

Busta Cup Guyana going strong

The race for the Busta Cup - the annual West Indies cricket championship - intensified Saturday on the second day of the final round of matches.

Barbados, joint leaders with Guyana on 45 points, faltered, conceding a first innings lead of 74 to fifth-placed Trinidad and Tobago at Bridgetown's Kensington Oval.

Guyana made a strong reply to the Windward Islands' first innings 350 at Bourda in Georgetown to be 179 for three wickets at close of play.

The Leeward Islands, in third place on 42 points, amassed a formidable first innings 402 against England "A" at Ronald Webster Park in Anguilla, and then reduced the English reserves to 119 for three by the end of play.

Defending champions Jamaica recovered after a first innings deficit of 58 to West Indies "B" a development team comprising under-23 players. They ended the second day ahead by 116 with all their second innings wickets in tact as Leon Garrick, 87, and left-hander Chris Gayle, 82, added 174 unbroken for the first wicket.

Only West Indian territorial teams are eligible for the Busta Cup. England "A", the first foreign team to participate, and West Indies "B" are playing for places in the Busta International Shield that features the top four finishers in the Busta Cup.

England "A" with 51 points, are already assured a place. West Indies "B" and the Windward Islands are the only two teams with no chance.

The day's play was dominated by spin bowlers.

Leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine, the leading wicket-taker in the tournament, carried his tally to 41 with three wickets for 54 as Barbados folded for 180 in reply to Trinidad and Tobago's 254. Left-arm wrist spinner Dave Mohammed, a 20-year-old in his second major match, had three for 30.

Another leg-spinner, Chris Schofield of England "A" took four of the last five Leeward Islands wickets for figures of four for 79. But the Leewards carried their overnight 300 for five to a formidable 402.

Wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs - 88 at the start - was out for an even 100, sharing a sixth wicket partnership of 145 with all-rounder Carl Tuckett who hit 84.

Dawes wrecks WA

Queensland paceman Joe Dawes claimed 6-19 to help skittle Western Australia for 78 on the opening day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match at the Gabba here Sunday.

Queensland took a grip on the game when they worked themselves to 178 for seven at the close on an eventful first day.

It was a five-star performance from Dawes, who has emerged from the shadow of Queensland's high-profile bowling attack to boast the most wickets in the competition this season.

The Brisbane policeman now has 28 wickets at an average of 17.32, enhancing the reputation of an attack which includes Test-quality bowlers Andrew Bichel and Adam Dale.

Tom Moody (five) was Dawes' first victim before the 30-year-old also claimed Simon Knitch (14), Brad Hogg (10), Matthew Nicholson (16), Jo Angel (zero) and top-scorer Brendon Julian (22).

Queensland began similarly poorly to be 38 for three before Martin Love (62 not out) continued his impressive season as he provided the backbone to the run chase.

His partnership with Bichel realised 49 runs which will prove valuable when the Warriors begin their second innings.

