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Star SPORT

DHAKA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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Did U Know?

That when the Belgian city of Antwerp hosted the 1920 Olympics it introduced the famous inter-linked five-ring Olympic flag. The organisers also included for the first time an Athlete's Oath.



Ronaldo
(Brazilian football star)
"All I am now thinking of is that I will return to top form and that I will be the same as I once was."

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 144
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Sports
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 16, 2001 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who became Green Delta Premier Division cricket league champs?
Chittagong Biman Khulna
 - Who lifted Milo U-13 cricket title?
Rajshahi Tista Barisal Maroons
 - Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy clinched the three-match one-day series
2-1 3-0 2-0
 - Who lifted the Australian open mens title?
Sampas Agassi Rafter
 - Who lifted the Australian open womens title?
Devenport Capriati Hingis
- Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (If any)

What to WATCH

- Star Sports**
New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
2nd one-day international
Live at 6:45 am
Barcelona vs Athletic Bilbao
Primera Liga
Live at 2:00 am (Sunday)
ESPN
Man United vs Everton
English Premiership
Live at 9:00 pm
Atlanta vs Juventus
Serie A
Live at 1:30 am (Sunday)
West Indies vs Zimbabwe
11th ODI highlights
7:00 pm
Cricket Talk Show
Boys & Sunny Masterclass
12:30 pm

WHIZZ KID-142 winner



Md Shafique Khaled
(Salvation School, Dhamondi, Dhaka)

Rafique couldn't care less!

Cricket
SPORTS REPORTER

National left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, whose bowling action has been reported by the International Cricket Council (ICC), seems reluctant to amend himself.

The 30-year-old, who had been asked to report to coach Nazmul Abedin last month for legitimising his action, never bothered to contact the coach or the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

An ICC panel considered Rafique's and national skipper Naimur Rahman's bowling action suspect after umpires Steve Bucknor and David Shepherd, who officiated in Bangladesh's maiden Test match against India last November, reported against the two after the match.

The BCB was given six weeks, starting from January 1 this year, to correct the bowlers in question.

The board formed a committee of three consisting of BCB member Jalal Yunus, Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan's (BKSP) chief coach for cricket Nazmul Abedin and umpire Akhteruddin Shaheen. Abedin was entrusted with rectifying the bowlers.

But while Naimur duly participated in a successful stint with Abedin in the nets and received an all clear certificate, Rafique has so far failed to make any time for the coach.

In desperation, the committee chairman Jalal Yunus has issued him a letter on Thursday (February 1) asking him to get in touch with them as soon as possible.

"I told Rafique to contact me immediately after the matches against the Commonwealth Bank



MOHAMMAD RAFIQUE

Cricket Academy which ended on January 25. But in the last eight days he did not meet me or call me over phone," said Abedin while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

"That's why we have issued him with a formal letter on Thursday," said Fahim.

"This is supposed to be his headache as he has to get the clearance from us. But it seems he does not understand the impor-

importance of it. He should know that the board has to give an okay report to the ICC by February 15," Abedin added.

When contacted over his mobile phone yesterday, Rafique informed that he has not yet received any letter from the committee or the board.

When asked why he did not make any contact with the coach or the board after being told to do so, Rafique tried to shift the responsibility on the committee.

"I tried to reach him (Abedin) through telephone several times last week but each time the phone was busy."

"Fahim (Abedin) Bhai also knows my number. Since he is the coach, he could very well have given me a call," Rafique added.

But when reminded that it was his duty to get corrected, Rafique made a foolhardy defence.

"Don't worry, I had a talk with the Australian coach (Commonwealth Bank Academy head coach and former Australian keeper Rodney Rash) last week. He suggested that I change my run up which is my only problem. I will do the necessary soon."

Giving his observation of the situation, BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq said last night it was unfortunate that the board could not complete their task with the bowlers till now.

"It's a shame that he (Rafique) does not understand the situation," Ashraful added.

