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Star SPORT

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2001, E-MAIL: dssports@gononet.com

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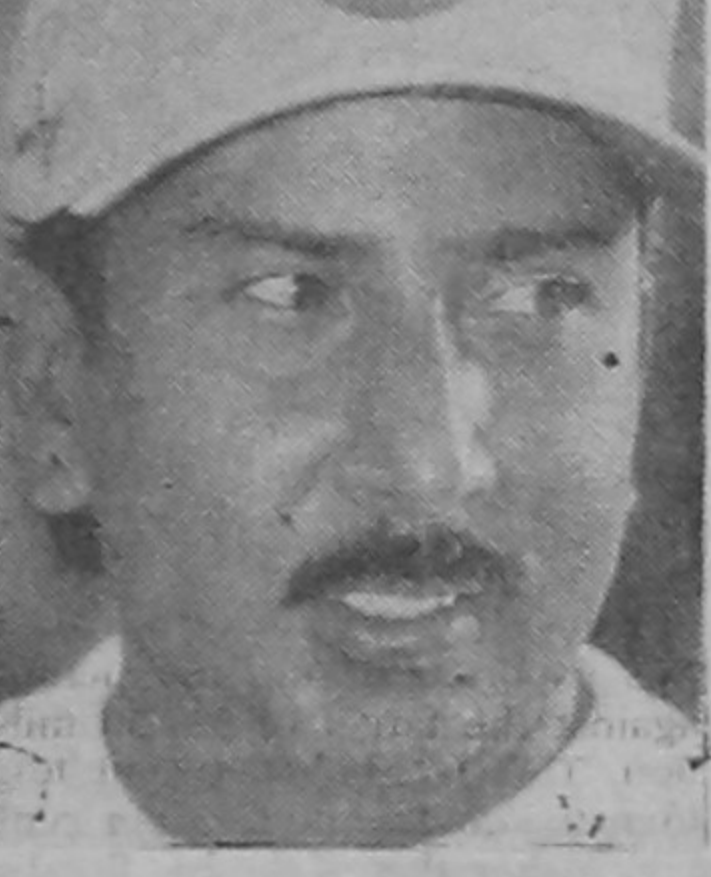


Did U Know?

American football descends from a rowdy medieval game in which, typically, the men, women, and children of one village attempted to kick, throw, or carry a ball across fields and streams to the fiercely defended portals of another village's parish church. By the nineteenth century, British schoolboys and university students had tamed the mayhem into something approximating modern soccer and rugby. Americans had occasionally played some forms of the pre-modern game, but the first intercollegiate contests occurred November 6, 1869, when Rutgers defeated Princeton in soccer by a score of 6-4, and May 15, 1874, when Harvard and McGill played to a scoreless tie in rugby.



Talk Turkey



Salim Malik
(Banned Pakistani batsman)
"I have filed cases against all the allegations and will prove my innocence."
About his life ban.



What to WATCH

ESPN
UEFA Champs' League
Leeds vs Anderlecht
Live at 1:30 am (Wednesday)
Australia vs West Indies
Carlton World Series
Finals highlights
12:00 pm

Star Sports
Cricket Talk Show
Harsha Online
8:30 am & 1:00 pm
New Zealand vs Sri Lanka
Fifth one-day international
11:00 pm (1hr highlights)

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 144
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Daily Star
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 Rajshahi Barisal Padma Tista 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?
Sampson Agassi Rafter
- Who lifted the Australian open womens' title?
Devonport Capriati Hings

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

New coach to be named on Feb 15?

SPORTS REPORTER

A new coach and a physio for the national team are likely to be named when Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury meets the media on Thursday.

Saber, who had a series of talks with prospective Australian coaches and physiotherapists, would arrive in town on February 14 after attending the ICC Executive Board meeting in Melbourne. None of the Board officials however could tell for sure who are going to be appointed.

It was only gathered that Saber met with Allan Robert Hunt, who was the physiotherapist of Bangladesh team for three months during the 1999 World Cup.

Saber negotiated with the candidates recommended by Rodney Marsh, Wayne Phillips and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB). The two former Australia cricketers -- Rodney and Wayne -- had promised the Board to help it in this regard when they toured Bangladesh along with the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy of Australia last month.

