

## SPORTS TALK



### Tony Greig

(Cricketer commentator)  
"Adam Gilchrist is the most dangerous opening batsman in the world. His ability to hit the ball over the top, and his wicket-keeping skills make him a full-fledged all-rounder."

## 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

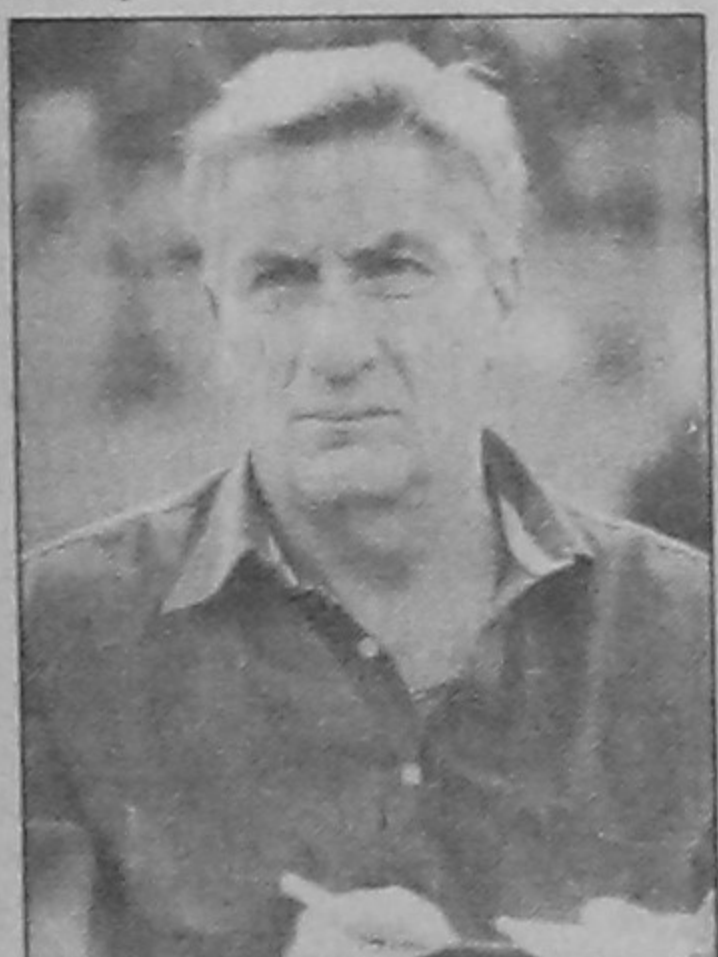
- Who clinched the Asia Cup soccer title?  
South Africa Japan South Korea
- How many teams took part in the Sharjah cricket series?  
4 3 5
- Who lifted the ICC Knockout Trophy?  
South Africa New Zealand Australia
- Which club annexed the Paritex tennis title?  
Dhaka Club Officers Club Gulshan Club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

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

## Cottan gets some action

### Sports Reporter

George Cottan, the newly appointed national football coach, saw his first match in Bangladesh, a Premier League clash between Abahani and Rahmatganj, at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.



Cottan, the Hungarian coach, arrived in the capital on November 9 under the development programme of Asian Football Confederation (AFC). He however remained inactive for the next few days because no football was played as Bangladesh were in action in their inaugural cricket Test against India from November 10.

Talking to the reporters during the break Cottan, who is now living in Vienna, Austria, said that he has taken the job on the request on German coach Holger Ohlman.

He also said that he would make a primary list for the national camp after seeing the remaining matches of the league.

When asked about the match he saw where Abahani won by seven goals to nil, Cottan said it was a very slow match and he would love to see boys play with more speed.

## Sharma ducks Board inquiry

NEW DELHI, Nov 14 (AFP): Former Indian Test cricketer Ajay Sharma, accused of match-fixing by federal investigators, refused Tuesday to appear before the cricket board's own commission of inquiry in the capital.

Sharma did not keep his appointment with the board's anti-corruption officer K. Madhavan, saying he was awaiting a copy of the report by the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

# Abahani go on a rampage

### Sports Reporter



After three defeats and two draws, title aspirants Abahani made a resounding return to form with a 7-0 whitewash of Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society when the Super Four phase of the National Bank football league resumed after a month-long break at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

In a desperately one-sided affair, striking duo Kennedy and Rokunuzzaman Khan scored hatricks while skipper Iqbal Hossain added the other for Abahani.

