

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former Indian cricket captain)
"There is always reward for hard work, perseverance and honesty."

On his comeback to the national team.

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 24, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who won the tri-series down under?

India	Pakistan	Australia
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- How many Test matches has Shepherd officiated in till the Bombay Test?

49	50	51
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- What is the name of Sir Stanley Matthews' father?

Jack	Stephen	Bill
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- Who is FIFA's world player-of-the-year?

Rivaldo	Raul	Vieri
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- Who is the captain of Bimán cricket team?

Aminul	Faruque	Athar
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Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



Schools cricket starts today

Sports Reporter
The Dhaka Metropolitan qualifying round of the ANZ Grindlays Bank 18 National Schools cricket championship gets underway at different venues in the capital from today.

On the opening day, T&T High School will take on Pre-cadet Child Care School at the Uttara Club ground, Khilgaon Govt High School will face Sher-e-Bangla High School at the Uttara Police Lines ground and Shaheed Selim Shikhyalaya will meet Asaduzzaman Ideal School at the Mirpur Outer Stadium.

In all 720 schools from six divisions and Dhaka metropolis are will take part in the round.

In Dhaka metropolis qualifiers, 98 schools have been divided into 16 groups for the first round. The group winners will then move into the knockout stage. Four schools will qualify for the final round which will be held in the last week of April.

Apart from four Dhaka metropolis teams, two each from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and one from Barisal and Sylhet Division will join holders Bindubashini Govt High School of Tangail and runners-up Mymensingh Zila School in the final round.

The winners of the final round will receive Tk 15,000 while the runners-up will earn Tk 10,000.

The qualifying rounds of the six divisions will begin from March 28.

Independence Day chess

The Independence Day Active Chess Competition, organised by Abdur Razzak Chess Club, will be held on Sunday at the Bangladesh Chess Federation hall room, reports UNB.

Interested players have been requested to send in their entries by March 25 to the federation office or Dhaka Daba Ghar.

Comedy in Kuala Lumpur

Bangladesh made co-champions

Sports Reporter



Malaysia set a bizarre example in cricket when the hosts virtually compelled Bangladesh A to share their championship glory with Namibia as the final of the three-nation one-day tournament was rained out after 15-over's play in the second session.

Bangladesh were acknowledged champions as per the tournament bylaws, but then they were asked to share the title for the 'sake of cricket'.

As expected earlier, the rain gods came into play at the Royal Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, favouring Namibia for the third time against Bangladesh in the tournament that also included Malaysia. Namibia, under the false impression of having superior net run rate against Bangladesh, were then reeling at 43 for three.

Bangladesh, who actually held the net run rate advantage, were waiting to be declared as the winners, but only in vain, said a faxed message of tour manager Jalal Yunus.

According to the fax, the organisers announced earlier that Namibia's net run rate was 1.42

Brief Scores	
Bangladesh 'A': 237 for 9 in 50 overs (Mushfiq 55 n.o., Rajin 52, Naimur 35, Mehrib 26, Ashraf 15, Mizan 13, Rafique 13)	
Namibia: 43 for 3 in 15 overs (Bikash 1/9, Rafique 1/7)	
Result: Match postponed due to rain after 15 overs of play in the second session.	

while Bangladesh were maintaining 130.

But when Bangladesh challenged the computation prior to the start of the final, the organisers got down to recalculate it and finally declared that Bangladesh's net run rate as 1.41 against Namibia's 1.05.

Tinku Inran, the president of Malaysian Cricket Association, and the chairman of the organising committee apologised for their wrong calculations but requested Bangladesh 'A' manager Jalal Yunus to accept Namibia as co-champions. Namibia might feel dejected after having been under the false impression for so long, they reasoned.

When Jalal refused to entertain the unusual offer, Tinku Inran made the declaration on his own.

