

Condon cautions cricket criminals

LONDON, Dec 17: Corrupt international cricketers were warned Friday they have much to fear as investigators arrived back in England from a fact-finding mission to India, reports AFP.

Sir Paul Condon, head of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption team, claims he has a wealth of new information about alleged wrong-doings in the game following meetings with Indian police, politicians and officials.

The former head of the London police force said every player named in the 162-page Central Bureau of Investigation report two months ago will be interviewed in due course.

Condon refused to say if the material corroborated claims by Mukesh Kumar Gupta, the India bookmaker, that senior players including Alec Stewart and Brian Lara took money in exchange for information.

He would not be drawn either on whether English cricketers could be forced to take lie-detector tests as recommended in a new report by the King Commission which conducted the inquiry into the Hansie Cronje affair.

But Condon did say: "Cricketers who have been named and are innocent have absolutely nothing to fear from the investigations."

"However, anyone who has been named and who does not have something that approximates to criminality has a lot to fear."

He added "We are determined to leave no stone unturned in investigating these allegations, but equally players should not be condemned without evidence being available."

There is new evidence available to support our investigations, and the immediate task is to make an assessment of its content."

Barisal prevail

From page 13

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes Ashfaq Ali, Shahnewaz, Hassan, Towhid, Imran.

Result: Barisal won by 1 wickets.

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes K Moinud, Neevamar, Mehlab, Zahir, Masudur, Saifur, Mofizur.

Result: Barisal won by 1 wickets.

McKenzie

From page 13

score of 58 and went on to reach his century off 129 balls when he pulled Zoysa to the mid-wicket boundary.

McKenzie, who made a maiden Test century against New Zealand in Port Elizabeth earlier this month, replaced Boeta Dippenaar from the side that played in the first one-day international. South Africa again did not pick fast bowler Allan Donald, who is recovering from a stomach muscle injury.

Sri Lanka also made one change, with leg-spinner Chandana replacing batsman Tillekeratne Dilshan.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: Kirsten c Jayawardene b Zoysa 6, Hall lbw b Vaas 0, Kallis c Arnold b Wickramasinghe 35, McKenzie not out 120, Rhodes c Muralitharan b Jayasuriya 50, Boucher c Wickramasinghe b Muralitharan 55, Klusener c Chandana b Zoysa 6, Boje run out (Atapattu) 7, Extras: (lb12, w5, nb6) 23, Total: (for 10 wickets in 50 overs) 302.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-24, 3-69, 4-157, 5-257, 6-279, 7-302.

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes Pollock, Zoysa, Wsinghe, Muralitharan, Chandana, Arnold, Jayasuriya.

Did not bat: D. Zoysa, M. Muralitharan, G. Wickramasinghe.

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya b Pollock 7, Kaluwitharana lbw b Pollock 2, Atapattu c Boucher b Ntini 36, Jayawardene c and b Boje 59, Sangakkara c Hall b Ntini 11, Arnold not out 39, Chandana lbw b Klusener 2, Vaas not out 34, Extras: (lb3, w7, nb7) 17, Total: (for 10 wickets in 50 overs) 207.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-17, 3-89, 4-106, 5-141, 6-147.

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes Pollock, Ntini, Kallis, Klusener, Boje, McKenzie.

Did not bat: D. Zoysa, M. Muralitharan, G. Wickramasinghe.

Man-of-the-match: Neil McKenzie.

Result: South Africa won by 95 runs.

Series: South Africa lead 2-0.

Umpires: I. Howell and D. Orchard (both Res). TV umpire: W. Diedericks (Res). Match referee: Nausheed Ali (Pak).

Aussies, WI neck and neck



ADELAIDE, Dec 17: The crucial third cricket Test between Australia and the West Indies is precariously poised on a knife edge after a see-saw third day at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday, reports AFP.

The Windies lifted in the final session to snatch four wickets, leaving Australia with 403 for nine, a slender lead of 12 over the tourists' first innings 391 when rain and bad light forced players off the field before the scheduled close.

Damien Martyn, unbeaten with 46, and Glenn McGrath (one not out) will resume Monday at the start of the fourth day of the enthralling five-day game.