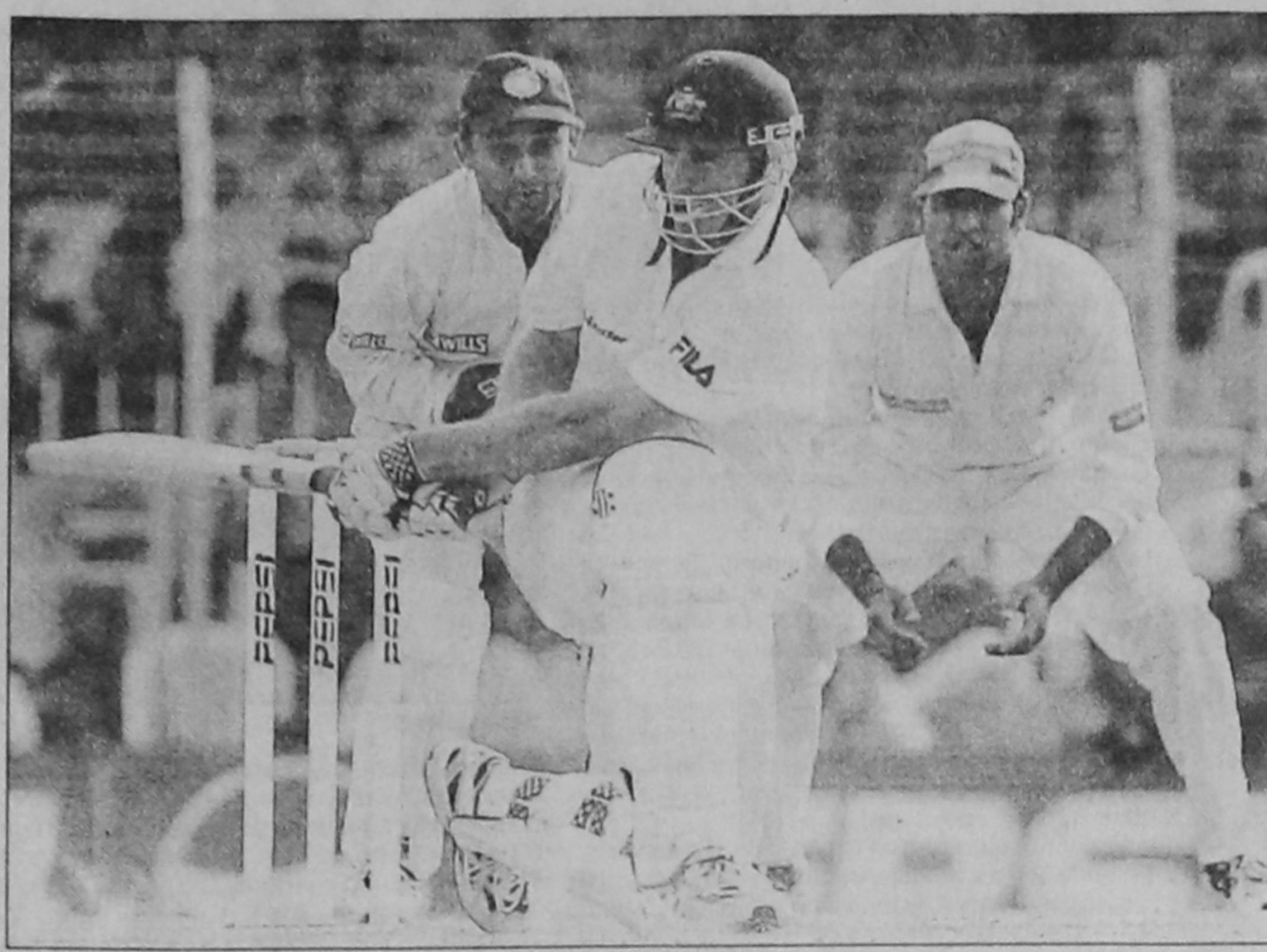
Shoaib storm

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-25, 3-26, 4-88, 5-89, 6-142, 7-147, 8-147, 9-149, 10-149.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Akram, Waqar, Razaq, Akhtar, Saqlain, Afridi.

PAKISTAN: Anwar b Vettori 48, Farhat c McMillan b Tuffey 5, Razaq c Oram b Vettori 19, Inzamamul b Harris 32, Youhana not out 30, Afridi not out 4, Extras (lb-7, w-2, nb-3) 12, Total (For 4 wickets in 50 overs) 150, Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-78, 3-85, 4-143.

Man-of-the-match: Shoaib Akhtar



Australian opener Mathew Hayden sweeps during second day's play of the three-dayer against India A yesterday.

Australians toil

Left-handed Ramesh, certain to open for India in the first Test starting at Bombay on February 27, shrugged off a lean season to score an attractive 101 with 20 hits to the fence.

Laxman, the likely number six in the Tests, enhanced his claims with a fluent 94 as the hosts raced to 231-1 after resuming at the overnight score of 71-1.

Even a dramatic collapse in the afternoon session, in which seven wickets fell for 56 runs, failed to deter the home team as wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia hit back with an unbeaten 71.

Mongia, hoping for a Test recall after being cleared of match-fixing charges by federal investigators, cracked 11 boundaries while adding 75 for the ninth wicket with Debashish Mohanty (28).

The tourists have another warm-up match against Sachin Tendulkar's Mumbai before the test series gets underway.

Australia, who have secured a record 15 consecutive Test wins, are looking to win their first series on Indian soil in 31 years.

Scoreboard on the second day in the three-day match between the touring Australians and India A at the Vidarbha Cricket Association ground here on Sunday:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Mohanty, Nehra, Harbhajan, Sanghvi.