Naimur going to Sharjah

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq confirmed that skipper Naimur Rahman will accompany the national team to Sharjah for the charity one day international tri-series for victims and affected of last week's earthquake in Gujarat.

The tourney also involving India and Pakistan is scheduled from February 8-12.

Naimur will fly off to Melbourne for the meeting of Test captains from Sharjah after appearing in the league matches. The meeting is on February 12.

Ashraful himself is scheduled to fly to Australia today to attend the ICC meeting to be held in Melbourne on February 8, 9 and 10. BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury will also join the meeting. He is expected to leave Dhaka on February 6.

India to play in Sharjah

REUTERS, New Delhi

India will take part in a one-day cricket series in Sharjah next week against arch-rivals Pakistan and Bangladesh to raise funds for Indian earthquake victims.

"The tour is on," Sharad Diwadkar, executive secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), told this news agency.

Earlier he said the BCCI was awaiting government clearance for India to play in the February 8-11 tournament. Selectors will name the squad on Monday.

The Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF) proposed on Thursday a four-day tournament to raise funds for victims of the earthquake in the western state of Gujarat last week.

The Indian government cancelled a proposed test tour of Pakistan last year because of political tensions between the two neighbours over disputed Kashmir.

The government, however, has not objected to India playing Pakistan in tournaments where more than two teams are involved.

Diwadkar said India's participation in Sharjah would mean the postponement of a training camp on Tuesday ahead of a three-test home series against Australia who arrive on February 14.

The Indian team is scheduled to play in a triangular one-day tournament in Sharjah from April 8, which includes Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Afro-Asian fraternity

AFP, Karachi

Cricket chiefs in Asia and Africa have agreed to set up a joint council to promote the game on the two continents, Asian Cricket Foundation (ACF) chairman Jagmohan Dalmiya said Friday.

"The Asian body has decided to join hands with the African cricket body to form an Afro-Asian Cricket Council and an agreement in this regard will be signed in April this year," Dalmiya told this news agency.

"Matches will also be played between Asian and African XIs so that both the continents come closer in cricket."

Dalmiya, a former president of the International Cricket Council, is in Pakistan to attend an ACF meeting in the eastern city of Lahore.