Abahani, who had earned only three points from their previous five matches last October, started in wonderful fashion with Kennedy, one of their two Ghanaian recruits, finding the net with a placing shot following a Tito cross from the right one minute into the match (1-0).

National booter Khanum, starving for goals in the league with just one before yesterday's match, made it 2-0 in the 24th minute with a left-footer from the top of the box.

Iqbal scored Abahani's third in the 39th after being fed by Indian international Sabir Pasha.

Just before the breather, Kennedy netted which is arguably the goal of the season so far. The former French First Division marksman received the ball in the midfield and went on a mazing run that took him past four Rahmatganj defenders, before coolly scooping the ball over an advancing custodian Milan (4-0).

In the 57th minute, Khan bagged his second. Kennedy completed his hatrick 73rd with an assist from Pavel.

Khan's treble came in the 85th minute when he connected Kennedy's minus from the left.

Sabir Pasha was the most influential player on the pitch setting up as many as four goals.

Abahani, with their seventh win in 12 matches, remained third in the Super Four table having raised their tally to 24

points from 12 matches. Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club and Mukti Juddha Sangsad have 30 and 29 points respectively.

On the other hand, with their sixth defeat against four wins and two draws, Rahmatganj remained glued at the bottom with 15 points.

It was the last match of the first phase of the Super Four. The second phase will start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow with Mukti-

juddha Sangsad taking on Rahmatganj at 5 pm.

**Yellow card:** Kingshuk Abahani: Biplab, Tito, Nazrul, Ghansha, Mithu, Iqbal (Pavel), Sentu, Arman, Kennedy, Sabir Pasha (Don) and Galib (Kanchan).

**Rahmatganj MFs:** Milan, Mansoor (Zahid), Belal, Kingshuk, Apu, Zavedur Rahman, Shamim, Chanchal, Mont, Milan and Javed (Jalal).

**Referee:** Subhash Roy.



Rahmatganj custodian Milan rises to grasp an Iqbal header during their National Bank Premier Division Football League Super Four clash against Abahani at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

—Star photo by Amran Hossain

## SUPER FOUR TABLE

[M-Matches, W-Win, W/T-Win in Tie-breaker (2 points), L-Loss, L/T-Loss in Tie-breaker (1 point), GF-Goals For, GA-Goals Against, P-Points]									
Team	M	W	W/T	L	L/T	GF	GA	P	
Mohammedan	12	9	1	2	—	28	10	30	
Mukti Juddha	12	7	3	—	2	19	4	29	
Abahani	12	7	—	3	—	29	10	24	
Rahmatganj	12	4	—	6	—	11	20	15	

# Lara lambastes NTI XI



ALICE SPRINGS, Australia, Nov 14 (AFP): Brian Lara says he is ready for next week's opening skirmish with Australia after he plundered another effortless century in a one-day match in the outbreak here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Lara scored his second century from as many visits to the crease on tour, reaching 100 from 113 balls as the West Indies cruised to a 57-run win over a Ricky Ponting-led Northern Territory Invitation (NTI) XI.

Lara, still inconvenienced by hamstring injury, has yet to play a first-class match on tour, settling for two low-key festival matches before he plays Victoria in a four-day game starting Friday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

That will be the Windies' final hitout before the first Test begins in Brisbane on November 23, when Lara shoulders the hopes of the tourists batting against the unofficial world champion Australians.

The pressure of Tuesday's match compared with the Test series will be as far apart as

Alice Springs and Brisbane but Lara said he would be physically and mentally prepared.

"The hamstring problem is chronic and it's been around for a while but I'll be fine," Lara said.

"The four-day game in Melbourne is going to be important but every time I've been out in the middle I've been able to get some runs and that's good for my confidence."

"Hopefully, I can stay out in the middle for a couple of sessions (against Victoria) and see if I can score again."

The 31-year-old left-hander stroled to a century, lofting Test bowler Colin Miller (3-40) for three sixes before Miller claimed his scalp on the mid-wicket boundary.

Lara looked his most relaxed since arriving in Australia 10 days ago amid the drama of bribery allegations and questions about his fitness.

He smiled throughout Tuesday's knock before signing autographs and posing for pictures with young spectators between deliveries while he patrolled the square leg boundary.

"I'm always relaxed and my

little hiatus away from the game earlier this year is all gone now," he said.

"Australia are great opponents and we've had great battles over the years so I'm looking forward to it."

Lara's hundred helped the Windies to 259 for six from their 50 overs before the tourists' bowlers restricted the Northern Territory team to 202 for nine.