AUSTRALIA: First innings: 291 (M. Hayden 49, R. Ponting 56, I. Gillespie 57, M. Kasproiwicz 92, B. Sanghvi 5-40)

INDIA A: First innings: 231 (Ramesh c Gilchrist b Gillespie 101, Laxman c Waugh b Gillespie 94, Mongia c Gilchrist b Miller 71, Badani c Waugh b Miller 71, Mongia not out 71, Rao c Fleming b Miller 6, Singh c Gilchrist b Miller 12, Sanghvi lbw b Miller 1, Mohanty c Slater b Miller 28, Nehra c Miller b Kasproiwicz 4, Extras: (lb-13, lb-10, w-1, nb-15) 39, Total: (All out in 97.4 overs) 368

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-231, 3-232, 4-232, 5-232, 6-264, 7-281, 8-287, 9-362

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Gillespie, Fleming, Miller, Kasproiwicz, Ponting.

AUSTRALIA: Second innings 20 (Slater c Rao b Harbhajan 11, Langer not out 11, Extras: (lb6, nb2) 8, Total: (For one wkt in eight overs) 39, Fall of wicket: 1-30

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Mohanty, Nehra, Harbhajan, Sanghvi.

Tour opener drawn Dilshan torments tourists

Scoreboard at the end of the four-day cricket match between a Board President's XI and England which ended in a draw here on Sunday:

BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI: First innings 253 (J. Kulatunga 54, M. Pushpakumara 52, N. Bandara-lake 73, M. Hoggard 3-28, R. Croft 3-63)

ENGLAND: First innings 418-7 decl. (M. Atherton 85, G. Thorpe 57, C. White 85 not out)

BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI: Second innings 41 (Parris c Hussain b Croft, Gunawardana c Trescottick)

England arrived at the grounds to resume their first innings at 418 for seven and Craig White, 15 runs away from his first tour century.

But they had to alter their plans and declare at their overnight total when play was delayed till after lunch after water seeped through the covers on one side of the wicket.

The carelessness, on the part of the ground staff, robbed England of valuable practice ahead of the first Test against Sri Lanka starting at Galle on Thursday.

The Board President's XI trailing by 165 runs in the first innings wiped off the deficit before the match ended scoring 234 for seven wickets.

From England's point they had something to feel happy about when their leading spinner Giles came onto bowl in the second innings.

Although he went for a lot of runs, his presence on the field at least confirmed that he was fit and ready for the first Test.

England captain Nasser Hussain said that he had reported Board President's XI fast bowler Ruchira Perera to the Sri Lanka Cricket Board after the bowler had a verbal exchange of words with England batsman Craig White during the England innings on Saturday.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Dilshan, Kumar, Dilakarathne, Kulatunga, Pushpakumara, Bandara-lake, Fernando.

Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-76, 3-139, 4-169, 5-174, 6-190, 7-190.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Caddick, Hoggard, Giles, Croft, White, Vaughan.

World 1 No Martina Hingis of Switzerland waves to the crowd after defeating Austrian Barbara Schett in the Qatar Open semifinal in Doha on February 17.



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Acme Div 2 cricket Bipul lifts Jatrabari

Bipul scored an unbeaten half-century as Jatrabari Krira Chakra recovered from a shaky start to post a three-wicket win over Partex SC in the lone Acme Second Division Cricket League match at the Mirpur Outer Stadium yesterday.

Bipul hammered 77 not out as Jatrabari, chasing a fighting Partex total of 135, reached the victory target in 135 overs.

The middle-order batsman clubbed seven fours and a six in his 115-ball undefeated knock. He put 143 runs for the fourth wicket with Mustak after Jatrabari had been reduced to 15 for three in five overs. Mustak scored an equally impressive 69 off 97 balls.

BRIEF SCORES Jatrabari KC vs Partex SC Partex SC 183 all out in 44.4 overs (Shakil 49, Bishwajit 24, Nasir 4/32, Mukul 3/26)

Jatrabari KC 184 for 7 wickets in 43 overs (Bipul 77 not out, Mustak 59, Azad 5/20)

Result: Jatrabari Krira Chakra won by 3 wickets.

Int'l jr tennis UNB, Dhaka

Host players lost their final round matches in the 15th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis tournament at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

Seong Kwan Kim of Korea beat Amol Roy of Bangladesh 6-1, 6-1 while Indian Vinod Kumar Sewa beat another local player Alamgir Hossain 6-3, 6-3 in the boys' singles.

Bangladesh's Dyuti Shanchaeta lost to Eriko Wada of Japan in the girls' singles by 6-2, 6-1.

