

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 138
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Nov 17 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who clinched the Asia Cup soccer title?
Saudi Arabia Japan South Korea
- How many teams took part in the Sharjah cricket series?
4 3 5
- Who lifted the ICC Knockout Trophy?
South Africa New Zealand Australia
- Which club annexed the Paritex tennis title?
Dhaka Club Officers Club Gulshan Club
- Who clinched Kremlin Cup men's title?
Safin Agassi Kafelnikov

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

SPORTS TALK



Shabnam Singh
(Yuvraj Singh's mother)
"I think I'm the proudest mother on earth. The feeling is still sinking. I couldn't sleep for three days."
On his son's success against Australia in Kenya.

McMillan to lead Kiwis

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 7 (Internet report): Craig McMillan has been named New Zealand captain for their three-day match against Boland at Paarl on Tuesday.

McMillan, to several pundits a future Test captain, takes over the reins from Stephen Fleming, who has been given a rest from the match.

Others to miss the match include Test cricketers Nathan Astle, Shayne O'Connor and all-rounder Scott Styris, who has a back injury.

Hamish Marshall and Chris Martin will make their New Zealand debuts following impressive form on the New Zealand A tours earlier this year.

McMillan, 24, has the opportunity to show his leadership quality and while he will be ably assisted by wicket-keeper Adam Parore, Black Caps coach David Trist believes McMillan has the talent to do a splendid job.

"He certainly would be somebody who would come into the picture in future," Trist told NZPA.

Fleming and Astle are being given some time off at the half-way stage of a gruelling 12 week tour and Trist hopes the break will benefit his beleaguered skipper, who has been forced to endure the stress of a 5-nit one-day series humiliation.

TEAMS

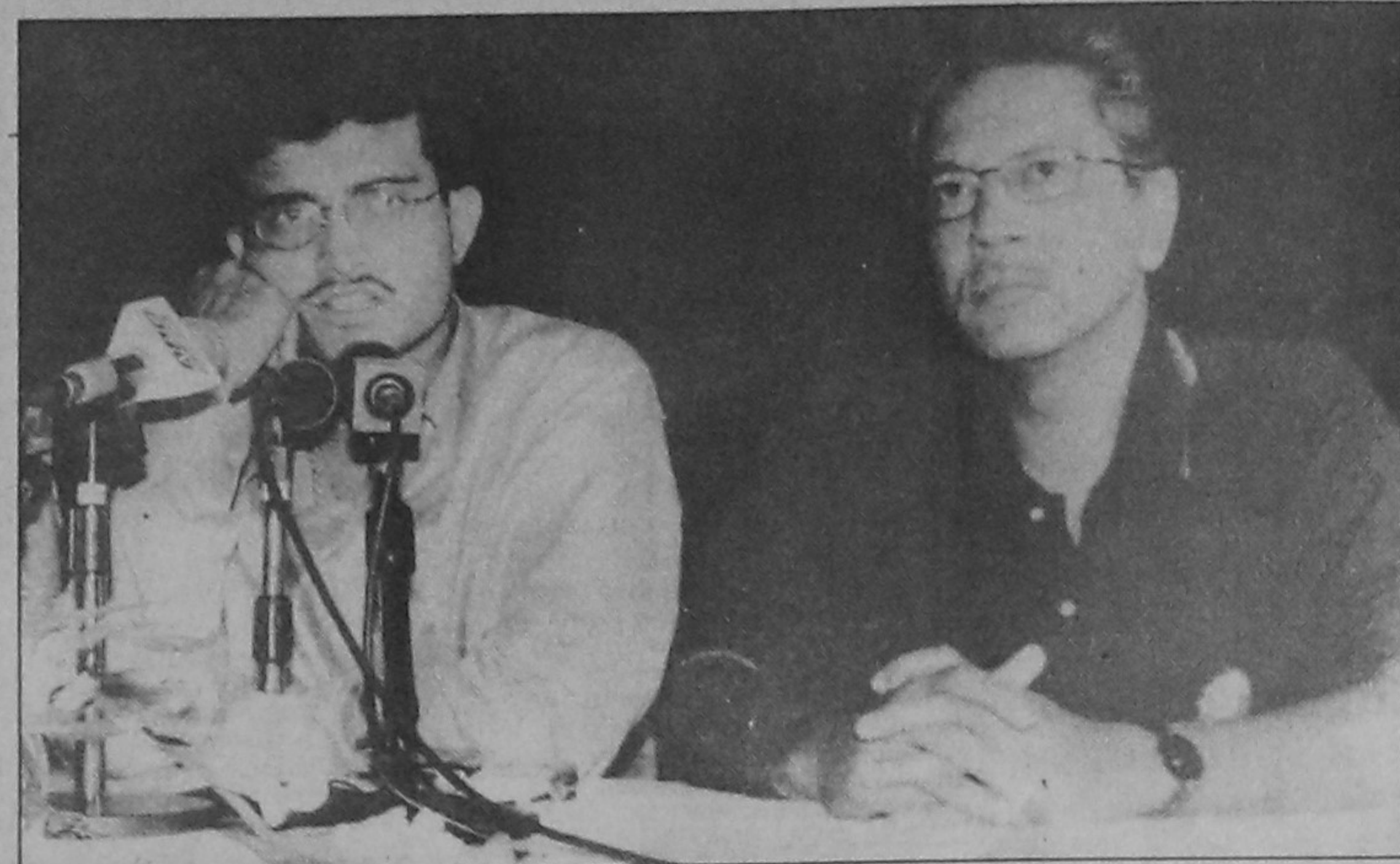
New Zealand: Craig McMillan (captain), Mark Richardson, Craig Spearman, Mathew Sinclair, Hamish Marshall, Adam Parore, Brooke Walker, Paul Wiseman, Daryl Tuffey, Kerry Walsley and Chris Martin.