Premier League starts Feb 16

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

The start of the Premier Division Cricket League has again been deferred for reasons unexplained. The most colourful domestic event, involving twelve teams, was scheduled to commence at two city venues on Sunday. The League will now begin on Friday.

The decision to defer the League came after a meeting of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) at the BCB office Saturday night. Although the organisers gave a fresh date, the fixture was yet to be released.

"When we do announce the fixture on Tuesday hopefully there shouldn't be any problem," said CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul Haq to the reporters.

But as the organisers came under severe attack from Kalabagan officials during the lengthy meeting, the fact is that the League, beset by multiple problems even before a ball was bowled, is heading for an uncertain journey this year.

While Kalabagan remain adamant to continue their legal battle over the championship issue, after CCDM announced Abahani Krira Chakra the winners of last year, other teams including Mohammedian Sporting Club have expressed their dissatisfaction over the unnecessary delay.

Captains' cheers for championship

INTERNET, Melbourne

Captains of most of the Test-playing nations met in Melbourne on Monday and gave tentative approval to the ICC's proposed ten-year calendar and the creation of Test championship.

The calendar stipulates that all ten Test nations play each other on home and away basis over five years, ensuring a crowded calendar.

"The key is that when we get a break at least we can have a couple of weeks at a time not just a few days," Australian captain Steve Waugh said.

"It's important each country has a cricketers' association so they can get their point of view across to their cricket boards.

"The ten-year plan is great, a world championship of cricket, that's what cricketers are looking for and it's something to aspire to, to be the best nation."

Captains of eight of the ten Test nations attended the meeting. Only Nasser Hussain, preparing with the England side in Sri Lanka for their upcoming Test series, and Saurav Ganguly, busy with the Indian training camp ahead of Australia's tour to the country, were not in attendance. The new schedule was just one of the items on the agenda.

Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak said the team will be far busier but richer as a result.

"It's a lot of cricket so they're going to have to see how they can fit it all in but it's good that Zimbabwe will be able to play in it -- they'll get a lot of income from that," Streak said.

U-17 Asia Cup Three teams arrive today

SPORTS REPORTER

Three teams -- Kuwait, Pakistan and Malaysia -- will arrive in the city today to take part in the GrameenPhone second Under-17 Asia Cup, starting from February 15.

Kuwait will be the first team to arrive at 9:20 am followed by Pakistan who are due at 11:30 am. Malaysia are expected to reach at 7:40 pm.

Upon their arrival, teams will be taken straight to the Hotel Purabi, the official village for the ten-day meet. However, they might not be able to have any practice session today because of the dawn to dusk hartal called by the opposition political parties.

The other six guest teams will arrive in town by tomorrow. Meanwhile, umpires and match referees for the tournament held a meeting at the Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday.

Zia defeats Rousis

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Ziaur Rahman continued his impressive run in the 12th Goodricke Open International Chess Tournament when he won the battle of student against teacher in the seventh round at Calcutta yesterday.

Desperately looking for a second GM norm, Zia defeated Latvian GM Igor Rousis, who coached the Bangladesh team, which took part in Istanbul Chess Olympiad last year.

Zia, playing with piece adopted the Catalan Opening. He had a Rook, Bishop and Knight in addition to a passed pawn in the centre while his bespectacled teacher and Latvian number one had two Rooks. Zia played the endgame carefully to win a full point.

After a draw with India's Harikrishna, who has already got his two Grand Masters (GM) norms, in the sixth round, Zia now moved into the crowded third position. GM Joseph Gallagher of Switzerland took the solo lead at the end of the seventh round with six points.

Abdullah Al Rakib, another Bangladeshi IM competing in the event, ended his three-match losing streak when he drew with Amon Simutowe in this round. Rakib has now three points from seven games.

Rajshahi cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bright Star Club recorded a 26-run victory over Mukti Sangha in a match of the Rajshahi Premier Division Cricket League at the local district stadium yesterday.

Bright Star won the toss and decided to bat first. They collected 169 runs losing all in 49.5 overs.

In reply, Mukti were shot out for 143 in 38 overs.