The other boys' singles results: Sunil Kumar (India) beat Seo Yung Bum (Korea) 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, Anuwat Dalomom (Thailand) beat Wu Yi Chang (Taipei) 6-4, 6-0, Cheuk Wai Hui (Hong Kong) beat Shih Chueh Cheng (Taipei) 6-2, 6-1, Rohan Gajjar (India) beat Chang Yoo Yun (Taipei) 6-0, 6-1, Arun Prakash (India) beat Hsheh Waiva Cheng (Taipei) 6-0, 6-1, Karan Rastogi (India) beat Hyun Joon Suk (Korea) 1-6, 6-0, 6-3, Timu Stephen (Canada) beat Rahul Rajkheva (India) 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4, Al Nabhani Mohammed (Oman) beat Chang Kai Lung (Taipei) 6-2, 6-1, Yu Hui Tung (Hong Kong) beat Liu Tai Wei (Taipei) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, Jong Guk Ho (Korea) beat Kokurin Ivan (Uzbekistan) 6-2, 6-1 and Vikram Sane (India) beat his compatriot Shahrear Haider 6-2, 6-2.

In the girls' singles - Yoo Mi Jung (Korea) beat Tung Phong Montine (Thailand) 6-7(1), 6-1, 6-1, Wang Tin Wen (Taipei) beat Duki Zam 6-0, 6-0, Joung Jahee (Korea) beat Jessica Hoahb (Australia) 6-2, 6-3 and Kim So Jung (Korea) beat Septi Nindya Yutami (India) 6-3, 7-5.

Some 99 players from 20 countries, including hosts Bangladesh, are taking part in the 111-junior under-18 world ranking junior circuit group-3 competition.

Tim, Andreas showdown

Top seed Tim Henman and titleholder Andy Vinciguerra will meet in the final of the Copenhagen Open after contrasting semifinal victories on Saturday.

Henman earned himself the chance of the seventh ATP title of his career after beating the repetitive serve and volleying of Dutchman Jan Siemerink 6-3, 7-6.

Vinciguerra has the opportunity to defend the first title of his career. But he was made to work exceptionally hard for his 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 success over fellow teenager Mikhail Youzhny.

Henman's performance was much more convincing, even though he failed to take three match points at 5-4 in the second set and had to wait a further 20 minutes before getting another chance.

"There is always an element of anxiety when you don't finish it off and I didn't think I was striking the ball as well as I had the previous day. But I don't want to be too critical of myself," said Henman.

He prefers instead to focus on serving statistics which for the second day were impressive.

Against Bohdan Ulihrach he did not drop a point behind his delivery in the second set. Yesterday he held serve throughout the match, dropping just nine points on his delivery.

He also threatened Siemerink's serve constantly for a set and a half, missing two break points in the fifth game, breaking in the seventh and the ninth games and earning two more break points in the sixth game of the second set.

Henman was always the more forceful and dangerous off the ground, both with service returns and in the rallies, but his failure to convert created a tense finish.

Sachin avoids first duel

India's Sachin Tendulkar will miss a keenly-awaited confrontation with Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath next week because of a calf muscle injury, officials said on Sunday.

Tendulkar and teammate Ajit Agarkar will not play for Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai in a three-day match against the tourists at the Brabourne stadium in Bombay from February 22.

Mumbai Cricket Association official Ratnakar Shetty, however, clarified that Tendulkar will be fit by the time the first Test starts at the Wankhede stadium in Bombay on February 27.

"Sachin pulled a calf muscle and Agarkar damaged his ankle during the national team's camp at Madras," Shetty said.

John Wright (the national coach) confirmed the injuries were not serious, but he wanted both to rest before the Test match.

Tendulkar's absence from the warm-up match will have disappointed McGrath, who opted out of the ongoing tour opener at

Tendulkar could be the highlight of the three-Test series, had told the team management he would rather play his first match at Bombay.

When Australia last toured India in 1998, Tendulkar smashed a brilliant 204 for Mumbai in the tour opener, and went on to mastermind the home team's 2-1 win in the Test series.

McGrath, who missed the previous tour with injury, wanted to have a go at Tendulkar before the series begins.

"The game against Mumbai is an excellent chance to tackle Sachin," said McGrath, one of the finest fast bowlers in contemporary cricket with 309 wickets in 67 Tests.

"He can always get the ascendancy by scoring a big knock. But if I can knock him over a couple of times, it can set the tone for the series."