Boland (from): Justin Ontong (captain), Jonathan Trott, James Henderson, Henry Davids, Kenny Jackson, Steve Palfreman, Con de Jager, Donovan Koch, Neil Carter, Henry Williams, Jacques van Wyk, Gerhard Strydom.

Friendly cricket BKSP beat JU

SAVAR, Nov 7: Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protistan (BKSP) team beat Jahangirnagar University (JU) team by seven runs in a friendly cricket match held at the University's Central Playground of JU yesterday, reports BSS.

BKSP elected to bat and scored 128 all out in 38.3 overs. In reply, JU were all out for 121 runs in 29.5 overs.



Indian skipper Saurav Ganguly (L) listens to a query by a reporter during the team's press conference at the Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. Coach Anshuman Gaekwad is on the right. —Star photo

Two cheers for Ganguly

Sports Reporter

Saurav Ganguly announced at a press conference yesterday he had two reasons to be proud of. He was leading his country for the first time in a five-day match and would be part of an historic occasion when Bangladesh make their debut at the Bangladesh National Stadium on November 10.

Coach Anshuman Gaekwad was also present during the briefing that took place at the Sheraton Hotel.

Earlier, except for sensational Yuvraj Singh, who was held up at Bombay Airport after a passport complication, 13 members of the squad arrived in the afternoon. The exciting batsman is expected to fly into town today.

With the experience of 20 one-day internationals as skipper, the majestic left-hander from Calcutta said he was especially pleased to be playing a side whose mother tongue is Bangla.

"This is your first Test and also my first Test as captain. So this is going to be a special moment for me," he said.

About the recent performance of his team, Saurav said: "Although we didn't play well in Sharjah, but we did better in Kenya. I don't understand how we collapsed in Sharjah. But then what can you do? I'm very happy with the boys. I think we have a very good side... a lot of talented players, and I firmly believe that in a couple of months we are going to be a strong side because of their contributions."

On whether his side was dreaming to post their first win outside India in seven years, Saurav quipped, "Playing in Bangladesh was not abroad."

The Prince of Calcutta believed the fast bowling department was as good as any team now especially with the arrival of Zaheer Khan. "His pace adds a new dimension to the experienced combination of Javagal (Srinath) and Ajit (Agarkar). The spinners Murali and Joshi add variety to the attack. Still we'll obviously miss Anil (Kumble)."

"The top-order is bolstered with the return of Romesh, who is considered one of the top five batsmen in the Test cricket. Besides there is Sachin, Rahul and myself. So, I think the batting is in good hands," Saurav added.

The Indian captain identified wicketkeeping as a problem. "We have to constantly change the men behind the stumps because they don't come up to standard."