Bring on the Aussies

Cricket

AFP, Madras

Indian cricket captain Saurav Ganguly on Monday warned Steve Waugh's all-conquering Australia to expect a tough Test series, saying his team will not be bowled over easily.

"They've had it easy at home, but India will be a different proposition altogether," an unusually aggressive Ganguly said after a week-long training camp for 25 probables.

Australia, who have not won a Test rubber on Indian soil since 1970, go into the long-awaited series riding high on a record 15 successive Test wins capped by a recent 5-0 rout of the West Indies.

Waugh's men, who consider India as the last frontier for their world-beating side, arrive on Wednesday for a seven-week tour that includes three Tests and five one-day internationals.

Ganguly stressed all the pressure will be on the tourists as they attempt to continue their golden streak.

"We beat them in India twice in 1996 and 1998, so it is the Australians who will be wary of playing us," the elegant left-hander said.

"They will have to make all the moves if they want to win. As far as I am concerned the Indian team is very capable of dealing with the challenge."

Ganguly said the absence of spin spearhead Anil Kumble through injury was a blow, but

insisted others were ready step into the leg-spinner's shoes.

The selectors picked seven spinners for the Madras camp, giving Ganguly and coach John Wright of New Zealand a variety to choose from.

Veteran Venkatapathy Raju, who last played for India in 1998, leads the pack of left-armers that includes Sunil Joshi, Rahul Singhvi and Murali Kartik.

Punjab's off-spin duo of Harbhajan Singh and Sarandeep Singh and exciting leg-spinner Balaji Rao complete the spin department.

Ganguly said all seven were capable of making the Test squad, but said he had not made up his mind on the likely line-up.

With seven new ball bowlers also in the camp, Ganguly said predictions of spin-friendly wickets were wide off the mark.

"I don't know where that came from," the Indian captain said, referring to reports that Wright and chairman of selectors Chandu Borde had ordered groundsmen to prepare lifeless tracks to thwart the Aussies.

Both Wright and Borde vehemently denied they had given any such instructions and Ganguly scoffed at suggestions India will play defensively to prevent losing to the world champions.

"It will be a close series. The team which handles the pressure better will win," he said.

"I am not worried because I have confidence in my boys. Don't write us off because we could surprise many."

Ganguly also took a swipe at Waugh, saying the Australian captain should have checked facts before saying it was unfair on the part of India to doctor wickets.

"How does Steve in Australia know what we are doing here," he said.

The Indian team, which will be picked on February 19, will assemble in Bombay a few days before the first Test starts at the Wankhede stadium on February 27.



SAURAV GANGULY

Mark in mystery

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

Senior Australian batsman Mark Waugh leaves here Tuesday unsure of what awaits him from Indian cricket officials, fans, and possibly even the local police.