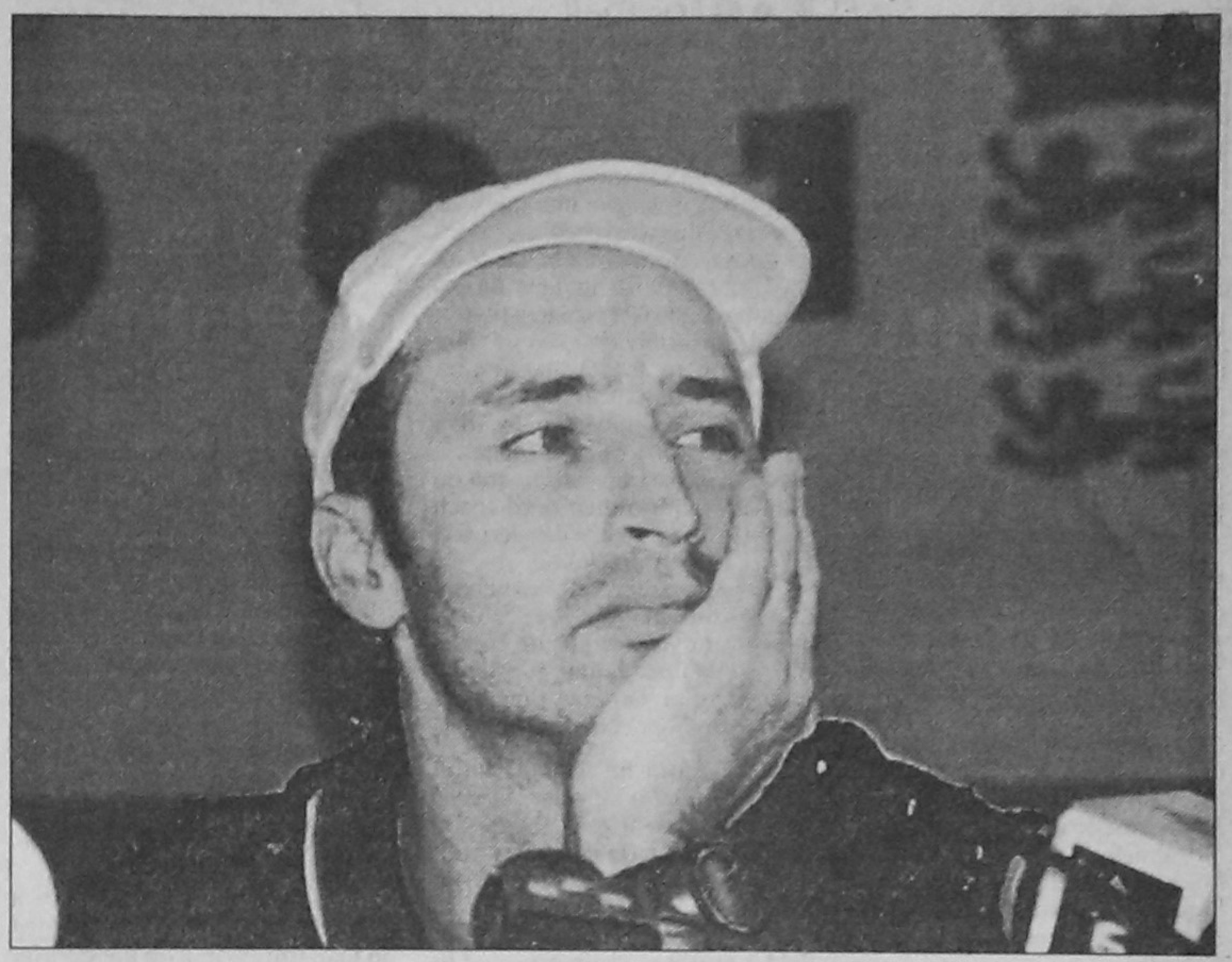
WHIZZ KID-143 correct answers

- Which is FIFA's top ranked country?
Ans. Brazil
- How many Test hundreds has Steve Waugh scored?
Ans. 24
- What is the result of the South Africa-Sri Lanka ODI series?
Ans. 5-1
- Who is the lone double centurion in the National Cricket League?
Ans. Farhat
- By which margin did Bangladesh go down to Bosnia in the Sahara Millennium Cup?
Ans. 2-0.

WHIZZ KID-143 winner

Runa
(Chatitola High School, Nangalkot, Comilla)

(Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sport Desk of The Daily Star at 6:30 pm on February 8).



England captain Nasser Hussain attending a press conference in Colombo on February 1; The English team arrived in Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

Nasser's men get to work

Cricket
AFP, Colombo

The England team begun practising in Colombo Thursday amid security usually reserved for visiting heads of state, but the tourists said they were unfazed by the protection measures.

English coach Duncan Fletcher said the team did not notice the tight security arrangements provided by the elite Ministers' Security Division (MSD) of the Sri Lankan police.

"We did not notice the security as it did not get in the way," Fletcher said adding that he thought they had been given the same level of protection while in Pakistan and South Africa.

Police guards the hotel where the England team is staying and the floor occupied by the team is also protected by plain-clothes MSD staff.

The BCCSL entered into an

agreement with the World Sports Group - Nimbus (WSG-Nimbus) for sponsorship rights for a three-year period in December, but the deal collapsed last month.

Despite fears that England's opening Test match on February 22 might not be televised internationally, Sumathipala said they were confident of a fresh deal.

He declined to name with whom they were negotiating the coverage of the England tour, which includes three one day matches in addition to three Tests.