"Vijay Dahiya has done fantastically well in the one-dayers in Sharjah and Nairobi. But I feel Saba Karim, has proven himself with the bat. He scored around 25 first-class hundreds so that's why he should be keeper in the five-day game," Saurav commented.

Responding to another query, he said that after Sharjah his teammates enjoyed a short break before coming to Bangladesh.

"We were all exhausted after the Kenya and Sharjah trips. We all had a four-day break."

Referring to the publication of a CBI report on match-fixing in cricket, Saurav thought it should have no effect on the team's morale since none of these players were mentioned.

Saurav wished bon voyage to Bangladesh in Test cricket saying, "I wish them all the best. It's a big day for them. I think cricket is going to go leaps and bounds after this match because Test cricket is real cricket."

Gaekwad, who hands over the reins to New Zealander John Wright after the Test, said that newcomers Bangladesh needed more exposure at Test level. "Sri Lanka were struggling at early stages but they are now a very competitive side in Test cricket."

SQUAD

Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Saba Karim, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Zaheer Khan, Sadagopan Romesh, VVS Laxman, Sunil Joshi, Yuvraj Singh, Murali Kartik, Shiv Sundar Das and Ajit Agarkar.

BKSP tie drawn

The four-day trial match between Bangladesh Green and the Red teams ended in a draw on the fourth day at the BKSP ground in Savar yesterday, reports UNB.

The Reds, who made 289 all out in 102 overs in their first innings on Monday, were 105 for 5 after 37 overs in their second innings when play was called off.

Led by Khaled Mahmud, the Red team opened their second innings in the afternoon replying to the Green team's 333 for all in the first innings and 205 for 8 (declared) in the 2nd innings. They faced an early batting debacle losing three wickets of Javed Omar (8), Ashraf (2), Rokoni (0) for 12 runs in 6.2 overs.

Number four bat Nasirul Alam Nahid and Rajin Saleh, returned to the dressing room scoring 19 and 25 runs respectively. The score was then 66 for five.



THINKING BEYOND 375! Sachin Tendulkar, the Indian batting maestro, was caught by Daily Star's Amran Hossain in this thoughtful mood at the VVIP Lounge of Zia International Airport yesterday.

But Mushfiqur Rahman, who was dropped from the Test squad after an unimpressive South Africa tour, and former national vice-captain Khaled Mahmud Sujon, also not considered for the Test, helped the Red team enforce a draw against the Green.

The two all-rounders confidently occupied the crease to carry the team total to 105 from 66.

Red skipper Sujon, who hammered an eye-catching 80 runs with 13 fours and a six on Monday in the first innings yesterday remained not out with 28 runs off just 20 balls, including two fours and a six.

Mushfiq who hit 62 runs in the first innings, was batting with 16 runs off 57 deliveries.

New-ball bowler Hasibul Hossain of Green claimed two wickets for 11 overs.

Promising pacer Bikash Ranjan Das, spinner Mohammad Rafique and occasional bowler Akram Khan took one wicket apiece.

Earlier, in the morning, the Green resumed their second innings with a frustrating overnight score of 40 for 4 in 21 overs and declared their second innings at 205 for 8 in 62.2 overs.

One-down Habibul Bashar, who made a late entry into the Bangladesh Test squad, top scored with 84 off 130 balls with the help of 12 boundaries. He resumed the day with the overnight score of 23.

In-form Akram Khan, on 4 overnight, hit 70 off 120 balls.

Ashfaq Ali of Red captured two wickets conceding 23 runs while Enamul Haq and Ashraf took one wicket each.

Poet's Olympics

ATHENS, Nov 7: The Culture Ministry announced on Monday that Greek poet Titos Patrikios was the new president of the Cultural Olympiad for the 2004 Games, reports Xinhua.

Patrikios, a celebrated essayist, poet and sociologist, will organise cultural events around Greece which will start in January and culminate with the Olympics.

The 72-year-old took the place of Michael Cacoyannis who resigned in October after complaining about bureaucratic obstacles in the organisation of the programme.

Inter-varsity cricket from tomorrow

Sports Reporter

Hosts Jahangirnagar University take on Khulna University in the opening match of the Inter-University Cricket Tournament tomorrow.

The four other universities are: Chittagong Rajshahi, Agricultural and Islamic.

Vice-Chancellor of JU, Prof. Abdul Bayes will formally inaugurate the tournament as the chief guest. Pro-vice chancellor Prof. Tajul Islam and Treasurer Prof. Sharif Enamul Kabir will also be present as the special guests.

Cricket only on their mind

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Nov 7: England captain Nasser Hussain on Tuesday said his team had focused on cricket again after opener Alec Stewart was named in India's match-fixing report last week, reports AFP.

"Cricket is now in front of everyone's mind after Stewart's story made it a tough week for us," Hussain told reporters ahead of their four-day side game against a Governor's XI starting here Wednesday.

Stewart, England's most senior member and a former captain, was among nine foreign players named in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) report on match-fixing released last week.

He has strongly denied allegations that he took money from a bookmaker in exchange for information and has been kept in the touring side, the first English team to visit Pakistan in 13 years.

"Stewart seems okay and had a nice trip to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was a tough week for him," Hussain said.

"We now can't take our eyes from cricket as we are about to face a strong Pakistan side in the Test series."

England won the first side game against a Patron's XI in Rawalpindi by an innings and 27 runs last week after losing the three-match one-day series to Pakistan.

The first of three Tests starts in the eastern city of Lahore on November 15. Both teams will be announced on Wednesday.

"We may play (the side game) with two spinners but it might not reflect the Test side. We have our options open," Hussain said.

Five spinners in Pak camp

KARACHI, Nov 7 (Internet report): The Pakistan selectors have named an initial 18-man squad for the first Test against England - including five spinners.

Leading leg-spinner Danish Kaneria and off-spinner Shoaib Malik join the trio of Pakistan twirlers - Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid Afridi - who destroyed England in the one-day international series.

The players will take part in a six-day training camp in Lahore before the squad for the first Test is named on November 13 - two days before the game starts.

Besides 19-year-old Kaneria, Karachi fast bowler Mohammad Sami has also been asked to join the camp, along with batsman Qaiser Abbas. Qaiser top-scored for Patron's XI in both innings in the tour game against England at Rawalpindi.

Meanwhile, Test batsman Younis Khan has pulled out of the four-day match against England - starting on Wednesday at the Shahi Bagh Stadium in Peshawar - because of "domestic reasons".

SQUAD

Moin Khan (captain), Saeed Anwar, Inamir Nazir, Salim Elahi, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Shahid Afridi, Wasim Akram, Abdul Razaq, Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Danish Kaneria, Qaiser Abbas, Mohammad Sami, Faisal Iqbal and Shoaib Malik.

Evander agrees to Beijing bout

HONG KONG, Nov 7: After much speculation, Evander Holyfield has finally made an agreement to fight in Beijing, according to a mainland Chinese promoter who would not immediately say Tuesday who Holyfield's opponent will be, reports AP.

Great Wall International Sports Media Co Ltd director Niu Li-xin reached the deal Friday with Jim Thomas, Holyfield's manager, in Los Angeles confirming his bout next year. Great Wall spokeswoman Chen Ying said.

Chen said the fight is expected to be in February or June, with more details to be released at a news conference here later Tuesday.

Lara lays down gauntlet

PERTH, Nov 7 (AFP/Reuters): West Indies superstar Brian Lara shrugged off his alleged involvement in match-fixing to crack a superb century in the first match of the tourists' Australian programme near here Tuesday.

"It's been a tough week, but everything will come to fruition eventually, I hope," said Lara, 31, after slamming a chanceless 108 off 107 balls which included 11 fours and three sixes in a one-day charity match against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill Park in suburban Perth.

Opener and vice-captain Sherwin Campbell also stroked a polished unbeaten 111, inclusive of eight fours and four sixes, from 142 deliveries as the West Indies reached 276-2 from their 50 overs in the one-day clash before heavy rain caused play to be abandoned.

A storm erupted during the interval, forcing the umpires to abandon the match before the locals, whose team included retired Test batsman David Boon, had the chance to bat.

"I have responsibilities to West Indies cricket not to let other things affect me, so I'll just put on the blinkers and go out and do my best by getting runs," Lara said, referring to match-fixing allegations made against him by an Indian bookmaker.

Bookmaker Mukesh Kumar Gupta has claimed he paid Lara 40,000 American dollars to under-perform in two one-day matches during a tour of India in 1995.

Lara has categorically denied the claim in a statement issued through the West Indies Cricket Board, but has refused to talk to the media in Australia about the allegations.

Lara was not exposed directly to the media Tuesday, but made a statement - strictly on cricket rather than the allegations - to an Australian Cricket Board official, who passed it on to reporters.

"Today was good - I hit the ball well," he said. "Now I have to get set to play a longer innings in the four-day match against Western Australia starting Thursday."

"This start is very significant for us. We are looking to get the team back on a good footing. The England tour ended badly and Kenya did not go too well, either."

"We need to be competitive, so even a good performance in a festival game is a boost. Losing is not something we want to experience."

"Campbell did what was asked and batted through the innings, so that went well, too."

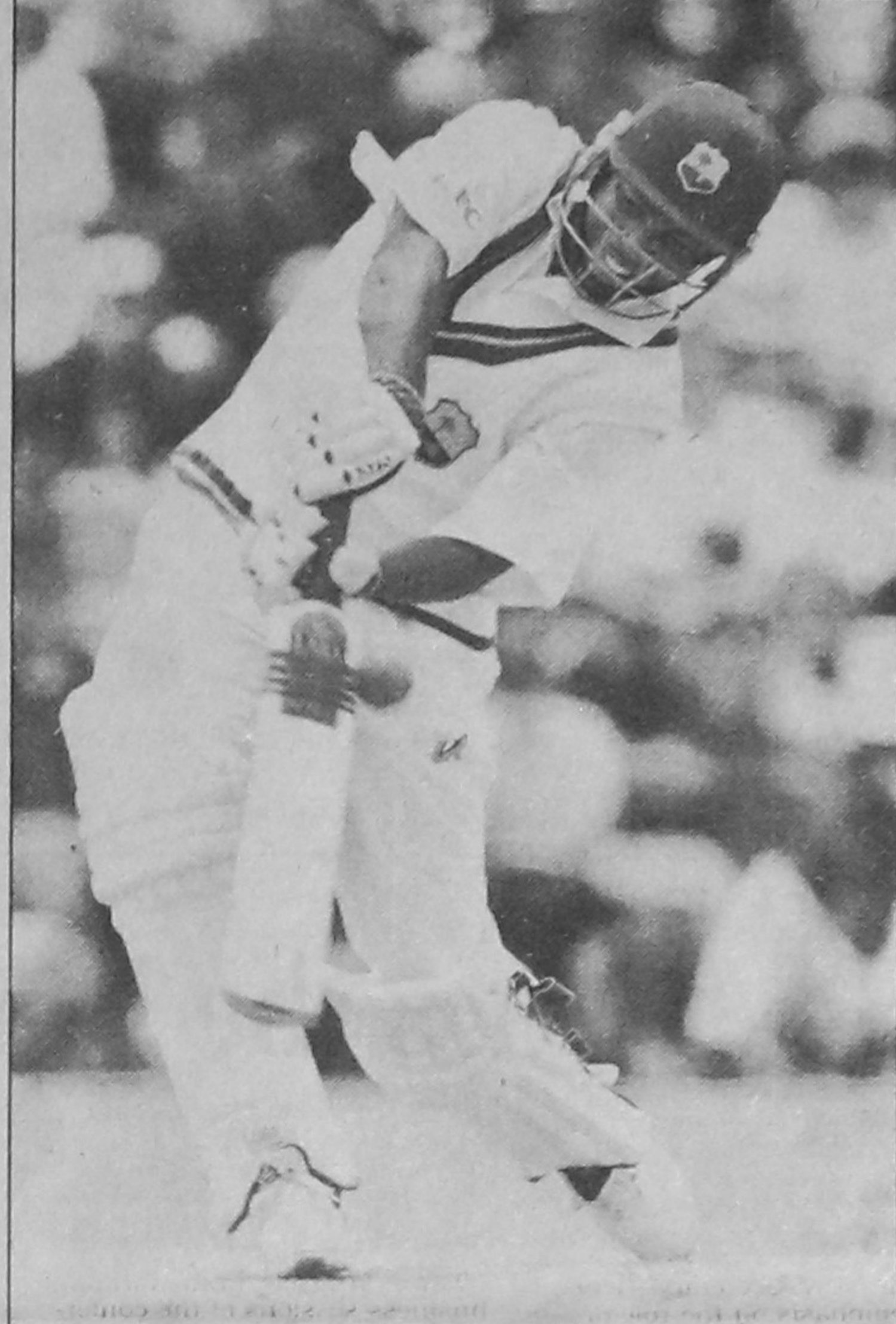
Campbell and Darren Ganga (43, with six fours and a six, from 52 balls) gave the West Indies a heartening 87-run start before Campbell and Lara hammered an exhilarating 163 for the second wicket.