A century stand between Lara and young opener Daren Ganga (53) put the Windies on the path to a solid total before Shivnarine Chanderpaul (31 not out) and Mahendra Naganmootoo (21 not out from 12 balls) made a late flurry.

The Windies then unveiled veteran Courtney Walsh for the first time on tour and the 38-year-old didn't disappoint.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the one-day cricket match between the West Indies and the Northern Territory Invitation XI Tuesday:

#### WEST INDIES

George Johnstone b Wapper	53			
Brinsford Johnston b Senior	9			
Lance Hodge b Miller	106			
Sorenson b Miller	10			
Chanderpaul not out	31			
Adams c Wapper b Miller	3			
Jacobs c Rothall b Senior	9			
Naganmootoo not out	21			
Extras: (lb-2, lb-3, w-13, nb-3)	21			
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	259			
Fall of wks: 1-26, 2-134, 3-153, 4-199, 5-202, 6-215				

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY

Di Venuto c Chanderpaul	52			
b Adams	40			
Williams st Jacobs b Adams	31			
Vowles lbw b Black	40			
Ponting run out	26			
Hodge c McLean b Adams	26			
Marsh lbw b McLean	20			
Johnstone run out	5			
Rothall not out	2			
Wapper b Stuart	0			
Wilson b Stuart	0			
Miller not out	3			
Extras: (lb-13, w-4)	17			
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs)	202			
Fall of wks: 1-89, 2-113, 3-146, 4-157, 5-167, 6-192, 7-192, 8-195, 9-195				

**Result:** West Indies won by 57 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Brian Lara.

## 'Bowl Out Polio' today

### Sports Reporter

Five national cricketers including skipper Naimur Rahman will participate in the National Immunisation Day that gets underway today.

The quintet comprising debut Test centurion Aminul Islam, dashing Habibul Bashor, vice-captain Khaled Masood and former national captain Akram Khan will administer polio vaccine in different parts of the city.

The programme jointly organised by UNICEF, WHO, Ministry of Health in association with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as part of 'Bowl Out Polio' aims at immunising children under the age of five. This will be the first phase of a two-part programme. The second round will be held on December 17.

According to the schedule Naimur will visit a polio booth at Sabujmati Bhaban in Khilgaon. Aminul will be present at Islambagh Community Centre in Lalbagh. Khaled Masood starts operating from the Radda Barmen Tin Shed 14/B in Mirpur Section 14. Akram Khan opens the campaign at 165 Green Road in Kalabagan. Habibul Bashor begins from Rotary Cancer detection unit in Mohakhali.

All the cricketers will be operating in their respective areas at 9.30am.

## BCB for tri-nation Test series

Bangladesh hope to play both India and Pakistan in a tri-nation Test match tournament next year, a senior cricket official said here Tuesday, reports AFP.

"Bangladesh will tour Pakistan next year if India drop their tour, but what we would like to see is a tri-nation Test series with India and Pakistan in Dhaka," Sabir Hossain Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, told reporters.

Bangladesh would probably tour Pakistan in March first and then host them later, with a visit to Zimbabwe set for April next year, he said.

Zimbabwe would pay a return visit to Dhaka in October, Sabir added.

Bangladesh is due to play a Test series in New Zealand in December 2001, but the details are to be finalised after the Asian Cricket Council's meeting in Sharjah later this month, he said.

Saber's comments came a day after the end of Bangladesh's historic inaugural Test against India, which it lost by nine wickets.

He said that he was "not at all disappointed" with the outcome of the Test match, but was delighted with the performances of skipper Naimur Rahman and Aminul Islam.

Rahman took six wickets in his first Test while Islam scored 145, the second highest score by any player in his debut Test match.

## Nat'l Cricket League Khaled to lead Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, Nov 14: National vice-captain Khaled Masood will lead an 18-member Rajshahi team in the second National Cricket League, which commences from November 17.

The team was announced today.

The first-class competition involving eight teams will be played home away basis. Chittagong won the inaugural edition last year, where six divisions took part.

The second edition will include two more teams. They are Bangladesh Biman and Dhaka Mahanagari Eleven. Besides, unlike the maiden edition, where it was a three-day affair, each team will now play a limited-overs match on the fourth day after the first three days.

The members of Rajshahi team are: Khaled Masood, Rafiqul Islam, Anisur Rahman Sanchar, Mushfiqur Rahman, Tariqul Islam, Aminul Islam Bhola, Mustafid Litu, Imran Parvez, Farid Hossain Tomal, Dola, Humayun Kabir, Mohammed Kalim, Alamgir Kabir, Murad Khan and Saiful Islam Balu.