Australia, who come off a record 15 consecutive Test victories, are looking to win their first series on Indian soil in 31 years.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Nagpur to have a go at the champion batsman in the next game. McGrath, whose duels with

Akhtar action questioned

Perth I said I was pretty sure about myself. There is nothing wrong with my action," Shoaib said.

"I played in the (1999) World Cup, there were so many great people there and nobody objected.

"John Reid was match referee for three whole years and he never objected. I won't say he was racist but it wasn't good to see.

"It's never been wrong, I've never changed my action."

Shoaib believed he and Australian paceman Brett Lee, commonly rated the world's fastest bowlers, were unfairly treated by people who questioned their bowling actions.

"Guys like Brett Lee and myself, we like to charge in and people really want to see it. Let us play please, don't put us under pressure," Shoaib said.

"There's nothing wrong with Brett Lee either, I'll always back him up. We're good for the game."

New Zealand's shell-shocked camp was diplomatic about the legality of Shoaib's action.

Captain Stephen Fleming was guarded when asked whether the laws of the game were being applied properly.

"They're always reviewed and that's important. You have to keep reviewing them and it's certainly not up to players these days to make those decisions," Fleming said.

"We trust that the processes in place will take care of those sort of situations."

Fleming conceded Akhtar's action made it tough for the batsmen.

"It's very quick. We've got enough troubles just watching the ball so we'll leave it up to others.

"It's very difficult to see, very quick from the other end."

Tony Blair, a former New Zealand Test wicketkeeper, repeatedly questioned Shoaib's action again Sunday on national radio.

Brian Waddle, another high-profile local radio commentator, also condemned Shoaib's action during the broadcast on Radio Sport.

Zia sings Boycott song

build on his guidance and help youngsters to raise their standard," Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia told the news agency.

"Boycott has made videos of some 60 young players and that can help our coaches to take on from where Boycott has left."

Boycott, hired on a whopping 30,000 pounds for 12 days, left for Sri Lanka to take up a commentary job on the England-Sri Lanka series and we are determined to

Several former Test players here had criticised the contract as a "waste of money."

"We will not hesitate in calling any other foreign coach to improve overall structure of cricket in Pakistan," Zia said.

Pakistan have lost four home series on the trot in the last two and a half years and their recent 1-0 loss against England sparked a public outcry.

Before departing Boycott said Pakistani players were receptive and that he enjoyed the job.

"Like all youngsters Pakistani youth also need training and I found them very receptive and enthusiastic in taking guidance," said Boycott.

"After watching them in the nets I tried to remove their flaws by telling them on video where and what they did wrong."

"I have been a great admirer of Pakistani talent and the flair in the players, all they need is to streamline their talent."

During the 12-day training Pakistani coaches closely watched Boycott's style.