The Cricket Board said in a statement last month that WSG-Nimbus had failed to provide the required bank guarantee and therefore the agreement was broken.

However, other cricket sources said that WSG-Nimbus did not provide the bank guarantee because the board failed to provide confirmation for the itinerary for the entire three-year period until 2003.

Bacher to shun summons

Cricket
AFP, Johannesburg

Ali Bacher has no intention of complying with a summons from a Pakistani civil court to appear in a 1.7 million dollars libel suit filed by former Pakistani umpire Javed Akhtar.

The former South African cricket chief said Friday he would ignore the summons to appear in a Pakistani court.

Akhtar filed the case following evidence given by Bacher to the King Commission of Inquiry into cricket corruption in Cape Town last June. A civil court in Rawalpindi issued a summons to Bacher on Thursday.

But Bacher said in a statement issued in Johannesburg Friday: "My evidence before the King Commission was given as a result of my Board and the South African Government urging me to fully disclose any information known to me concerning match-fixing and corruption in cricket."

"I believe that I have honestly and openly testified and trust that this evidence will assist in some way to stamp out corruption in

world cricket.

"I do not intend to be drawn into litigation in Pakistan, particularly in view of the fact that I have been advised that the Pakistani court does not have jurisdiction in this matter."

Bacher told the King Commission that an Indian bookmaker, who he named only as "Mr R", had told him that one of the biggest

bookmakers in Karachi had flown to England before the fifth Test between England and South Africa at Leeds in August 1998 "to ensure that his client complied".

Bacher said he had previously asked the bookmaker whether Akhtar could have been "bought". When Bacher and the bookmaker met again in Mumbai in February 2000 "Mr R" referred to their previous conversation and told him: "The umpire concerned was on the payroll".

Bacher said many dubious decisions had been made in that match by Akhtar, who was the "neutral" umpire appointed by the International Cricket Council.

Bacher was managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) when he appeared before the King Commission. He is now chief executive of the 2003 World Cup organising committee.

Akhtar gave nine leg before wicket decisions in the match, eight against South Africa of which Bacher said seven were regarded as dubious. England won the series-deciding match by 23 runs.

Akhtar officiated in 40 one-day internationals and 18 Tests before retiring in 1999.

Upashantha up-and-coming

Cricket
REUTERS, Wellington

Eric Upashantha was not sure if he would be picked for the first one-day international of Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand, because senior seamer Chaminda Vass was on the road to recovery after injury laid him low near the end of the team's disappointing tour of South Africa.

But the 28-year-old insurance salesman recorded his career-best international bowling figures of four for 37 in Wednesday's easy victory over New Zealand at Napier.

land to give the Sri Lankans more seam-bowling ammunition. And he provided it in Napier, knocking off the top of the New Zealand innings when the home side were chasing 214 for victory.

He nabbed the first four wickets to fall in his 14th one day international - including Nathan Aspinall and Stephen Fleming in one over - and Muttiah Muralitharan

"I liked that wicket in Napier," he said. "It allowed me plenty of movement off the pitch and that's what bowlers like me like - a bit of help."

Upashantha has a smooth action and his lean frame lends itself to plenty of pace. He fancies himself as an all-rounder and says former Sri Lankan captain Ravi Ratnayake was his boyhood hero.

WI make it to the final

Cricket
AFP, Perth

Pacemen Nixon McLean, Cameron Cuffy and Laurie Williams rescued the West Indies from the jaws of defeat Friday night when they spearheaded their side to a 44-run victory over Zimbabwe in a crucial Carlton tri-nation series one-day cricket contest here.

The Windies trio stepped in to lead the rout of Zimbabwe for 134 in 42.3 overs after the West Indies had gathered a moderate 178 from their 47.2 overs at the WACA Ground.

The win means the West Indies will confront Australia next week in the best-of-three finals of the 120,000 US dollars contest.

McLean revived the West Indies' hopes when he produced a devastating burst at the start of the Zimbabwe innings as he snapped up 3-12 from his opening 21 deliveries.