The wicket is showing distinct signs of wear and a chase of about 200 could be a tough assignment for Australia on the final day if the Windies are able to set a target of that magnitude.

Leading 2-0 in the five-match series, Australia will clinch the rubber and retain the Frank Worrell Trophy if they win, as well as extend their world record sequence of 12 successive Test wins.

Australia, with 355 for five at tea, appeared to be coasting towards a big first innings lead.

But the Windies struck back again to remove Ricky Ponting (92), acting captain Adam Gilchrist (nine), Stuart MacGill (six) and Colin Miller (one).

The vital wicket of Ponting was snared by veteran speedster Courtney Walsh before Nixon McLean trapped Gilchrist and Miller and Mervyn Dillon accounted for MacGill.

Ponting celebrated his appointment as Australian vice-captain by hammering the West Indies' bowling in the second session.

Ponting, who will be 26 in two days, had reached 86 not out at tea, and appeared well on track for his eighth century in 37 Tests.

He added only six after the break before Walsh, defying his 38 years, produced a vicious delivery which bounced, moved off the seam and kissed the edge of the bat on the way through to wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs.

It was Walsh's second wicket of the innings, boosting his tally of Test scalps to 488. He is already the greatest wicket-taker in the history of the game and now has a reasonable chance of reaching the magic 500-wicket total before the end of the series.

Ponting had reached 92 — the third time he has been out in the nineties in Tests. He slammed 10 crisp fours in his four-hour knock.

Gilchrist, who has found Adelaide Oval his most productive batting ground, threatened to savage the attack, but was snared by McLean as he tickled the ball to Jacobs.

MacGill departed controversially, ruled by Australian umpire Steve Davis to have been caught by Jacobs off Dillon.

MacGill appeared mystified by the decision and TV replays suggested the ball had struck his helmet rather than bat or glove.

As he entered the players' race after he had walked off the field, MacGill collided with West Indian 12th man Ramnaresh

Sarwan, who was walking in the opposite direction.

Miller survived only two balls before hitting a catch to Sherwin Campbell, in the gully.

The West Indies secured their first big breakthrough after lunch when paceman Dillon removed Mark Waugh for 63.

Waugh, playing from the crease, was rapped on the pad, and Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan ruled him lbw.

Waugh had occupied the crease for three and a half hours, hitting six fours, and sharing in a stand of 123 in 151 minutes with Ponting.

Waugh's scalp was an over-

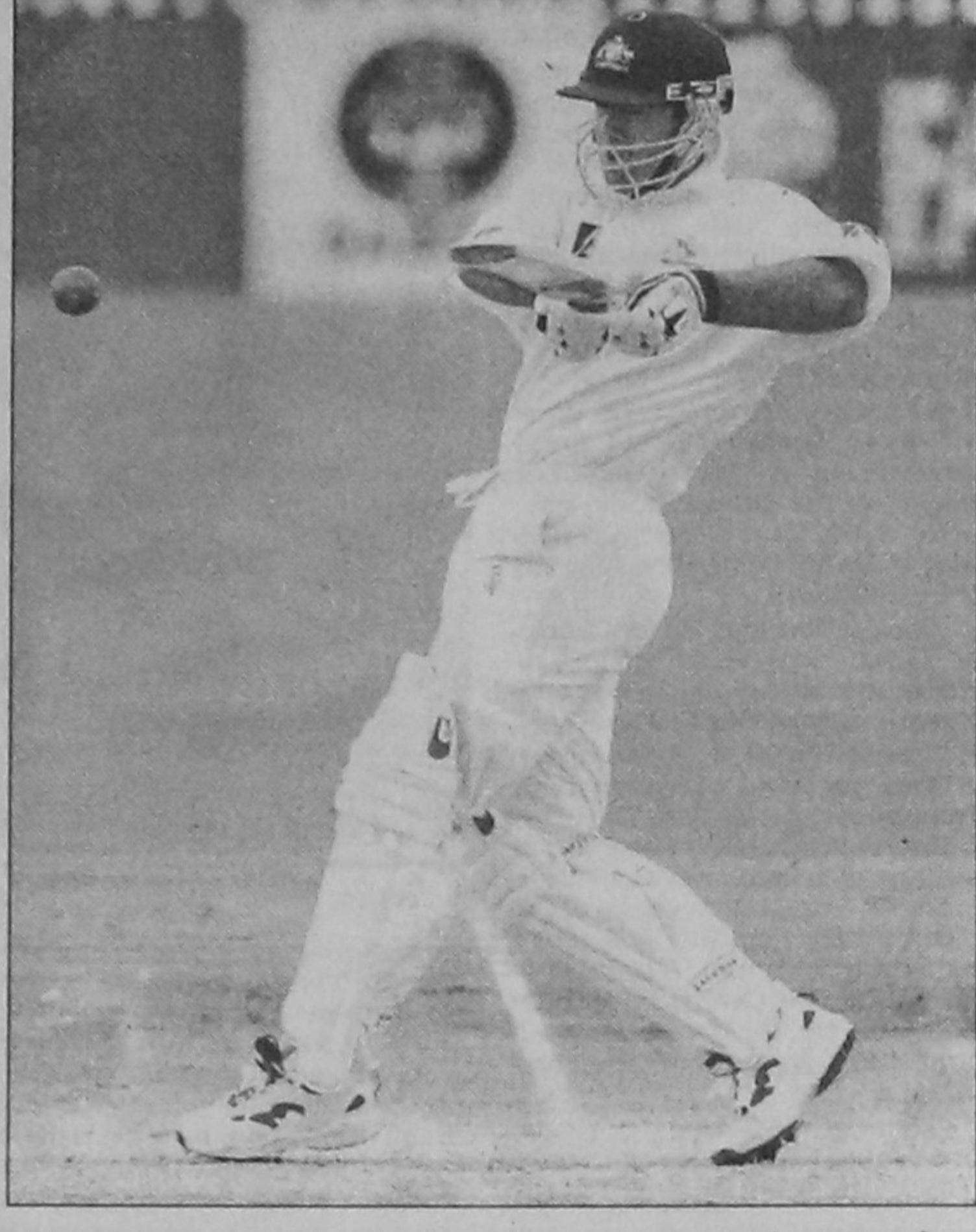
two of three Australian wickets to fall for 13 runs shortly before stumps.

It left the home side 180 for three, still 211 runs behind the tourists' first innings 391.

The teenager had earlier showed his prowess with the bat, making an impressive 35 in almost two hours before the Caribbean lower-order crumbled again after batting super-

star Brian Lara carried his overnight score of 136 to 182, the fourth highest score of his illustrious 73-Test career.

The tourists crashed from a formidable 354 for five immediately before Lara's dismissal to 391 all out in their first innings.



Ricky Ponting pulls during his 92 at Adelaide yesterday.

due reward for Dillon, who should have had Ponting in his net just before lunch, but had the misfortune to see Brian Lara, at first slip, drop a comfortable chance. Ponting was on 41.

In another slice of bad luck for the tourists in the opening session, Waugh, on 39, was adjudged not out to 19-year-old off-spinner Marlon Samuels losing their last five wickets to off-spinner Colin Miller.

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD at stumps on third day of third cricket Test between Australia and the West Indies at the Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

WEST INDIES: First innings 391 (B Lara 182, J Adams 49, M Samuels 35; C Miller 5-81, J Gillespie 5-89).

AUSTRALIA: First innings Slater c sub (Sarwan) b Samuels 83, Hayden run out 58, Langer c Lara b Samuels 58, M Waugh lbw b Walsh 71, Gillespie lbw b Walsh 4, Ponting c Jacobs b Walsh 92, Martyn not out 46, Gilchrist c Jacobs b McLean 9, Miller c Campbell b McLean 1, McGrath not out 34, Extras: (b-5, lb-13, w-5, nb-11) 31, Total: (for 9 wickets in 127 overs) 403.

Fall of wickets: 1-156, 2-160, 3-169, 4-187, 5-310, 6-369, 7-386, 8-397, 9-398.

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes Bower, Walsh, Black, Dillon, McLean, Adams, Samuels.

Result: Match drawn.

BIMAN-RAJSHAHI

Scorecards of the three-day match between Rajshahi and Binan at the Cricket Garden in Rangpur on Saturday.

BIMAN: First Innings 256 all out in 98.3 overs (Ziaur 49, Faruque 44, Atiar 38, Farhat 29; Aminul Jr 6/57, Mushfiq 2/56).

RAJSHAHI: Second Innings 158 all out in 60.5 overs (Rafiqul 38; Farhat 6/22, Ziaur 2/31).

BIMAN: Second Innings (overnight 71 for 1 in 18 overs) Javed c sub b Mushfiq 67, Faruque lbw b Mushfiq 17, Habibul c Rafiqul b Imran 53, Farhat not out 47, Hasanuzzaman not out 7, Extras: (b-3, lb-1, nb-3, w-1) 8, Total: (for 3 wickets in 46 overs) 199.

Fall of wickets: 1/36, 2/140.

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes Farhat, Aminul Jr, Mushfiq, Nuruzzaman, Mustadir, Tariqul, Imran, Rezaan.

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Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Enamul Hoque (Chittagong).

Result: Match drawn.

Smith studies the incident

ADELAIDE, Dec 17: The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said Sunday match referee Alan Smith had investigated a collision between Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and West Indies' 12th man Ramnaresh Sarwan during the third Test, reports AFP.

An ACB spokesman said Smith, representing the International Cricket Council (ICC), had called the meeting after play ended on a tense note following MacGill's controversial dismissal.

"A statement in relation to the matter will be released tomorrow," the spokesman said.

This means Smith, a former England Test player, will announce whether any disciplinary action will be taken against MacGill, a 29-year-old slow bowler who has just returned to the Australian side in the absence of champion leg-spinning bowler Shane Warne, out with injury.

MacGill was called to the meeting, along with Australian captain Adam Gilchrist and team manager Steve Bernard, the spokesman said.

Sarwan and members of the West Indies management were interviewed by Smith separately, the ACB revealed.

S Africa ride on Rhodes

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 17: Jonty Rhodes hit an unbeaten half-century and guided South Africa to a four-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first limited-overs international against Sri Lanka at St George's Park on Friday last, reports AFP.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: 221 all out (K Sangakkara 84, R Kaluwitharana 55; S Pollock 4/36, J Kallis 2/34).

SOUTH AFRICA: Kirsten st K'tharana b M'tharan 58, Hall c K'tharana b Zoysa 18, Boje run out (J wardene) 6, Kallis c and b Zoysa 0, Dippenaar c K'tharana b Vaas 19, Rhodes not out 61, Boucher run out (Arnold) 9, Klusener not out 39, Extras: (lb-8, w-3, nb-2) 13, Total: (for 6 wickets in 47.2 overs) 223.

Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-53, 3-57, 4-91, 5-126, 6-143.

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes Bower, Vaas, Zoysa, Wsinghe, M'tharan, J'suriya, Arnold.

Result: South Africa won by 6 wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Jonty Rhodes.

Prince named MSC cricket secretary

Mohammed Sporting Club appointed former national left-arm seamer Golam Nowsheer Prince as secretary of its 29-member cricket committee yesterday.

Starved of success for the last four seasons in the Dhaka League, Mohammedan turned to the tall and muscular cricketer in a desperate bid to revitalise the image of the crowd-pulling outfit.

Besides, Mohammedan also named former national wicket-keeper Nasir Ahmed Nasu as manager.

In an otherwise new-look committee, Jahed Ali Chowdhury was retained as chairman for a second successive time.

The committee is as follows: Chairman: Jahed Ali Chowdhury; Secretary: GM Nowsheer Prince.

Vice-presidents: Mahbul Anam, Syed Ashfaqur Rahman, Mahbul Alam, Khandokar Jamaluddin, Lutfur Rahman and Shahidul Huq Shikder.

Manager: Nasir Ahmed Nasu, Co-ordinator: Wasim Khan.

Members: ASM Farooq, Roquibul Hassan, Mahmud Hasan Shanju, Saleq Sufi, Minazar Rahman, Mainul Huq, Harsha Caldera, Mohsin, Dawlat-Uz-Zaman, Ali Asif Khan, Azhar Hossain, Shantoo, Wahidul Gani, Tariqul Islam Titu, Anwar Hossain, Shakil Rizvi, Ali Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Mustaq Ahmed and Hanif Bhuiyan.

V-Day cricket

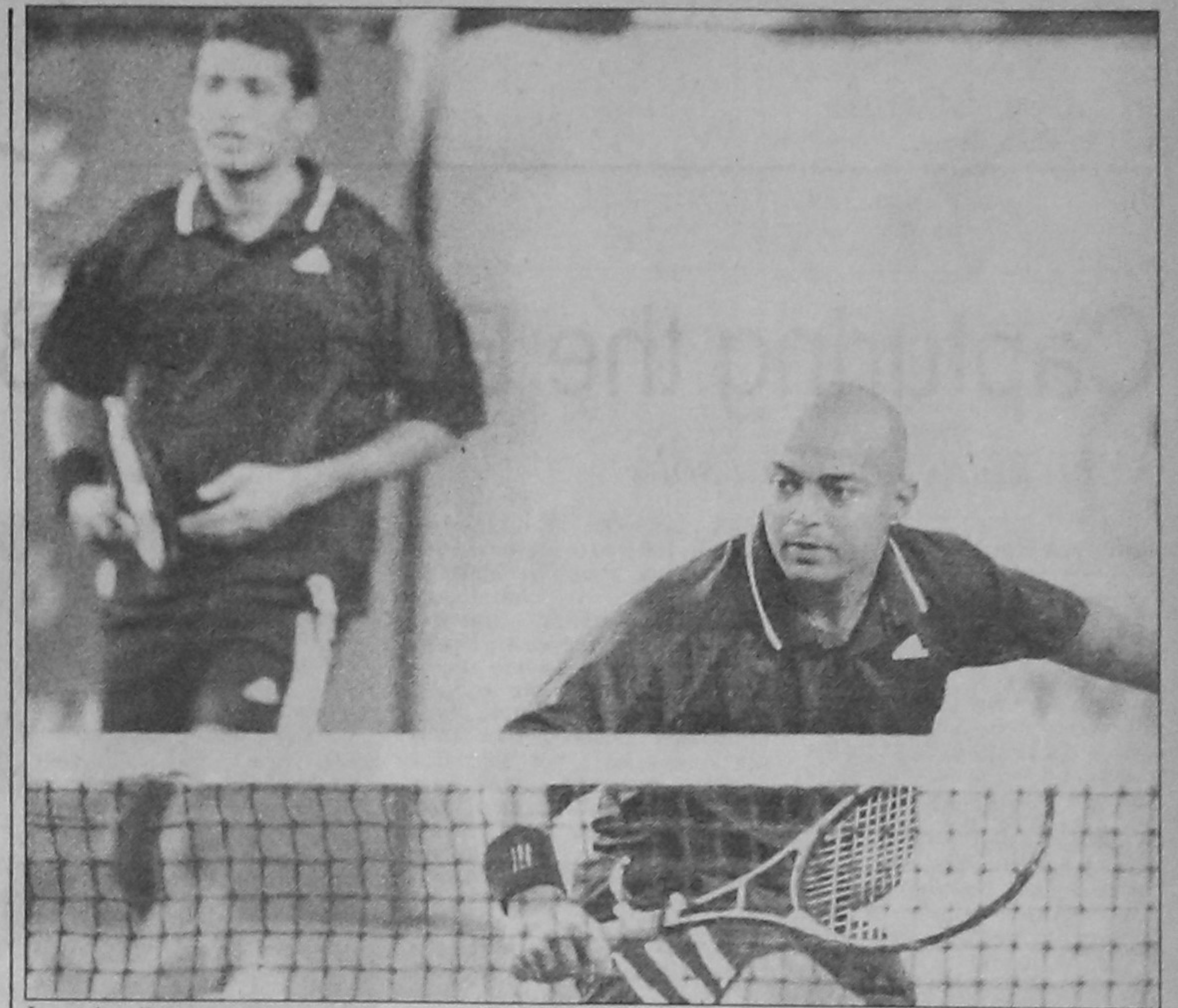
The Inter Sports-WECCA Victory Day under-13 cricket tournament got underway at different city venues yesterday.

Three matches were decided on the opening day.

Hosts Kalabagan Cricket Academy (KCA) recorded a seven-wicket win over ACC. KCA rattled up 97 for three in only 12.1 overs.

At the Diamond Club ground, Discovery Club defeated Cricket Coaching School (ccsb) by 32 runs.

In another match at the same venue, Ankur were 10-wicket victors against Future Cricketers.



Leander Paes of India (R) makes a backhand return against Ellis Ferreira as his partner Mahesh Bhupathi looks on during their ATP World Doubles Championship engagement in Bangalore on December 16.

World Doubles Championship

Locals storm into final

BANGALORE, Dec 17: India's Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi stunned top seeds Rick Leach and Ellis Ferreira to reach the final of the 750,000-dollar ATP World Doubles Championship here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Backed by a partisan home crowd of 5,500, Paes and Bhupathi outplayed the favourites 6-3, 7-5 in just one hour and 26 minutes.

In Sunday's final, the Indians will clash with world number 11 American-South African duo of Don Johnson and Piet Norval, whom they defeated in the preliminary league.

Johnson and Norval ended the dream run of Sweden's Simon Aspelin and Johan Landsberg with a hard-fought 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 win in the other semifinal.

Paes and Bhupathi, the world's top pair last year, fell to 55 in the rankings this year

after an acrimonious split over Bhupathi's coach, Enrico Piperno.

They reunited in August ahead of the Sydney Olympics, where they lost in the second round, but won the Japan Open in October.

"This is the start of our journey back to the top," Paes said.

"I am looking forward to the final. With a crowd like this we will be hard to beat."

Johnson and Norval disagreed, saying the final's afternoon start would be a disadvantage for the Indians.

"That is no time to play because the sun is right in your eyes and it is difficult to sight the ball," Norval said.

"The Indians played all their matches under artificial lights, so it will not be easy for them out there. We will ensure that."

The defeat marked the end of the road for Leach, who has now retired after a 14-year career that won him two world

doubles titles -- with Jim Pugh in 1988 and with Jonathan Stark in 1997.

Leach and Ferreira had squeaked into the semi-finals after losing their first two league matches, only to find themselves confronted by the fired-up Indians.

"It was the most incredible atmosphere I have played in here," the 35-year-old Leach said. "I am honoured to have ended my career here."

Aspelin and Landsberg, the substitute team in the event who surprised themselves by winning their three league matches, finally met their match in the experienced Norval and Johnson.

"We had our fun this week," Landsberg said. "We were lucky to get a chance to play here, and did well to reach the semifinals."

"Who knows, we may well be playing Davis Cup for Sweden one day," said Landsberg.

Anand, Shirov move to Tehran

NEW DELHI, Dec 17: Indian Grand Master Vishwamanthan Anand and Alexei Shirov of Spain booked their places in the final of the FIDE World Chess Championships here on Friday, reports AFP.

Anand drew the fourth and final game against Michael Ad-

ams of England to win the semifinal by a 2.5-1.5 margin.

The Latvia-born Shirov, facing Russia's 17-year-old sensation Alexander Grischuk, also drew the fourth game to surge ahead with the same scoreline.

The six-game final will be played in the Iranian capital of Teheran from December 20-26.

"Anand played a solid game," Adams conceded. "He knew he only needed a draw. Maybe if he had played for a win, it would have given me some chances."

World women's champion Xie Jun, meanwhile, retained her title by drawing the fourth game of the final against compatriot Qin Kangyi.

Xie won the first game and drew the next three to win 2.5-1.5 and consolidate her status as the world's leading woman player.

Earlier, both Anand and Shirov warded off stiff opposition in the third game on Thursday night to come within half-a-point of making the final.

Anand was kept on his toes for six hours by a desperate Adams before the Englishman accepted a draw on the 73rd move.

"I am glad I came out of it alive," a relieved Anand said later. "But a draw cannot be taken for granted on Friday night."

Shirov adopted the Ray Lopez game to down Grischuk in 49 moves, but said he had to work harder than the scoreline suggested.