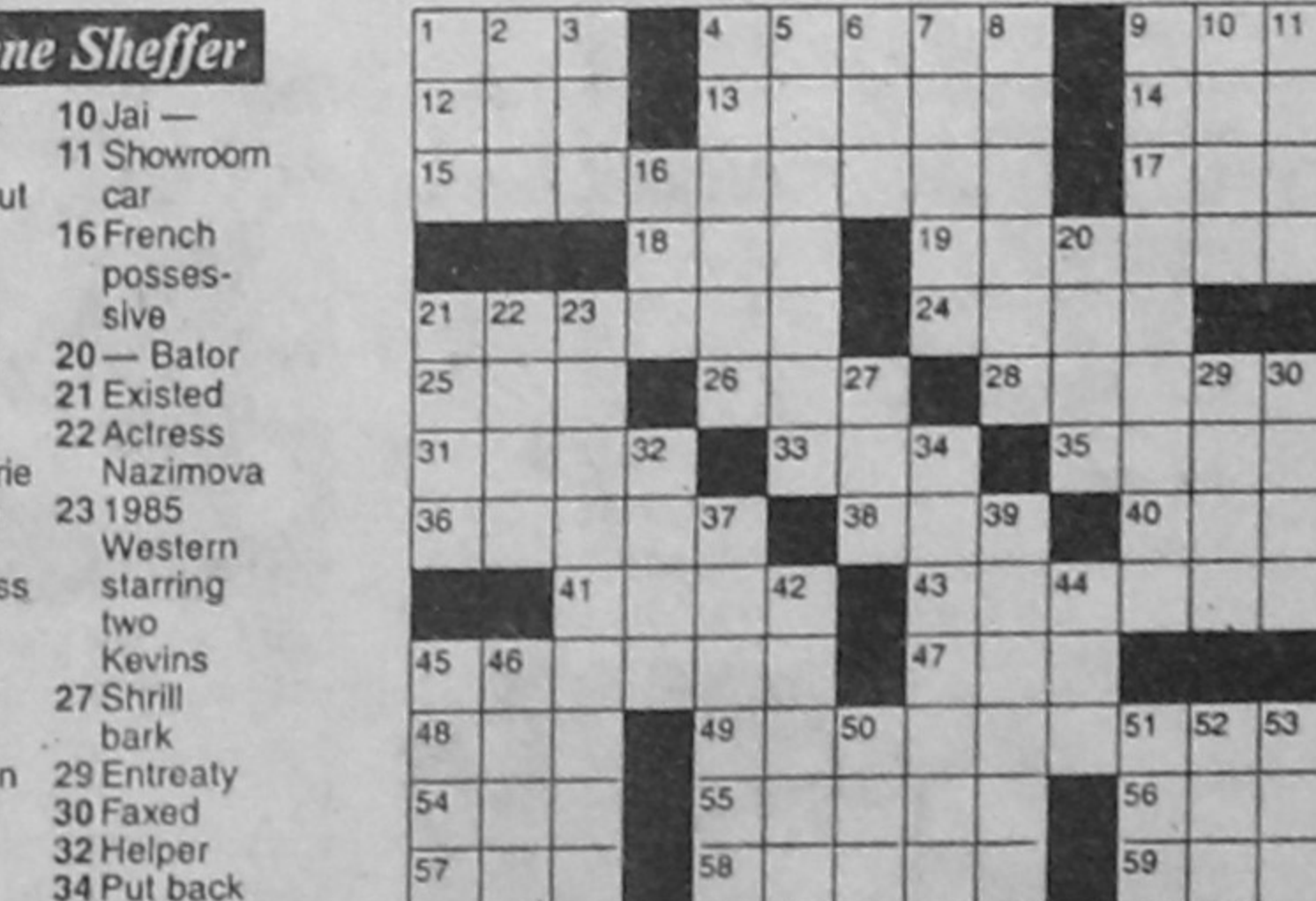
"It matters a lot who is coaching you and Boycott's short but effective coaching will surely help youngsters," coach Khatib Rizwan said.



Eriko Wada of Japan in action against Bangladesh's Dyuti Shanchaeta in the girls' singles match of the International Junior tennis tournament at the Ramna National Tennis Complex yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Bypass with the remote 4 Chancellor's general 9 Peregrinate 12 Night bird 13 Suspension of breathing 14 Flamenco cheer 15 Presidents of Washington's capital 17 Felon's flight 18 Goller Ernie 19 Sound stage, e.g. 21 Hound type 24 Some sushi 25 New Haven student 26 Crally 28 Freeway exists 31 Big name in scat 33 Anvil locale 35 Cleo's waterway 36 Course-plottling sci. 38 Corral 40 Perfect score 41 Gouda's cousin 43 1935 Astaire flick 45 Corrida figure 47 Terrorist's weapon 48 "There - tide -" 49 Mycenaean period 54 Bygone days, in bygone 57 Journal sci. 58 Leave out sounds 59 London forecast 1 Menagerie 2 Piercing tool 3 Thickness 4 Trump's speech 5 Letter ex 6 Literary collection 7 Thick 8 Spring break 9 "The Vicar of Wakefield" author 10 Jai - kid 11 Showroom 16 French possessive 20 - Bator 21 Existed 22 Actress Nazimova 23 1985 Western starring two Kovins 27 Shril bark 29 Entreaty 30 Faxed 32 Helper 34 Put back on key 37 Render unintelligible 39 Hose end 42 Aesopian lesson 44 Chart format 45 Layer 46 Christiania 50 Kimono belt 51 Politico London 52 Sticky stuff 53 Early bird?



CRYPTOQUIP UP BE CVA ED RPCU U BR K BDCYWA XH FVWIEH CK EPW FPBYBCRP? " I B N W E P B E C N X " Saturday's Cryptogram: IF FOUR BROTHERS SHOULD ALL CHIM IN TO BUY A YACHT, IT'D BE A RELATIONSHIP. Today's Cryptogram Clue: C equals O. The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.