He finished with 3-21 from nine penetrating overs.

Cuffy captured 1-17 from eight overs and Williams 1-31 from seven overs.

With big inroads already made into the Zimbabwe batting, off-spinner Marlon Samuels snapped up 3-25 from 7.3 overs.

Australia play Zimbabwe here Sunday in the last of the qualifying matches, but it will now have no bearing on the line-up for the showdown.

The West Indies made a poor fist of their innings after skipper Jimmy Adams had won the toss and chose to bat first on an excellent pitch in ideal conditions.

They struggled woefully to reach 73 for three from their first 25 overs, and would have been in dire straits but for a valuable knock of 83 not out from 98 balls by champion left-hander Brian Lara, who won the man of the match award.

Lara, batting at number four, saw eight partners depart as he battled to stabilise the innings.

The only significant support came from opener Daren Ganga (22 from 57 balls) and middle-order batsman Ricardo Powell (37 from 36).

West Indies innings was remarkable for its five run outs -- a figure which equals the record for

this method of dismissal in one-day internationals.

The statistic was the product of indecisive calling and running and razor-sharp Zimbabwe fielding.

The rot began early for the Windies when opener Sherwin Campbell was run out in a bizarre fashion.

As he set off for a single, he found his way barred by the bulky frame of Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak, who was attempting to field the ball.

Campbell, apparently believing Zimbabwe would not run him out in the unusual circumstances, made no attempt to run around Streak, and looked amazed when Trevor Madondo broke the wicket.

Umpires Darrell Hair and Simon Taufel conferred for several minutes and ruled Campbell run out after concluding that any contact with Streak was not wilful.

In another controversial incident shortly after, Ganga appeared to be lucky to be given not out by third (TV replay) umpire Randolph Woolridge after Streak seemed to take a legitimate catch at mid-on off fast bowler Bryan Strang.

Martina, Anna march on

Tennis
AFP, Tokyo

Martina Hingis pulverised any hopes of a local crowd by eliminating Japan's ace Ai Sugiyama to make a berth in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament on Friday.

The Swiss world number one took the first seven games in a row before Sugiyama started to fight back in the second set, but stood firm in the decider for a 6-0, 5-7, 6-1 victory.

Russian pin-up girl Anna Kournikova, third seed, wriggled her way through to a 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 win and avenged her loss to Anne-Gaëlle Sidot of France at Wimbledon last season.

Kournikova lost her serve to go down 4-5 and 5-6 in the first set, but each time she broke back to force a tie-breaker in which she chalked up a comfortable 4-1 lead before getting into her rhythm.

Eighth seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria earned a semifinal place against Hingis when she outclassed the last local hope, Shinobu Asagoe, 6-1, 7-6 (7/1) in 85 minutes.

"There were close calls in the second set, but that was not the problem. That was more of me losing concentration, I wasn't focused there," Hingis said of her second set lapse.

pics. got off to a sluggish start with a double fault on a break point, symbolising the remainder of the first set.

But Sugiyama never hesitated to attack, forcing Hingis to make some errors, and came back from one service break down three times in the second set. She broke again in the 12th game to even the match.

However, Hingis soon steadied herself and, although she lost the second game, never let the momentum get away to finish off the match in 96 minutes.

Hingis stretched her win-loss

record against Sugiyama to 5-1.

"Although I lost the first set 6-0, I was playing well, I had a chance to make it 3-3, so I never felt disappointed," said Sugiyama.

"I tried to galvanize myself in the second set and I started to play in my rhythm and hit better afterwards."

"But Martina has no vulnerable point. Maybe her second serve is the only chance that I can attack. So I attacked on her second serve. I think that's why I broke her serve several times in the second set," added Sugiyama.



Russian Anna Kournikova in action against Frenchwoman Anne-Gaëlle Sidot during their quarterfinal match of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday.