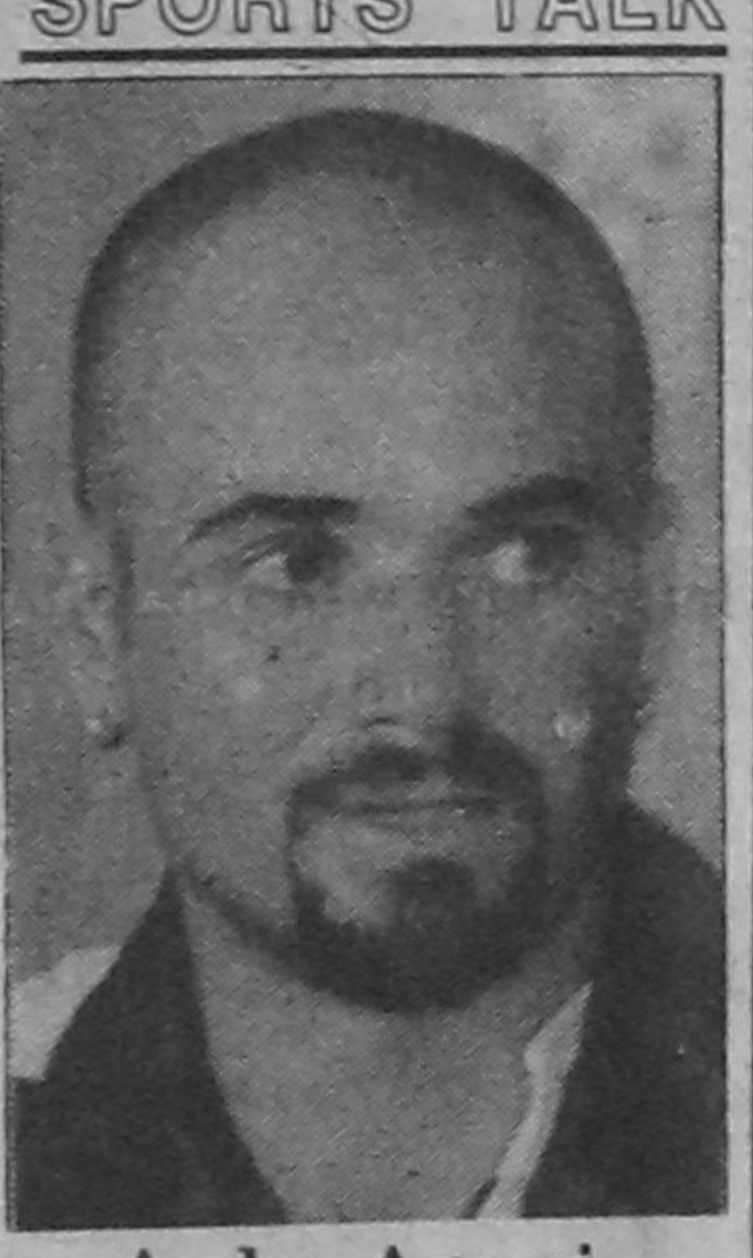
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POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
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SPORTS TALK



Andre Agassi
(World No 1 tennis star)
There has been nothing in my career that compares with the last eight months. It's been a crazy life.

Bowling actions remain under review

RAWALPINDI, Feb 28: International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive David Richardson said Sunday the process of dealing with illegal bowling action is under review, reports AFP.

The process is under total review and will be discussed in the June meeting of the ICC but I can assure every one there is no bias, Richardson said.

Richardson is in Pakistan for talks with cricket officials on several issues including the controversial case of pacer Shoaib Akhtar, which triggered resentment in the sub-continent.

Akhtar, dubbed the Rawalpindi Express, was banned after his bowling action was questioned in Australia last year but was subsequently allowed to play in the tri-series in Australia in February.

Richardson denied there were any complaints about Australian rookie pacer Brett Lee's action.

Richardson said there was no ambiguity in ICC's decision on Akhtar in Singapore earlier this month.

"Now it's for PCB to decide on Akhtar and he can play if Pakistan Cricket Board feels satisfied about the work done on his action," said Richardson, an Australian holding the post for the last six and half years.

ICC barred its nine-member technical committee from banning players on February 9 this year.

"The powers have been withdrawn for the time being and not taken away for ever," Richardson said.

However, he admitted the decision of banning the bowlers proved 'unwise'.

"It's unfair on the bowlers under scrutiny once the matter goes in the public domain," Richardson said.

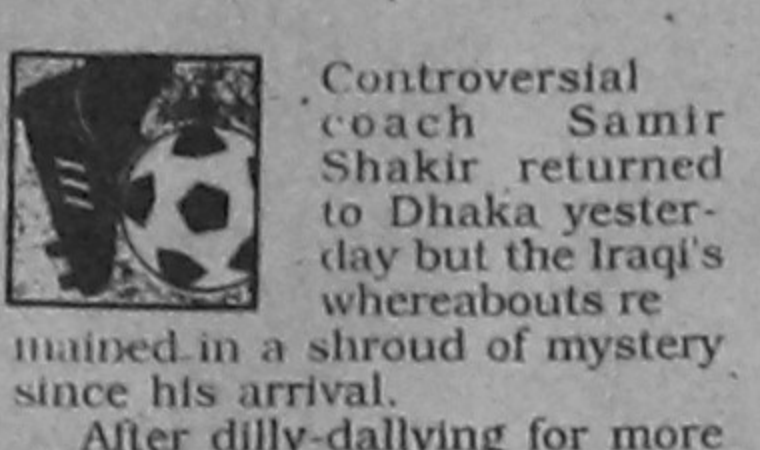
Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan and Javed Miandad called upon the ICC to review the law and termed it as 'futile'.

Richardson said a suggestion for worldwide standardisation of pitches needs a lot of time.

"The climatic conditions and soil conditions vary and on a worldwide basis standardisation of pitches needs a lot of work," he said.

Samir 'controversy' returns

Sports Reporter



Controversial coach Samir Shakir returned to Dhaka yesterday but the Iraqi whereabouts remained in a cloud of mystery since his arrival.

After dilly-dallying for more than four months, Samir has finally come to join the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP) as its football coach. But the lone national sports institute of the country had no knowledge about the arrival of the former World Cup winner, who inspired Bangladesh to their maiden football gold in the 8th SAF Games last October.

"I just came to know about Samir's arrival. I don't know where he is staying. I was told by a BFF (Bangladesh Football Federation) guy that he (Samir) is coming here tonight and will start his new assignment from March 1," said Farukul Islam, the director training of BKSP, while talking to The Daily Star last evening.

Following the Kathmandu triumph Obaudul Quader, the state minister for youth and sports, appointed the temperamental Iraqi as a BKSP coach. He got an appointment for only seven months, supposed to be

effective from November 1, 1999.

But the volatile coach, 'who went to Abu Dhabi with the national team for the Asian Cup qualifiers, did not join the BKSP. Instead, soon after the



SAMIR SHAKIR

Abu Dhabi mission Samir lived up to his trademark style by flying back to Baghdad. He kicked up a controversy when he refused to accompany his victorious boys to Dhaka after the Kathmandu spectacle and went back to Baghdad with out informing the tour management.

According to media reports, Samir blew off his cool following a brush with team manager Abdul Gaffar.

He however returned to Dhaka in October after a hectic persuasion by the Obaudul Quader, who lured him back with a long-term, lucrative job at the BKSP.

But the restless coach repeated his mysterious vanishing act once again. This time he lasted for only three weeks and apparently parted ways with the team for some unknown reason.

BKSP, having waited for more than three months, sent a fax to Samir in Iraq last month asking him to resume his duty immediately.

A reply from Samir came only a few days back. "He sent a telex to the BFF last week where mentioned that he would come to Dhaka on March 1 and join

See Page 14

British coach for Bangladesh?

Sports Reporter



Mark Harrison is relishing the prospect of coaching the Bangladesh national football team as it will provide the challenge he has been longing for.

The 39-year-old Englishman, who is in the city to strike a deal with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), appeared eager to explore a horizon beyond the England boundary.

Harrison played second fiddle when he returned to England in 1999.

Other assignments included a spell at Bristol City as youth coach in 1992 and Everton the following year.

"But I enjoyed the best of times with Oxford," said Harrison.

"But if everything works out I am ready to take up the job immediately."

"I don't want to waste any time especially the Federation's," said the soft-spoken Englishman.

Although Harrison as a coach is yet to make his mark, claims to have unearthed former Wales international goalkeeper Neville Southall.

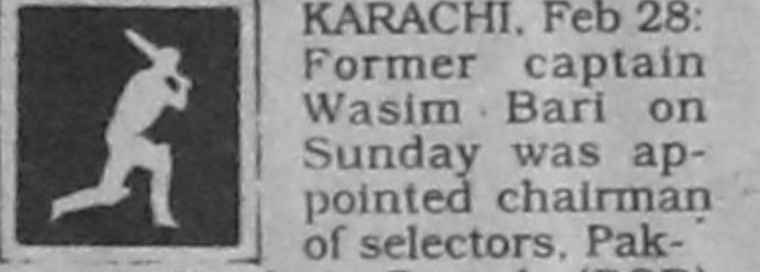
Like Harrison the BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy was also eager to wrap up the matter ahead of a busy international schedule for the Bangladesh team.



MARK HARRISON

The national team will feature in a four-nation tournament to be held in Maldives in May. Besides, they will travel to England in July to play a couple of exhibition matches against India. Bangladesh will play their World Cup qualifying in Saudi Arabia in February next year.

Play musical chairs again



KARACHI, Feb 28: Former captain Wasim Bari on Sunday was appointed chairman of selectors, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Tauqir Zia said on Sunday, says a report of The Dawn.

Speaking to the newspaper, the Tauqir said former Test spinner Iqbal Qasim and former seamer Ehteshamuddin will be the selectors.

Bari was chief selector during the tenure of former PCB chairman Khalid Mahmood. He was replaced when Mujeeb Rehman took over as new PCB chief in June last year.

In 81 Tests, Bari accounted for 228 batsmen behind the wicket while dismissed 62 batsmen in 51 one-day internationals.

Quoting a source The Dawn also reported that Javed Miandad would replace Intikhab Alam as coach on completion of the home series against Sri Lanka. Intikhab will be appointed manager, it said.

A discussion regarding the job of the coach and manager was held during the first Test being played at Rawalpindi. Both Miandad and Intikhab have reportedly accepted the offer.

Miandad, Pakistan's most successful batsman, was also

the coach between September 1998 and April 1999. He is now one of the five members of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) advisory panel.

Miandad was picked after the Board went through his excellent record and experience in the Caribbean. Intikhab was



MIANDAD ... coach?

chosen as the manager because of his vast experience as team official.

Intikhab, who is presently the coach of the team, has been associated with the team since 1981. During the last 19 years, he has held the post of coach for little over 10 years.

Between March 21 and July 13, Pakistan will be playing six Tests and nearly 25 one-day internationals.

After the home series, Pakistan will travel to Sharjah for the Sharjah Cup and then proceed to the West Indies for a triangular one-day and three-Test series. From the Caribbean, Pakistan team will fly to Dhaka for the Asia Cup and then go to Sri Lanka for a triangular one-day series that will be followed up by a three-Test series.

Sources told the newspaper PCB has decided in principle to appoint former England captain Geoff Boycott as coach of the second Pakistan string. Boycott would be assisted by former Pakistan opener Mudasar Nazar.

The PCB feels that the youngsters need to be coached at the grass roots level and who can be better coach for them than Geoff Boycott, whose knowledge of the game is second to none. Besides, he has played text book cricket throughout his career and the board wants him to pass on his experience to the Pakistan youngsters knocking at the doors of international cricket," a Board official said.

He however said no contact has been established with Boycott but the PCB officials were optimistic that the Yorkshireman would accept the offer.

Nothing much up his sleeve



BOMBAY, Feb 28: India's new cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar admitted today he had no immediate cure for the nation's dwindling fortunes, and urged fans to have patience, reports AFP.

"I don't have a magic wand, the stylish left-hander told reporters. A captain is, after all, as good as the team under him."

"The only thing I can promise is that I will do my best. I urge fans to have patience."

Ganguly takes over from master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, who voluntarily decided to step down after the coming second and final Test against South Africa in Bangalore.

Ganguly will lead India in the five-match one-day series against the tourists, besides the three-nation tournament in

Sharjah against Pakistan and South Africa from March 22.

A longer reign is assured for the 27-year-old since his closest rival, Ajay Jadeja, is battling poor form and has not found a



SAURAV GANGULY

place in the team for the second Test.

Indian cricket is reeling from a string of recent defeats, the most glaring being the three-day loss to South Africa in the first Test at Bombay last week.

That defeat came on the heels of their disastrous two-month tour of Australia, where India were blanked 3-0 in the Test series and lost seven of the eight one-dayers.

South Africa now threaten to ruin India's 13-year unbeaten record in a home series — although even that landmark rests on a mere technicality.

Pakistan won two of the three Tests in India last year, but the third game at Calcutta was billed as the opening match of the inaugural Asian Test championships.

Ganguly said he was confident India could stem the tide.

"We just need one win and it

See Page 14

Bangladesh awaits voting

RAWALPINDI, Feb 28 (AFP):

International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive David Richardson said Sunday Bangladesh's demand for Test status can be reviewed in June at the annual meeting.

"Their application is on the table but I suspect they would like to get voting on that this year," he said.

Richardson said ICC's three-member committee made up of New Zealand's Graham Dowling, Pakistan's Nasimul Ghani and Zimbabwean Andy Pycroft visited Bangladesh and gave a positive report about conditions there.

He said ICC's efforts to globalise cricket were bearing fruits.

"Cricket is flourishing in Far East Asia and especially Nepal and the Gulf."

Walsh twists his ankle

KINGSTON, Feb 28: Veteran West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh has suffered a badly strained ankle just two weeks before the opening Test of two against Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

Walsh, who needs nine wickets to break Kapil Dev's record as the highest Test wicket-taker, left the field shortly before lunch on the third day of the final in the Bupa Cup West Indies first-class cricket championship between Jamaica and Leeward Islands on Sunday.

"He (Walsh) can't put any pressure on (the ankle)," said Jamaica's team physiotherapist Gaynor Downer in response to questions regarding the extent of the injury — sustained after Walsh had bowled seven overs in the morning period.

She was unable to say whether Walsh would be able to bowl on the fourth and final day, Monday, or if he would need a period of rest.

But Downer insisted that he would not have been able to bowl (on Sunday).

Franklyn Rose, Walsh's Jamaica and West Indies teammate, also gave West Indies officials a scare when he complained of a slight strain behind the knee — but it was nothing serious.

Leeward, replying to Jamaica first innings total of 333, were dismissed for 142 with Walsh taking three for 37 from 15 overs and Rose two for 30 from 11 overs.

What's going on in WICB?

BRIDGETOWN, Feb 28: West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) chief executive officer Stephen Camacho on Sunday denied reports that he has been asked to resign from his post, reports AFP.

The Barbados Sunday Sun newspaper reported Sunday that an offer is on the table for Camacho to accept a severance package, and the final decision will be made known shortly.

"If I am, I don't know about it," Camacho told the newspaper from his home in St. John's, Antigua. "I would think I would be the first to know."

WICB president Pat Rousseau also denied any knowledge of the matter when asked about the allegations.

Camacho has been away from work over the past week through illness, but is expected to return to his desk on Monday.

The newspaper noted there have been reports of strained relations between the former West Indies opening batsman and some members of the WICB executive in recent years.

Camacho previously served for many years as secretary of the WICB, but was elevated to the post of chief executive officer just prior to the relocation of its headquarters from Barbados to Antigua.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 28: Baikal Sangha defeated Bright Star Club by six wickets in the Rajshahi Premier Cricket League match at the Rajshahi District Stadium today.

Winning the toss, Bright Star batted first and collected 80 runs for all in 33.2 overs with Russell making the highest 24 followed by 14 runs from Ratan and 13 from Sohail.

In reply, Baikal Sangha reached the target of 83 runs for four in 22 overs.

Ujjal made the highest 14 runs followed by 13 runs from Ratan.

DIV I CRICKET

Mukti Sangha defeated Sunrise Sporting Club by two wickets in the First Division Cricket League match played at Rajshahi Divisional Stadium today.

The winners won the toss and invited Sunrise to bat who collected 159 runs for nine in 39 overs. Jibril scored an unbeaten 72 followed by 19 runs from Rashed and 18 from Pavel.

In reply, Mukti Sangha collected the desired 160 runs for eight in 36.4 overs. Iti scored the highest 66 runs followed by 15 runs from Milan and 13 from Sajjad.

Zahoor bankrupts Agrani

Sports Reporter



Zahoor Elahi slammed the first century of the Premier Division cricket league to propel Kalabagan

Krira Chakra to a comprehensive nine-wicket win over Agrani Bank in their



ZAHOUR ... 100 n.o.

league opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The discarded Pakistan Test player was unbeaten on 100 off only 69 balls as the Damal Smriti holders, chasing a paltry Agrani Bank total of 144 in 50 overs, raced to victory in only 24.5 overs with nine wickets in hand.

Zahoor bankrupted all the Agrani bowlers. He put on 83 for the first wicket with former national opener Harunur Rashid.

The stand was broken after 13.3 overs when Harun was caught at gully by Pakistani Shaheen b off left-arm spinner Biplab.

The right-handed batsman scored 20 off 51 balls with two boundaries.

Zahoor, who appeared in two matches for Abahani Krira Chakra in the 1996-97 season, dominated the unbeaten second

Premier League

Kalabagan KC vs Agrani Bank

wicket stand with Rafiq. They added 63 runs with Rafiq's contribution being 10 runs.

Zahoor's fifty came off 32 balls. On the way he hit nine boundaries and a huge six.

The Multan-based right-hander blasted another three sixes and two fours from the next 37 balls to reach the magical three-figure mark.

"I did not think of the century when I went to open. So it came as a pleasant surprise," said Zahoor who scored 26 of the last 32 runs needed by his team to win.

"It's a wonderful batting pitch and I hope to score some more runs here," he added. The Pakistani still dreams of a recall to the national team.

Earlier, opting to bat, the bankers were shot out after some magnificent bowling from Kalabagan leg-spinner Rouf Wain. The Pakistani twerker captured four for 30.

He was backed up by seamer Saiful Islam and Zahoor's occasional off spin. They took two wickets apiece.

Extras: (lb-5, nb-6, w-11) 22
Total: (All out in 44.5 overs) 144
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-39; 3-47; 4-94; 5-101; 6-104; 7-116; 8-120; 9-134.
Bowler O M R W
Saiful 10 1 29 2

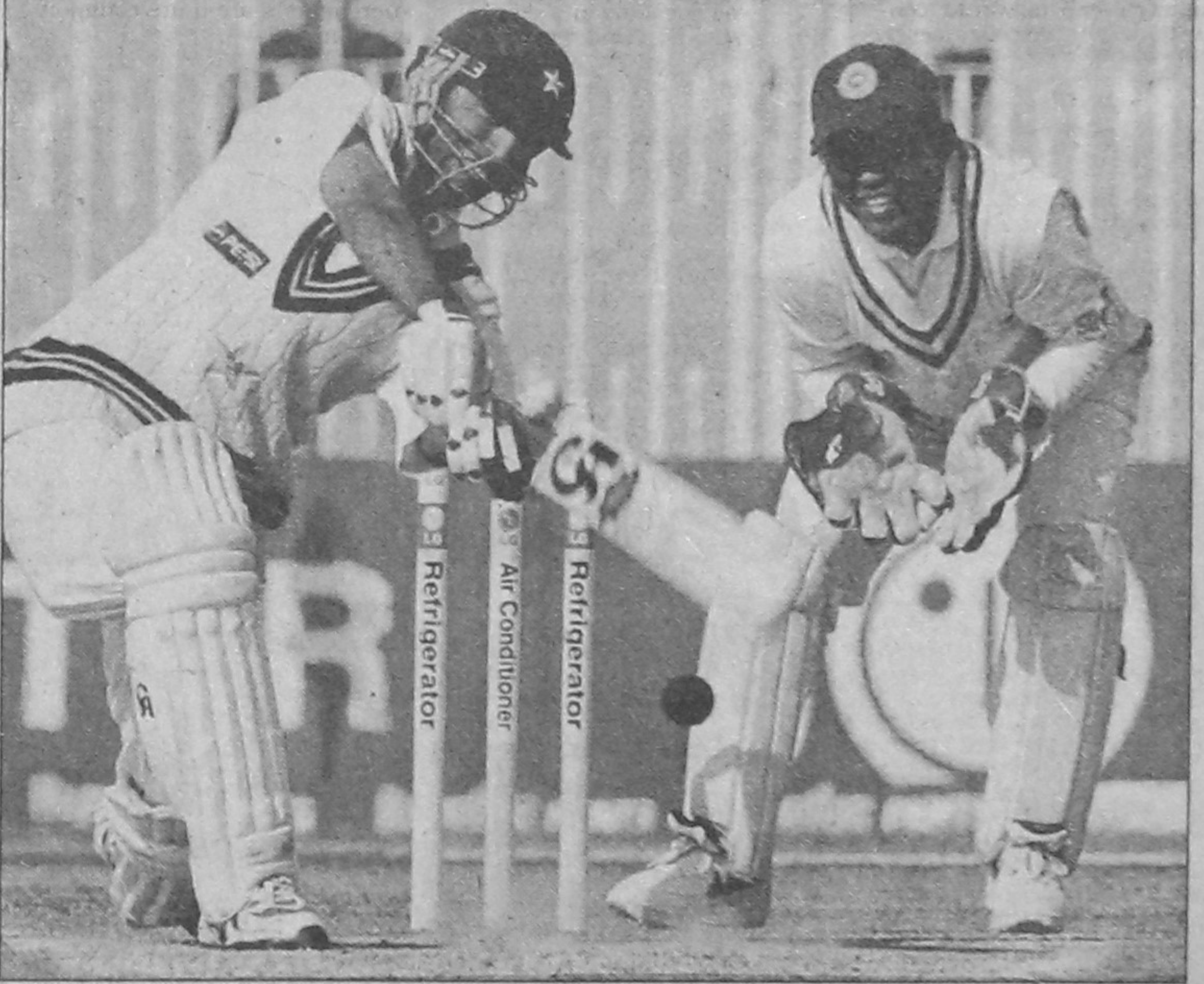
Today's matches
Biman v Gopibagh FS (BKSP)
Abahani KC v Wari Club
(Bangabandhu National Stadium)

Scoreboard
Scoreboard of the Premier Division cricket league match between Kalabagan Krira Chakra and Agrani Bank at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday:

AGRANI BANK
Sajjad c Mustadir b Bikash 4
Faisal c Harun b Saiful 15
Mofizur c Rouf b Saiful 21
Ali Haider c Saiful b Rouf 31
Ziauddin lbw b Zahoor 22
Shaheen run out 3
Mridul b Rouf 1
Mofizul b Zahoor 10
Javed lbw b Rouf 10
Mizan not out 3

KALABAGAN KC
Harun c Shaheen b Biplab 20
Zahoor not out 100
Rafiqul not out 10
Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-10) 16
Total: (For 1 wkt in 24.5 overs) 146
Did not bat: Ishfaq Tareque, Mehmod, Rouf Wain, Rajin Saleh, Saiful Islam, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mustadir Litu and Bikash Ranjan Das.

Fall of wicket: 1-83
Bowler O M R W
Javed 1 0 15 0
Mizan 2 0 16 0
Mofizur 3 0 13 0
Mosaddaq 5 0 26 0
Shaheen 5 0 41 0
Biplab 7 0 14 1
Mridul 1.5 0 18 0
Result: Kalabagan KC won by 9 wickets.



Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar cover drives Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Anwar gives hosts some hope

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Feb 28: Saeed Anwar played a flawless captain's knock of 84 as Pakistan

struggled to fight back against Sri Lanka on Day Three of the first cricket Test here Monday, reports AFP.

The home team was 154-4 at the close with Younis Youhana on 6 and nightwatchman Waqar Younis on nought at the crease. Pakistan need another 17 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Anwar hit 11 fours in his 280-minute vigil and consumed 218 balls but his departure two overs before close tilted the advantage back towards Sri Lanka.

Anwar and Izzatullah Haq frustrated the Sri Lankan attack but just when they looked set to see off the day Haq played a reckless shot and set his side back on their struggle.

Sri Lanka extended their lead to 171 runs in the morning and were dismissed for 353 in their first innings.

Anwar, a 31-year-old computer engineer, tried his best to wipe off the virus in Pakistan's batting with a defiant innings and hoped his colleagues would apply themselves to save the home team's embarrassment.

"It's up to the remaining batsmen and I am hopeful they have the capability to save us," Anwar said.

Pakistan lost opener Wajahatullah Wasti as early as in

the fourth over when Pramodya Wickremasinghe took a brilliant catch at long leg off a Nuwan Zoysa bouncer.

Pakistan lost their first wicket at 9 and were 15-1 at lunch.

Anwar found a useful ally in Aamir Sohail and both saw off the one hour after lunch adding 42 runs.

Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's introduction saw Sohail's departure at 72. The off-spinner forced Sohail to sweep and the miscued edge was taken by Mahela Jayawardene at silly point.

Sohail's dour 24 lasted 103 minutes and included three boundaries.

Haq helped Anwar add another 64 runs for the third wicket as Muralitharan threatened the home batsmen.

At tea Pakistan were 88-2, still 83 runs adrift of the visitors' total.

Anwar reached his 22nd Test fifty in 162 minutes hitting eight boundaries. He played some exquisitely timed drives on both sides of the wicket.

Haq played 27 dot balls on 20 before cutting uppishly to substitute Upul Chandana who held a wonderful diving catch at point off Zoysa. Haq hit three fours during his 111-minute innings.

Both Anwar and Youhana went into groove in the dying minutes when Anwar took 20 balls to score a single and finally played onto his stumps off Chaminda Vaas.

Sri Lanka, resumed at their overnight score of 290-8, as led another 73 runs for the last two wickets.

Chaminda Vaas, who made 53 not out, put on a valuable 51-run stand for the ninth wicket with Zoysa.

Zoysa made his highest Test score of 26 with a hooked six off Younis.

Pakistan, already missing pacer Wasim Akram due to groin injury, were further depleted in the bowling attack by the absence of off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq who had a congested chest and dehydration problems.

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam said Akram was improving slowly and will definitely bat but cannot bowl.

Vaas completed his third Test half century with a superb hook off Younis for six over long-leg. He also hit eight fours.

Sri Lankan innings folded half an hour before lunch when Muralitharan was finally caught behind off Aamir Sohail for 7.

Pakistan made 182 in their first innings.

Pacer Younis returned with innings best figures of 4-103. Abdur Razzak and Saqlain Mushtaq took two wickets apiece.

SCOREBOARD
Scorecard on the third day of the first cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Rawalpindi on Monday:

See Page 14