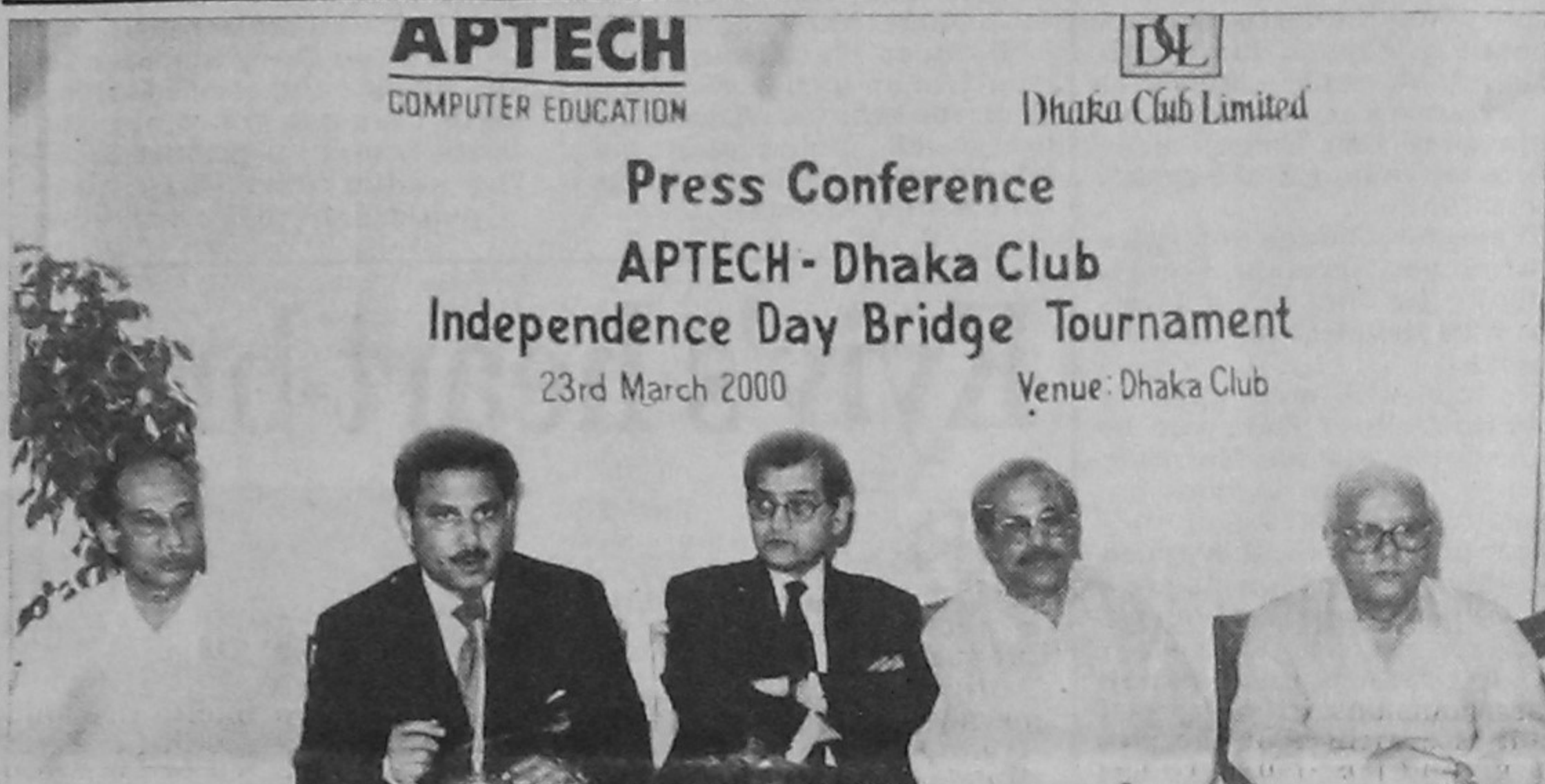
Things however had started smoothly for Bangladesh as captain Naimur Rahman called the coin correctly and decided to bat first. They scored a fighting 237 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs with all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman notching an unbeaten 55. In-form middle-order Rajin Saleh chipped in with 52 while Naimur and Mehrib Hossain scored 35 and 26 respectively.

With yesterday's match, three out of seven matches were washed out. The two first round clashes between Bangladesh and Namibia were rained out on March 18 and March 21.

Bangladesh beat Malaysia by 97 runs in their opening two first round clash on March 17. They recorded a marginal one-wicket win over the hosts in the next match on March 20.

On the other hand, Namibia beat the home side by four wickets in their first meet and then beat the same side by six wickets in their last match on Wednesday.

Bangladesh 'A' team will return home this afternoon.



Rizwan Bin Farouq, executive director Axiom Technology, addresses a news conference in connection with APTECH-Dhaka Club Independence Day Bridge Tournament at the Dhaka Club yesterday. —Star photo

Saurav hits the jackpot



CALCUTTA, Mar 23: The captain of the Indian cricket team Saurav Ganguly, is well on his way to become

Calcutta's richest sports-person, a laurel that was previously shared by the footballer Baichung Bhutia and tennis player Leander Paes.

Ganguly's recent promotion as the captain has more than doubled his income. Sports lovers, manufacturers of sports goods and a large number of industrial houses have been queuing up in front of the houses of Ganguly and his marketing agent to have a slice of the man of the moment. A conservative estimate by observers suggests

From Our Correspondent

that Ganguly may well earn more than 20,00,000 US dollars only through endorsements.

Ganguly is on the verge of releasing a cloth line and a perfume line after his name. The company, which is manufacturing these items have paid Ganguly an astronomical sum, to lend his name to its products. Only two other persons have attained the distinction of lending their names to such products. They are legendary singers Lata Mangeshkar and film actor Shatrughn Khanna. Sports companies like Adidas, Nike and a few others have already started gunning for Ganguly to have him as their model. Ganguly's marketing agent, World Tel, is handling these matters. How-

ever, the stylish left-hander, who comes from a very affluent family, is handling all the offers with a dignified approach. He knows that cricket is the first priority and money will come automatically.

Ganguly, also is the first sports person in the country to be signed up by a group named "Call for India". The members of this group can talk to celebrities of the country directly over the phone. Prior to

Ganguly, the group had only signed up film stars. However, during the Mumbai Test against South Africa, the company signed up Ganguly as their only sports celebrity.

Pakistan out for 146



SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Mar 23: Pakistan crumbled under sustained pressure from India to

he bowled out for 146 in the Sharjah Cup one-day international here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble claimed 2-26 and Venkatesh Prasad and Sunil Joshi chipped in with 2-29 each to negate Pakistan's advantage of taking first strike in good batting conditions.

Pakistan lost their last seven wickets for 38 runs after opener Imran Nazir (43) and Inzamamul Haq (41) had lifted them from 5-2 to a promising 108-3 in the 29th over.

India, thrashed by 10 wickets in Wednesday's opener against South Africa, face a moderate target of less than three runs an over against the Pakistani pace battery of Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar and Waqar Younis.

Pakistan's innings was marked by the bizarre dismissal of Yousuf Youhana, who was declared run out at the non-striker's end even as the Indians attempted to run Inzamam out at the other end.

Youhana charged down for a single after patting Robin Singh to the off-side, only to see Inzamam turn back as wicket-keeper Saba Karim threw down the stumps at the bowler's end.

Both batsmen were stranded as one end, but as the ball deflected towards mid-on, Inzamam completed the run before Ajay Jadeja's throw could reach Karim.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly's late appeal at the bowler's

end was proved right as television replays found both batsmen short of their crease when Karim had initially broken the stumps.

The umpires signalled Youhana out, and Inzamam too was back off next ball, caught

behind by Karim off Robin Singh.

Younis Khan was bowled in the next over by Anil Kumble and Wasim Akram played on to Venkatesh Prasad as Pakistan lost four wickets in the space of 20 runs.



SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian innings against Pakistan in the Sharjah Cup one-day international on Thursday:

PAKISTAN				
Imran Nazir	b Joshi			43
Shahid Afridi	c Azharuddin b Prasad			0
Abdur Razaq	c Jadeja b Agarkar			2
Inzamamul Haq	c Karim b Singh			41
Yousuf Youhana	run out			17
Younis Khan	b Kumble			0
Moin Khan	lbw b Joshi			14
Wasim Akram	b Prasad			10
Waqar Younis	run out			0
Arshad Khan	b Kumble			1
Shoaib Akhtar	not out			9
Extras: (lb-4; w-4; nb-1)				9
Total: (All out in 45.3 overs)				146
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-5, 3-62, 4-108, 5-108, 6-110, 7-128, 8-128, 9-131				
Bowler				
Ajit Agarkar	O	M	R	W
Venkatesh Prasad	10	0	29	2
Anil Kumble	10	4	26	2
Sunil Joshi	9.3	1	29	2
Sachin Tendulkar	4	0	21	0
Robin Singh	4	0	6	1
INDIA: Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Robin Singh, Sunil Joshi, Saba Karim, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble, Venkatesh Prasad.				
Umpires: Peter Manual (Sri Lanka) and John Hampshire (England)				

APTECH-Dhaka Club bridge from today

Sports Reporter

The APTECH-Dhaka Club Independence Day Bridge Tournament begins at the Dhaka Club this morning. Former Foreign Secretary and president of Bangladesh Bridge Federation (BBF) Farouk Sobhan will inaugurate the meet which will feature 24 teams.

The winners of the four-day duplicate team-bridge competition will earn Tk 25,000 while the runners-up will be richer by Tk 10,000. The team securing third spot will receive Tk 5,000.

Besides, the sponsors APTECH Computer Education, who will pay Tk 50,000 to the organisers Dhaka Club, will also provide scholarships to the student participants achieving good results.

This was revealed by the organisers at a press conference held at the Dhaka Club guest house yesterday.

Chaired by Dhaka Club president Rezaul Rahman, Farouk Sobhan attended as the chief guest. BBF vice-president Firoze Ahmed, APTECH's country head Tarun Mitra, Rizwan Bin Farouq, the executive director of Axiom Technology, and member-in-charge (bridge) of Dhaka Club ASM Farukh were present on the occasion.

The tournament concludes on March 27.

Chaturanga punished

Sports Reporter

Six players and the manager of Sylhet Chaturanga Jubo Sangha have been suspended for their part in the manhandling and verbal abuse of referee Tajul Islam during the Nitol-Tata National Football League clash against Abahani Krira Chakra at the Rajshahi Stadium on March 13.

The match was postponed 12 minutes before the final whistle when the Sylhet outfit refused to play following a controversial penalty awarded by man in black.

Chaturanga were leading the match 1-0.

It was reported that few players physically assaulted the official before they left the ground.

Later the organisers declared Abahani 2-0 winners in accordance with the bye-laws.

The BFF disciplinary committee, in a meeting on March 22, based their action on the reports of the match commissioner and referee. Also they received eyewitness accounts.

Chaturanga's inspirational midfielder Mahub Hossain Roxy has been slapped with a two-year ban while Sujon, Aminul Islam, Tofael Ahmed, Saiful Islam, national goalkeeper Rakib Mahub Appel and manager Jumun Lusal have all been suspended for a year.

During the period they will not be allowed to play in any league tournaments sanctioned by BFF and its affiliated organisations.

Nat'l snooker from Mar 27

The 17th National Snooker Championship and the 5th National Under-21 Snooker Championship will be held at Dhaka Club billiards room from March 27 to April 11, says a press release.

A record 147 players will take part in the tournaments.



Pakistan's Imran Nazir dives to make his ground as vice-captain Inzamamul Haq looks on in Game Two of the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah yesterday. —Internet photo

Second Test starts today

All eyes on Courtney



KINGSTON, Mar 23: Courtney Walsh will be looking to break the world record for the most wickets in Test cricket when the second match of two against Zimbabwe starts at Sabina Park on Friday, reports AFP.

Walsh captured four wickets in the opening Test in Trinidad to move to 430 wickets in 113 Tests. He needs two to overtake second-placed Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand on the all-time list and five to pass India's Kapil Dev at the top.

"It will be a dream come true to get the record and I will be very, very happy if I can get the five wickets in Jamaica," Walsh said on Monday at the first of a series of testimonial dinners to be held across the Caribbean in his honour.

"What is important is that the West Indies win the Test match. If I get the record, I would be personally satisfied, but very disappointed if the team does not win the Test match," he said.

Jamaicans are expected to attend the match, dubbed "A Dedication to Our Cuddy" in large numbers over the five days in support of the 37-year-old fast bowler.

"It has been a life I would not trade because the people have made me feel it was worth it," Walsh said.

The West Indies Cricket Board is making a contribution of one dollar from each ticket sold for the Test to the Courtney Walsh Appreciation Fund.

"This is a tangible expression of appreciation of Walsh's outstanding service to West Indies cricket," noted a news release from the WICB.

Apart from the hype connected to Walsh, the batting of both West Indies and Zimbabwe will be under the microscope.

Neither side equipped themselves well in the opening Test at Trinidad's Queen's Park Oval, where West Indies completed a miraculous 35-run triumph after setting Zimbabwe a modest target of 99.

"We should have scored more runs, but what I want to stress is

that this is an ongoing process," Jimmy Adams, the West Indies captain, told reporters after the match in which his side could only muster totals of 187 and



COURTNEY WALSH

147. "We want to develop an environment that will bring consistently good cricket. I would be lying if I said the environment is there, but it is going to take time."

Andy Flower, captain of Zimbabwe, scored a century to give his side a modest first innings lead, but Monday's debacle will leave the Africans questioning their batting.

"Our batting over the last year or so has not been consistent enough," Flower said.

"Again it showed that where we are a little weak. I do not think our batting in this match was up to scratch."

West Indies are likely to stick to the maxim that if it is not broke, do not fix it.

As they capitulated in Trinidad, the wisdom of seven batsmen capable of batting left-handed in the final 11 was questioned.

It is felt that Ricardo Powell should be included in the side to offer some variety to the line-up, but it will be hard to find a place for him after southpaw new boys Chris Gayle and Wavell Hinds shaped up well in Trinidad.

There is not much that Zim-

babwe can do to fortify their batting. The frontline batsmen chosen in Trinidad are their best. Captain Flower will be looking for a little more substance and stability if his side is to draw the series.

He will be hoping for more from his brother Grant, former captain Alistair Campbell and the confident Murray Goodwin. And though Trevor Gripper batted resolutely, Zimbabwe will hope he can add some real beef to the total.

While West Indies are likely to keep faith with their four-pronged pace attack, Zimbabwe might consider tinkering with their attack.

Heath Streak was head and shoulders above the rest of the Zimbabwe bowlers with nine wickets in the match, but he lacked support from Henry Olonga, Mpumelele Mbangwa, Brian Murphy and Neil Johnson, whose contributions were sporadic.

Fast-medium bowlers Bryan Strang (left-arm) and Andy Blignaut are two choices available to captain Flower.

Unlike two years ago when the opening Test between West Indies and England was abandoned, the pitch has behaved itself and Adams will have fond memories of his match-winning partnership with Brian Lara against Australia last year.

SQUADS

WEST INDIES: Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell (vice-captain), Adrian Griffith, Chris Gayle, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Reon King, Courtney Walsh, Ricardo Powell, Nemeah Perry.

ZIMBABWE (from): Andy Flower (captain), Heath Streak (vice-captain), Grant Flower, Neil Johnson, Trevor Gripper, Murray Goodwin, Alistair Campbell, Stuart Carlisle, Brian Murphy, Henry Olonga, Mpumelele Mbangwa, Bryan Strang, Muleki Nkala, Andy Blignaut, Craig Wishart, Tatenda Taibu.

Umpires: Eddie Nicholls, Athar Zaidi.

Another record beckons Aussies

Batsmen need to deliver



WELLINGTON, Mar 23: Michael Slater believes he can end his frustrating run for Australia here

Friday as they chase a record-breaking win against New Zealand, reports AFP.

If Australia win the second Test to clinch the series they also eclipse the national record of eight straight Test wins.

And captain Steve Waugh has called on the batsmen to deliver.

The bowlers dragged Australia to a 62-run win in the first Test in Auckland last week after the batsmen failed to adjust to a turning wicket in their first hit-out since breaking a stack of records during the one-day season.