They have also called up three standby players - Nuruzzaman Nayan, Mohammed Hira and Omar Sharif.

## Inter-varsity cricket

From JU Correspondent  
SAVAR, Nov 14: Rajshahi University crushed Islamic University by 98 runs in the last league match of the inter-varsity cricket tournament at the Jahangirnagar University Central playground today.

After winning the toss, Rajshahi made 180 for eight in 40 overs. Badsha top-scored with 29 not out.

In reply, Islamic University were shot out for 82 in 31 overs.

# England's trial by spin



LAHORE, Nov 14 (Reuters): Pakistan trio Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushaq Ahmed and Shahid Afridi are poised to take full advantage of England's fragility against spin in the first Test starting on Wednesday.

The England batsmen looked fallible in the one-day series, won 2-1 by Pakistan, and the home side's strategy is obvious.

"We are confident and positive that we can exploit the English batsmen's weaknesses against spin," said captain Moin Khan. "We have won live Test series in a row against them and we hope to win this one as well."

Pakistan have named 14 players and will choose their

match. Abbas can also bowl left-arm spin to add further potency to the spin attack while Wasim Akram and Abdur Razzaq will share the new ball.

All-rounder Dominic Cork has been ruled out the England side with back trouble while batsman Michael Vaughan has failed to recover from a calf strain.

Andrew Flintoff, who flew into Lahore on Tuesday morning to join the injury-hit team, top-edged a delivery in the nets from a local bowler and walked out bleeding from his nose.

Although doctors confirmed there had been no break, Flintoff will be the 12th man.

England have included two spinners in left-arm Ashley Giles and Surrey leg-spinner Ian Salisbury.

"We are well prepared and will take up the challenge," said captain Nasser Hussain. "It will be the biggest test for us for a long time."

It is a perfectly fine wicket and we are not going to grumble about pitches and we are not going to complain about it."

Hussain said Pakistan were an excellent team.

"It is a side which has got everything, pace and spin and they are an excellent side, we got to learn from them," he said. "The next 15 days' cricket will be a test of everything as far as we are concerned."

The Test will be England's first in Pakistan since the infamous 1987-88 tour.

Since that visit, England have for some reason or the other always avoided a tour to Pakistan, "although in that period Pakistan toured England twice and beat them in their own backyard with a margin of 2-1 and 2-0 respectively."

England lost the first Test of the series at this venue by an innings and 87 runs when the wily leg-spinner Abdul Qadir devastated them with 30 wickets in the three-match series, taking 13 wickets for 101 runs in the Lahore match which

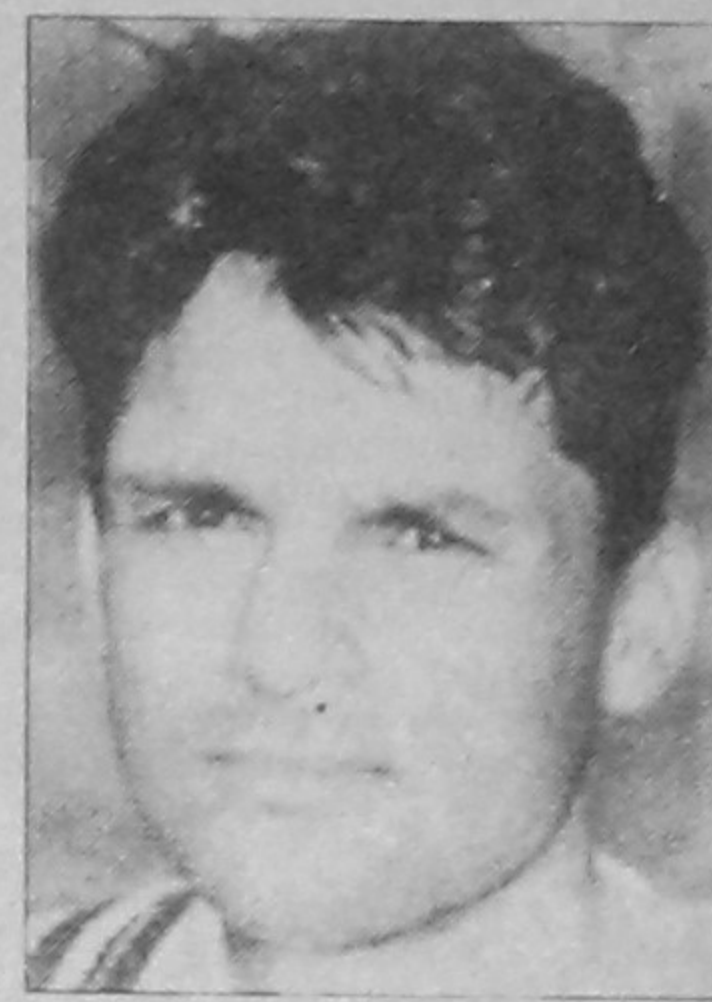
sparked an umpiring controversy.

Umpire Shakeel Khan was accused of biased umpiring by the England players as he gave nine lbw and caught behind decisions in favour of the Pakistan bowlers.

Of the 18 Tests played against Pakistan in Pakistan England have won only one in under Ted Dexter in the 1961-62 tour. Pakistan have won two and 15 matches have been drawn.

### TEAMS

Pakistan (from): Salim Elahi, Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Yousuf Youhana, Inzamamul Haq, Moin Khan (capt), Wasim Akram, Abdur Razzaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Gaiser Abbas, Imran Nazir, Danish Kaneria and Azhar Mahmood.



### MOIN KHAN

England: Mike Atherton, Marcus Trescothick, Nasser Hussain, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Craig White, Ashley Giles, Ian Salisbury, Darren Gough and Andrew Caddick.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia), Riazuddin, TV umpire, Saleem Badar.

Referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka)

## India pick rookie offie

FARIDABAD, India, Nov 14 (AFP): India's cricket selectors on Tuesday picked young off-spinner Sharandeep Singh for the first Test against Zimbabwe starting in New Delhi later this week.

Sharandeep, 21, who has played just one first-class season for Punjab, was included in the 14-man squad despite failing to take a wicket in 42 overs against the tourists during the three-day match at Indore last week.

Wicket-keeper Vijay Dahiya, dropped for the inaugural Test against Bangladesh after taking part in two one-day tournaments in Kenya and Sharjah, returns to the side at the expense of Saba Karim.

Karim, who had a torrid time behind the stumps and with the bat at Dhaka, was dropped along with seamer Venkatesh Prasad from the side that defeated Bangladesh by nine wickets on Monday.

Cricket board secretary Jayavant Lele, who announced the squad here, said Sharandeep was picked because captain Sourav Ganguly wanted an off-spinner to counter the left-handers in Zimbabwe's ranks.

The Indians, without injured leggie Anil Kumble, also have two left-arm spinners, Murali Kartik and Sunil Joshi, in the squad.

The batting remains unchanged, with Shiv Sunder Das and Sadagopan Ramesh expected to open again, like in Dhaka.

The first Test will be played at the Rota in New Delhi from Saturday, followed by the second at Nagpur from November 25.

### TEAM

Sourav Ganguly (capt), Sadagopan Ramesh, Shiv Sunder Das, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Venkatesh Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Vijay Dahiya (wicket-keeper), Ajit Agarkar, Jayavant Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Sharandeep Singh, Sunil Joshi and Murali Kartik.

Coach: John Wright

## Bucknor's clinic starts today

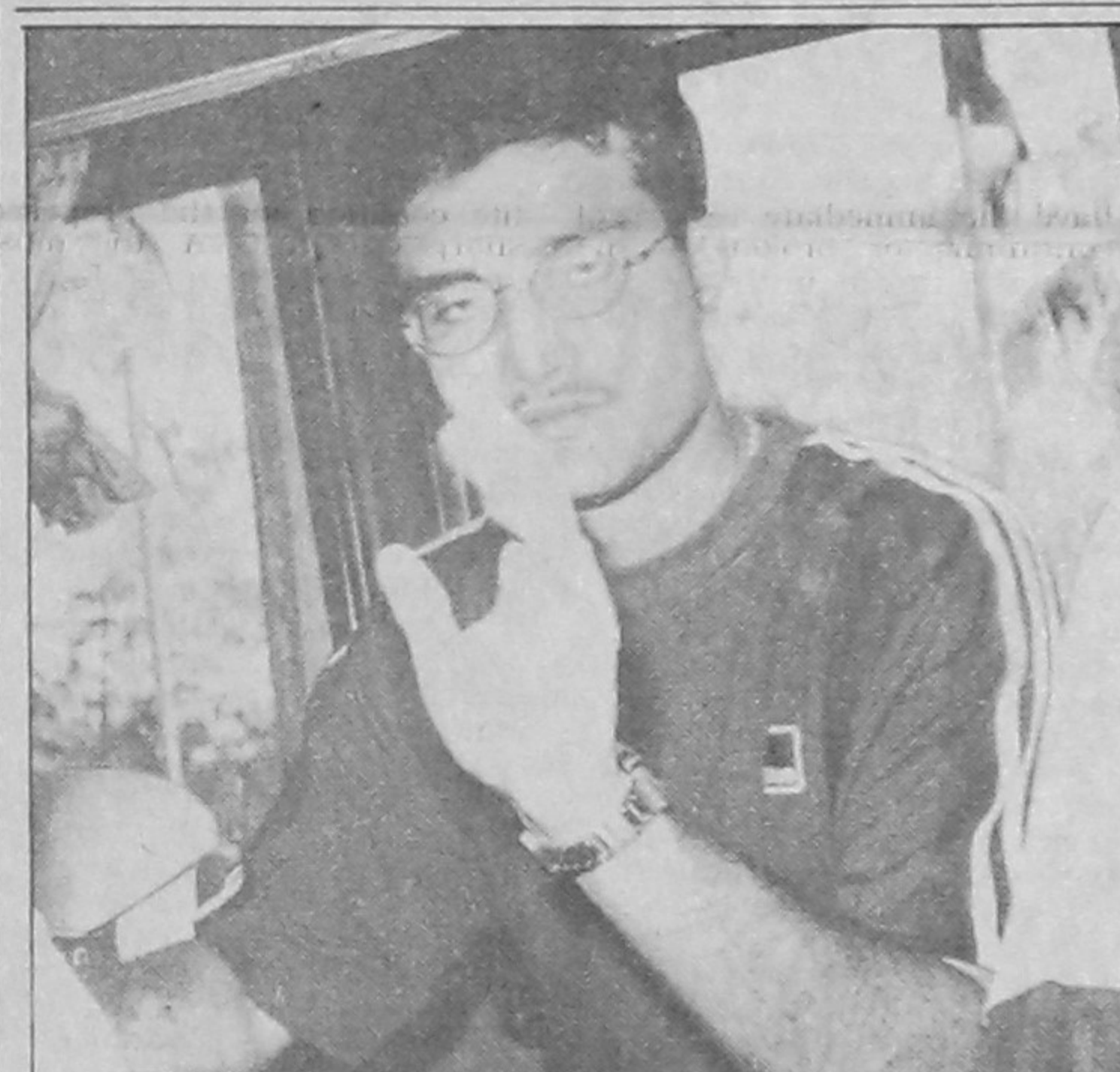
### Sports Reporter

ICC international panel umpire Steve Bucknor will host a series of seminars for Bangladeshi umpires in the city from today, says a press release.

Bucknor's tutorials, backed by the ICC, will allow this veteran of 52 Test matches to share his experience and expertise on areas such as match preparation, mental approach, fitness and the concentration levels needed at the top level of international cricket.

More than 20 umpires will be involved over the next five days.

"Steve is one of the most respected umpires in the world game and his views will be of great interest and benefit to local officials," commented ICC Cricket Operations Manager Clive Hitchcock in an ICC media release.



GOODBYE: India cricket skipper Saurav Ganguly waves to the crowd while leaving Sheraton Hotel for the airport yesterday. Ganguly stayed back in Dhaka along with two other teammates while rest of the squad left on Monday.

—Star photo

# Dhumketu's meteoric rise to the top

### Sports Reporter

Dhumketu Club became unbeaten champions in the Purabi Insurance First Division basketball league after a hard-fought 51-41 victory over arch rivals Josephite Club at the Dhanmondi Wooden Floor Gymnasium yesterday.

This was the first championship for the Bakshibazar based team in their 15-year history.

After yesterday's match, which was their last fixture of the season, Dhumketu finished with full 18 points from nine games.

The Dhumketu triumph was orchestrated by the offensive brilliance of veteran ace Titas and Pintu and three-point expert Ayub. Coach Mizanur Rahman's tactical insight also contributed immensely to their success.

Titas was the highest scorer

for Dhumketu with 14 points while Pintu, caged nine. For Josephites, Sizzad bagged 14 points followed by Shuvo who had 12.

Dhumketu's victory was a tribute to the spirit and hard work of the players and officials.

The team that banks totally on local talent, had faced stiff challenge for the title from financially far better equipped clubs like holders Mariners and Josephites.

Mariners, the three time champions, were beaten 50-17 by Dhumketu last week, a result that proved decisive.

Mariners and Josephites, who both have 14 points from eight matches, will meet in the last encounter of the league to fight it out for the runners up spot.