Ganga, 21, making his first senior visit to Australia, impressed with crisp shots in front of the wicket.

Meanwhile, West Indies ace fast bowler Courtney Walsh joined his teammates here Tuesday, and will be available for the match starting Thursday.

Walsh had stayed behind in the Caribbean for a few days to receive a university doctorate.

Walsh, 38, needs only 17 wickets during the five-Test series against Australia to become the first bowler to reach 500 wickets at Test level.



West Indies master batsman Brian Lara in full flow against the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in Perth yesterday. —AFP photo

Tweakers wait for their turn

KARACHI, Nov 7 (Internet report): Ian Salisbury and Ashley Giles await the chance to enjoy rare leading roles if they are given the opportunity to press their first Test selection claims in England's final warm-up match in Peshawar.

Both spinners are in with a chance of featuring at the start of the three-Test series at Lahore on November 15 and are expected to be included in the four-day match against a Governor's XI at the Shahi Bagh Stadium.

Having already played a part in England's innings victory over a Patron's XI in Rawalpindi last week, they know their chances of earning a place in the Lahore Test will rest upon the next few days.

Yet they are already relishing the greater responsibility they have been given on Pakistan's spin-friendly surfaces, a far cry from the frustration they have suffered at home with seamers' wickets leaving them virtually redundant over the past couple of seasons.

"The conditions are totally different here," stressed Surrey leg-spinner Ian Salisbury.

"We use a different type of ball that goes softer quicker and only swings for the first 10 to 20 overs, and then spinners have to bowl."

"In England, seamers can still swing the ball and bowl bouncers and seam it around in the 100th over, and then they take another new ball, so where do spinners fit into the game?"

"The wickets and weather conditions at home are not conducive to spin bowling and counties are now more likely to sign a medium-paced trundler

than they would be in taking a gamble on a spinner."

The same applies to Warwickshire left-arm spinner Giles, who believes the negative press English spinners have received is partly because of the conditions they are forced to endure during a domestic season.

He said: "We haven't played on some of the more helpful wickets in the world and if we played for a couple of years over here, that would give us a lot of encouragement and confidence."

"In England, over the past two or three years we've been waiting to bowl for 60 or 70 overs, and sometimes just coming on just to fill a few overs in."

"I'm really looking forward to it because it will be a nice position to be in where the ball's thrown to you early on, you might get the ball after 20 to 25 overs, and it's nice to have a decent run at it."

"We're told we're not up to much and our record keeps getting brought up, so we've got to just enjoy it and not worry about the pressure - if we do well then that's fantastic and people might just sit up and take notice, but you just have to put up with the criticism."

Before either of them can begin their attempt to prove English spinners can be effective at the top level, though, they must first convince the selectors that they would work better as a partnership.

England are undecided about their likely Test line-up and have the option of choosing seven batsmen and one spinner or plunge both slow bowlers into the fray on what is expected to be a turning pitch.

But Salisbury, who has experience of bowling in tandem with Saqlain Mushtaq during Surrey's two successive championship winning seasons, is convinced that selecting them as a partnership is the best way forward.

"It's very important to have a spinner at the other end to help you - Ashley bowls with Neil Smith at Warwickshire and it's so much easier when there's two of you."

England plan to train at the stadium for the first time having spent Monday on a day off, which the majority of the squad used to visit the nearby Khyber Pass.

All four players rested in Rawalpindi - captain Nasser Hussain, Alec Stewart, Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick - are expected to return and give themselves vital match practice before the squad move onto Lahore on Sunday.



Cricket enthusiasts queue up for tickets of the historic Bangladesh-India Test match in front of the city's Dilkusha branch of Al Baraka Bank yesterday. —Star photo