"I don't think we played Test match cricket in the last two innings at Eden Park and we've talked about being more responsible and protecting our wicket a bit more," Waugh said.

The Basin Reserve wicket

will be more suitable for the batsman, even though it almost gloved yellow Thursday when ground staff peeled off the covers for the first time in 36 hours.

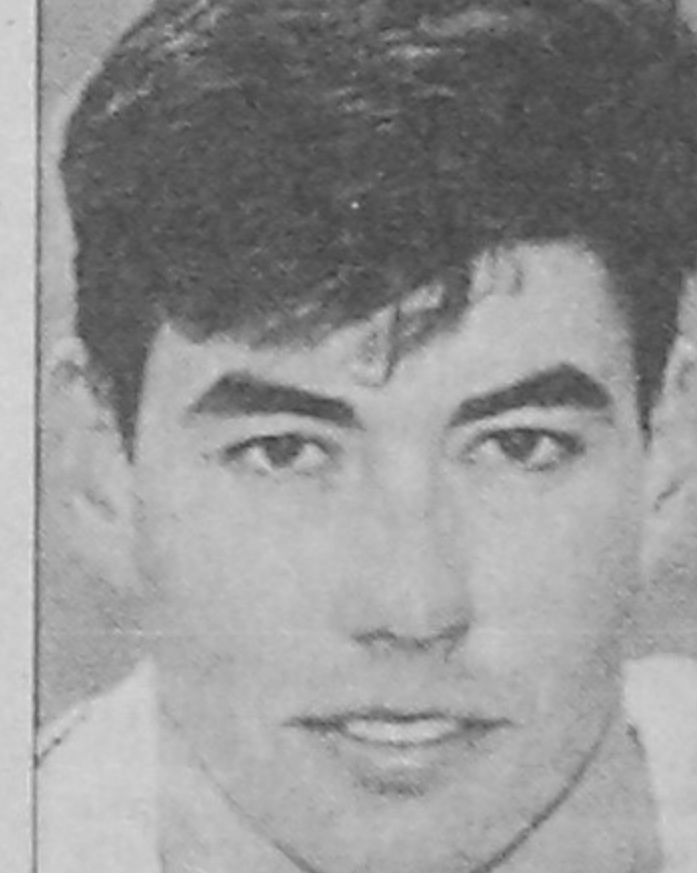
It is expected to flatten out after the first morning, which

Off-spinner Colin Miller was still in line for selection after his six wickets in Auckland, even though the conditions prompted Waugh to consider throwing swing bowler Damien Fleming back into the fray.

"We're going to have a look



STEVE WAUGH



STEPHEN FLEMING

could test Slater's promise that his scoring drought is about to end.

The explosive opener failed to reach double figures in his last four Test innings after surging through one of his best years.

"It's got to be put into perspective. The game goes in cycles and at the moment I've had a few Tests without big performances but it will happen and it will happen soon," Slater said.

"My feet are moving well and I'm seeing the ball early. Because of that it's only a matter of time and it's all about feeling good about yourself."

"It's not like I'm feeling that I'm struggling. The runs aren't there to show but they will be shortly given that I keep working hard."

"I've got a good mental approach and with those ingredients it will lead to success."

Slater and his opening partner Greg Blewett need a solid stand to stave off the challenge of reserve opener Matthew Hayden, who watched from the stands last week as the partnership failed to pass 10 for the eighth consecutive Test innings.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming admitted the Australian openers had been vulnerable but he did not fall into the trap of saying it would be a weak link in this Test.

Fleming indicated that left-arm swing bowler Shayne O'Connor would play at the expense of off-spinner Paul Wiseman but the Australians were likely to stick with the same team.

tomorrow morning and see what the pitch looks like," Waugh said.

"It would be hard to change the side but, if we need to we will."

"The wicket is pretty hard and flat. I think it might seem around the first day or so and be pretty good batting after that."

Four of the six Tests at the Basin Reserve ground between Australia and New Zealand have been drawn.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Steve Waugh (captain),