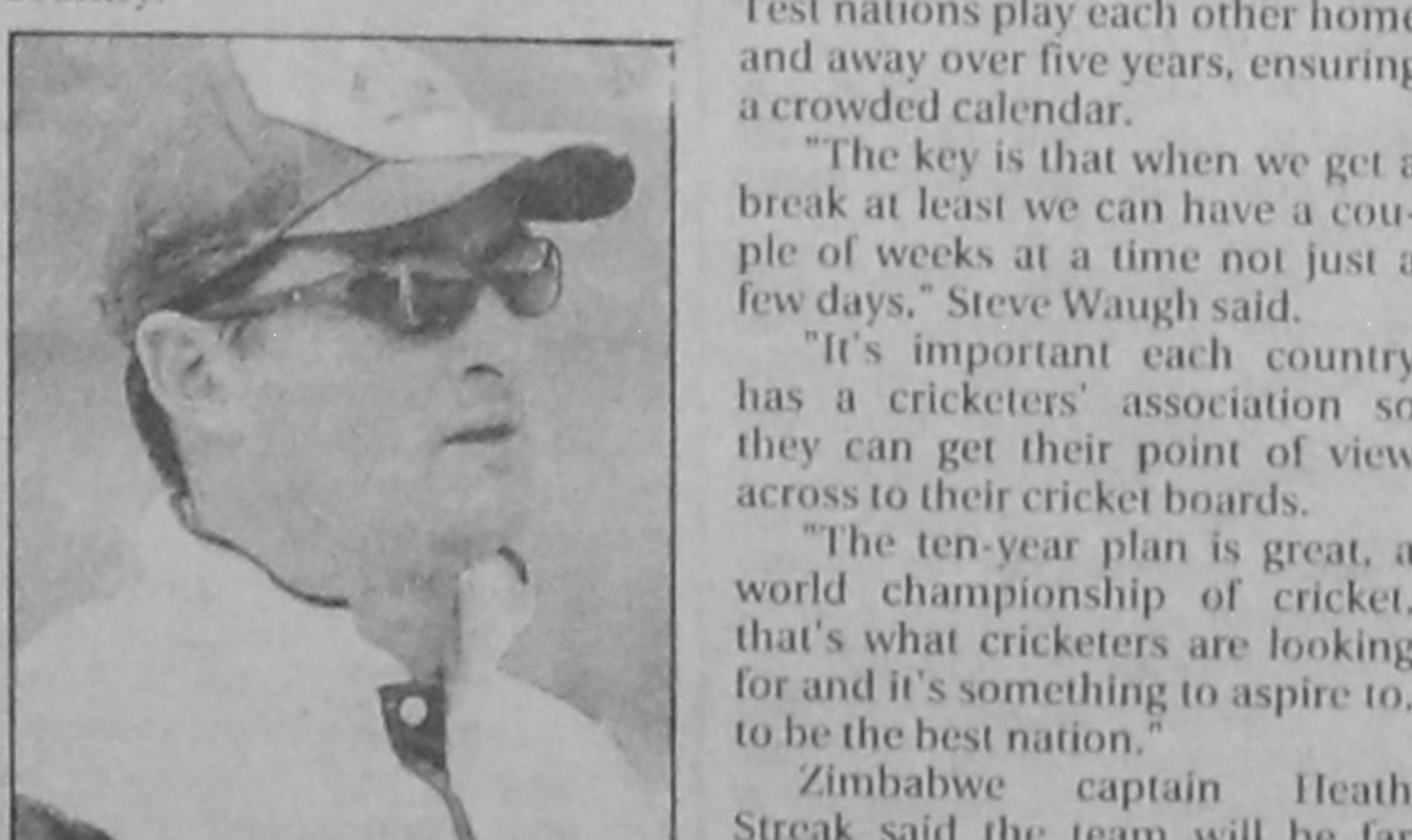
Waugh departs with the Australian team aware of a report that Foreign Affairs officials are on alert to help if Indian police seek to interview him in connection with allegations that he had accepted money from local bookmaker Mukesh Kumar Gupta.

Waugh's manager Leo Karis confirmed Monday the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) had kept his client informed on whether he could face any inquiries about the allegations contained in an Indian police report.

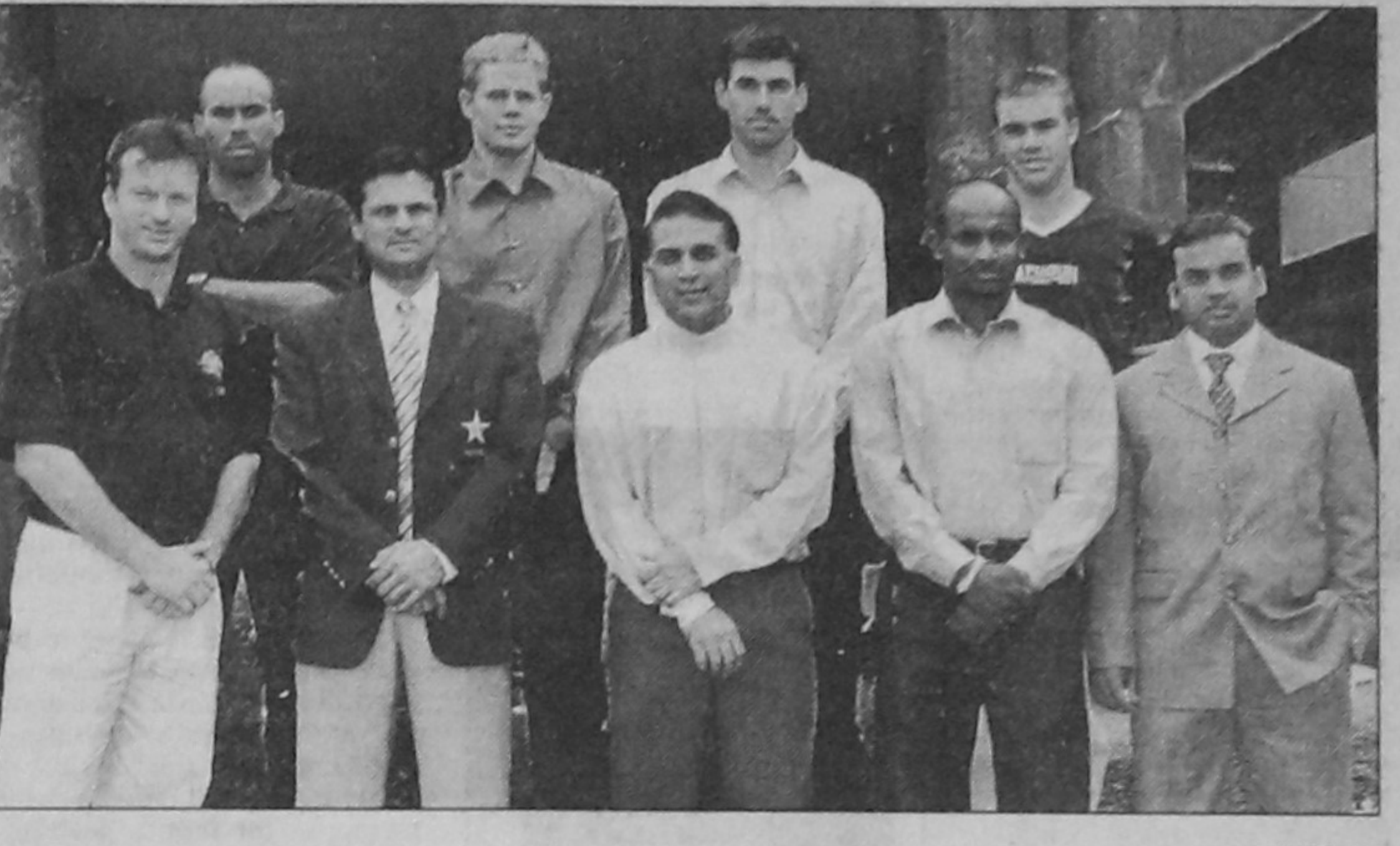
Australian captain Steve Waugh said today his brother Mark would be "a little apprehensive" but he expected him to be well informed on what he could face before the tour.

"He would have spoken to his lawyers and the cricket board and I'm sure they'll sort something out before he goes so he knows exactly what's going to happen and what will confront him over there to put his mind at ease," said Steve Waugh.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed said the Department of Foreign Affairs believed it was unlikely Waugh would be sought for an interview by Indian police but the department was available to help if needed.



MARK WAUGH



Captains of eight of the ten Test-playing countries (front row) Steve Waugh (L), Moin Khan (2nd from L), Sanath Jayasuriya (2nd from R), Naimur Rahman (R) and (back row L-R) Jimmy Adams, Shaun Pollock, Stephen Fleming, Heath Streak gather for a photograph along with Indian batting legend Sunil Gavaskar (C) after a meeting with the International Cricket Council in Melbourne yesterday.

BKSP turn up heat

Cricket

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) thumped down a huge 161-run defeat on Naila Memorial School in one of the four Dhaka metropolis qualifying matches of the Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank 19th National School Cricket Championship at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday.

Put into bat, BKSP scored amassed 279 for four in the stipulated 35 overs with middle-order Dhiman falling short of only nine runs from what could have been a well-deserved hundred.

In his scintillating 91, Dhiman, hammered five sixes and nine boundaries off only 60 balls.

Dhiman apart, Maruf, with an unbeaten 80 off 83 balls and Ashique, with 48 off just 27 balls, were the other notable run-makers.

Chasing the mammoth total, Naila Memorial were soon thrown off the track with BKSP new-ball bowlers in full cry. Asif and Nazmul claimed five wickets among them to fire out the opponents for 119 in 32.5 overs.

At the nearby Uttara Police Lines ground, Islamia High School

handed Gandaria High School a 112-run defeat. Alauddin scored a breezy unbeaten half-century to help Islamia High School notch a huge 268 for eight in allotted 35 overs after his captain elected to bat first. He made a 51-ball 74 with the help of a quartet of sixes and five fours.

Alauddin apart, Rakesh chipped in with a run-a-ball 53.

In reply, Gandaria, could muster 156 before they being all out in 23.5 overs.

At the Polytechnic Institute ground in Teigaon, New Model High School thrashed Motijheel Colony High School by nine wickets.

Chasing a paltry Motijheel total of 77 in 35 overs, they raced on to overhaul the target in only 9.2 overs. Opener Sakib topscored with 40.

In the other match of the day, Green Herald defeated Hammadia High School by six wickets.

Batting first, Hammadia scored 180 in a reduced 30-over-a-side match.

Opener Robin topscored with 50 followed by Sohel, who made 47.

In reply, Green Herald rattled up 185 in 27.4 overs with six wickets in hand. Opener Savio led the

successful chase with 62.

All for the sake of the game

Cricket

AFP, Melbourne

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday announced a new era of Test Championship cricket.

A new 10-year calendar outlines when all 10 Test-playing countries will take each other on in home and away series during every five-year period.

"The aim of both the tours programme and the ICC Test Championship is to add interest, context and status to Test match cricket," ICC President Malcolm Gray said.

"There was a feeling that one-day internationals were taking the spotlight away from Test matches," he said.

Cricket has been engulfed in a world-wide match-fixing scandal revolving around one-day matches.

Two points will be allocated to a team for winning a series and

one for a drawn rubber. The result of each new series will replace its previous equivalent in the table.

"It's intended there will be a trophy and it will be handed over from one country to another when they fall off the top position," Gray said.

The championship will begin with Pakistan's two-Test tour to England in May but initially the standings will be based on results over the last five years.

That means Steve Waugh's Australia, who have won a record 15 successive Tests, will be officially crowned world champion of Test cricket when the ICC's new championship gets underway in May.

Each Test series will be a minimum of two matches but the length of each series and dates of individual Tests will still be determined by individual cricket boards.

"This will be the first time a co-ordinated calendar of international cricket has been adopted, giving the opportunity for long-term planning and preparation,"

Gray said.

"It will also provide newer Test-playing nations such as Zimbabwe and Bangladesh with regular fixtures against all other teams."

The ICC also announced it would conduct a review of playing conditions in May, which will include the use of television replays in umpiring decisions, while a High Performance Manager will also be appointed to assist lesser nations prepare for the 2003 World Cup.

A fully professional independent international umpiring system will be brought in, consisting of 25 to 30 umpires.

"There was a feeling the regulation of the game on the ground was the one area of the game that wasn't completely professional," he said.

He denied it had anything to do with a perceived decline in current umpiring standards.

The decisions were announced after a two-day executive board meeting in Melbourne.

Battle of bottles

Cricket

INTERNET, Karachi

Seven leading Pakistani players have taken advantage of a legal loophole and fuelled a cola war involving two leading brands and the national cricket board.

Captain Moin Khan, Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis have signed up for a testimonial for soft drinks manufacturer Coca-Cola in spite of directives from PCB not to sign the deal, Pakistani sports website SportsMasala reported on Sunday.

Pakistan has a multimillion-dollar official contract with Pepsi which entitles the company to put a Pepsi logo on all players' kits, as well as branding home international series.

Each player gets around 30,405 USD every year from this deal, but there is apparently nothing in the

last weekend. Pakistan will play their first one-day international in Auckland on February 17.

Moin reportedly led his teammates in getting this contract, after obtaining general permission from the board to shoot an ad, without revealing the name of the product.

When Pepsi got wind of this, it approached PCB in protest, and the board directed players not to sign the deal, assuring them of compensation.

Magura cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Skyheart Cricket club earned a 94-run victory over Cricket School in the last match of the first round of the Continental Courier cricket tournament at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Batting first Skyheart made 217 for seven in the stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Cricket School collected 123 for nine in 30 overs.