

Sanath says 'sorry'

REUTERS, Kandy Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya on Sunday apologised for his behaviour during the second Test defeat to England. Jayasuriya, fined and given a four-match suspended ban following his second-innings dismissal on Friday, said: "I got suspended and I regret what I did. As a captain, I shouldn't have..."

Superpowers cruise

FROM PAGE 13 start scoring two goals within the first 14 minutes. Skipper Baljot opened the account with a spectacular reverse hit in the 3rd minute while Pillay, the experienced Indian ace, got on the scoresheet 11 minutes later. After the second goal, the Indians relaxed giving the Scots a chance to come back into the game. And they obliged when Graham Joyce blasted the board off a pass from James Bunes in the 24th minute.

The second half was all India as they launched a series of offensives. Baljot converted a penalty corner in the 55th minute for his second and then fed Pillay seven minutes later to make it 4-1.

Deepak Thakur completed the rout off a long corner in the 66th minute.

Baljot received the man-of-the-match trophy.

EGYPT 4 MALAYSIA 2

The game was effectively over as a contest when newcomers Egypt shot into a 3-0 lead by half-time.

Bela converted two penalty corners in the 10th and 14th minutes while defender Hossam Ibrahim sealed the first half with a field goal in the 22nd minute.

Abdel Fattah made it 4-0 for Egypt from another penalty corner in the 49th minute.

After conceding four goals, Malaysia, who have a long tradition in Asian hockey, staged a late second half rally and scored two goals within three minutes.

But they needed a penalty stroke in the 62nd minute to beat Egypt goalkeeper Osama Hassan-seeen who was in stunning form. Skipper Shanmuganathan converted it. Zaharin Zakaria then scored off a penalty corner in the 65th.

Nat'l chess

FROM PAGE 13 basis final phase for the prestigious national crown.

Three top-seeded players of the country - Grand Master Niaz Murshed, defending champion IM Reefat Bin Sattar and last year's runner-up IM Ziaur Rahman - will directly play in the final round along with nine qualified players.

Interested players have been requested to send their entry by tomorrow 7 pm.

Hattrick hero

FROM PAGE 13 a confident appeal for a catch behind the wicket off left-arm spinner Venkatapathy Raju.

He plays showed Langer get a thin edge before the ball lodged in wicket-keeper Mongia's gloves.

Australia made one change from the side that won the first Test, replacing seamer Damien Fleming with fast bowler Michael Kasprzowicz.

India recalled veterans Raju and Venkatesh Prasad to bolster the attack in the absence of the injured duo of Anil Kumble and Javagal Srinath.

Both Dravid and Ramesh, who were suffering from viral fever for the last two days, were declared fit to play.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second Test between India and Australia at the Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Table with columns: AUSTRALIA: First Innings, Slater c Mongia b Zaheer, Hayden c sub b Harbhajan, Langer c Mongia b Zaheer, M Waugh c Mongia b Harbhajan, S Waugh not out, Ponting lbw b Harbhajan, Gilchrist lbw b Harbhajan, Warne c Ramesh b Harbhajan, Kasprzowicz lbw b Ganguly, Gillespie not out, Extras: (b-11, lb-7, nb-6), Total (for 8 wks in 90 overs), Fall of wickets: 1-103, 2-193, 3-214, 4-236, 5-252, 6-252, 7-252, 8-269, Bowler O M R W.

(Note: Zaheer Khan was injured after sending down four balls of his 19th over. Saurav Ganguly completed the over.)

Tough task awaits Kiwis

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

New Zealand put on their best opening stand in 20 Test innings Sunday but were still in need of a cracking world record to beat Pakistan on the first day of the first Test here.

On a day when just three wickets fell as the portable pitch flattened even further, New Zealand reached 105 for one at stumps on day four in pursuit of 431 to win.

Only a needless run out of Matthew Bell for 26, ending an opening stand with Mark Richardson of 91 in 128 minutes, stopped New Zealand going into day five with all wickets intact.

It left them with 103 overs to score the remaining 326 runs and grab an unlikely win. It would top the 406 for four India scored against the West Indies 15 years ago as the highest successful Test run chase.

The New Zealand record was set against Pakistan in Christchurch in 1994, when Bryan Young and Shane Thomson centuries assisted a successful pursuit of 324.

New Zealand's big task was set by a majestic 149 not out by Younis Khan - his third Test century in just his 10th match - which helped Pakistan declare at tea on 336 for five.

Then New Zealand's new opening combination of Richardson and Bell recovered from double failures in the first innings to confidently add 91 in the first 29 overs.

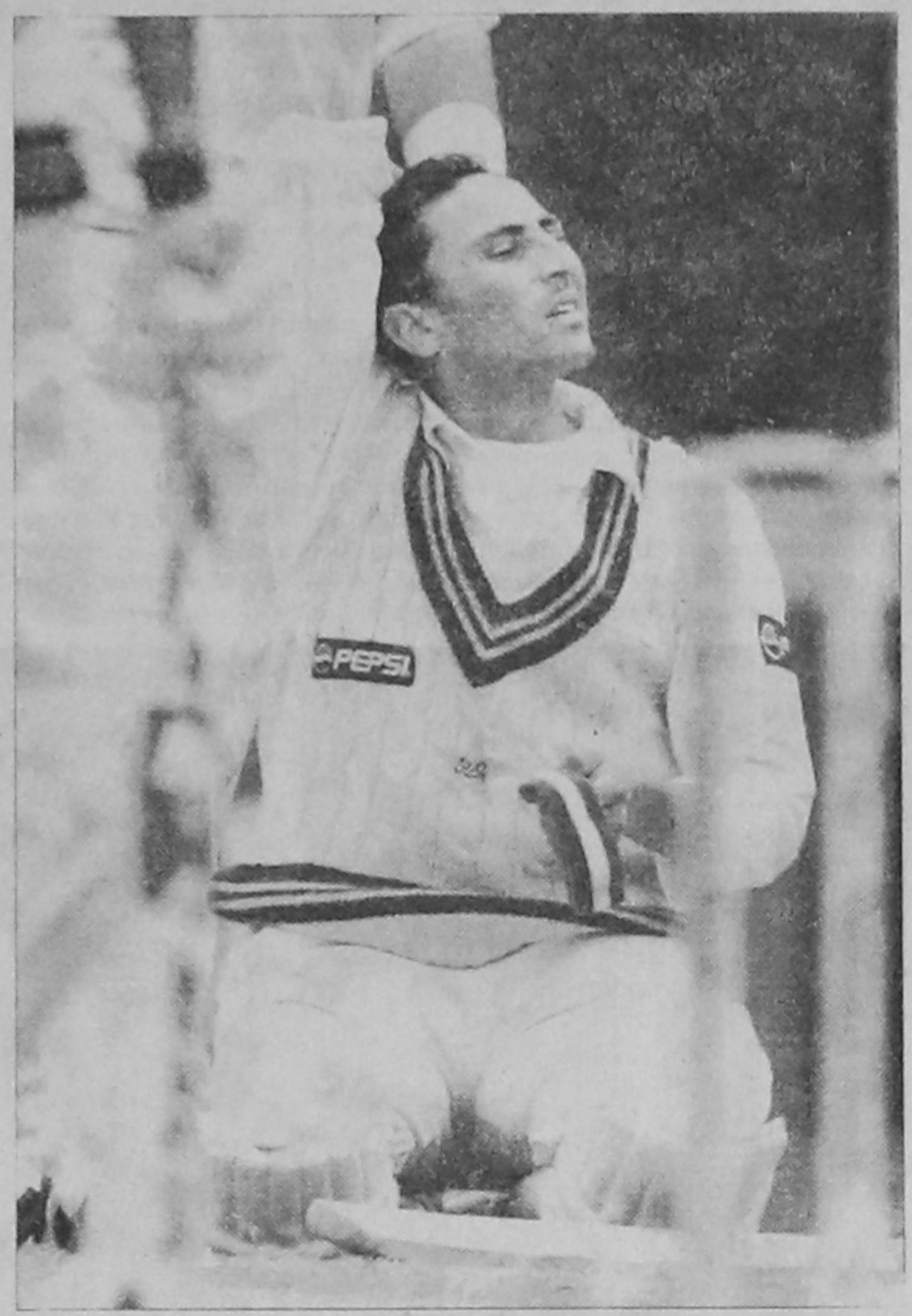
In a terrible mix-up when Richardson called Bell through, Bell hesitated and was beaten by a throw to the bowler's end by centimetres.

Third umpire Brent Bowden gave him out after a promising 128 minutes, 74-ball innings. Richardson was unaffected, confidently reaching his fifth Test 50 off 102 balls that included eight fours.

He will resume his innings Monday with nightwatchman Paul Wiseman. Pakistan's batsmen showed up the inexperience of New Zealand's four frontline bowlers, who total just 20 caps among them.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on day four of the first Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at Eden Park Sunday.

Table with columns: Zealand and Pakistan at Eden Park Sunday. PAKISTAN: First Innings 346, NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 252, PAKISTAN: Second Innings (98-3 overnight), Farhat c and b Wiseman, Ullahi c Wiseman b Tuffey, Misbah c Parore b Tuffey, Youhana c Astle b Franklin, Mushtaq c Parore b Tuffey, Younis not out, Iqbal not out, Extras: (4-b, 6-lb, 1-nb), Total (for 5 wks dec, 103 overs) 336, Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-59, 3-97, 4-110, 5-189, Bowler O M R W.



Pakistani Test centurion Younis Khan takes a break during his sterling knock on the fourth day of the first Test against New Zealand yesterday.

Steve, Jason split for a noble cause

Cricket

AFP, Canberra

Steve Waugh and Jason Gillespie will captain opposing sides for the historic indigenous cricket match at Manuka Oval here on April 19.

The Australian skipper will head the Prime Minister's XI while Test paceman Gillespie will captain an ATSIC chairman's XI in the 40-over match.

Prime Minister John Howard and ATSIC chairman Geoff Clark said they were delighted the two players, who have both contributed to the success of the world record-breaking Australian team, had agreed to lead their respective sides.

"Steve (Waugh) expressed a very strong interest as soon as he heard about it during the Sydney Test (in January) and we had a talk after the Test," Howard said Sunday.

"We rearranged the date of the game so that any of the players that were playing in India would be back in Australia and they could participate."

S Asian boxing Bangladesh finish second

Cricket

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh secured second position in the South Asian under-19 Boxing Championship held in Kathmandu from March 6-10, according to a message received here yesterday.

Nepal topped the medals table. Nepal, Bangladesh and India grabbed eight gold medals each, but Nepal collected 11 silvers to earn the top spot against Bangladesh's eight, India got one silver.

Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and hosts Nepal took part in the championships.

MEDALS TABLE Nepal G S B, Bangladesh 8 8 1, India 8 1 0, Sri Lanka 2 6 3.

England coach refused British passport!

Cricket

AFP, London

Duncan Fletcher, the coach of the England cricket team for the past 18 months, has been refused a British passport, he told the Sunday Telegraph.

The Zimbabwe-born coach said he had been informed by immigration officials that he does not meet nationality rules.

Despite protesting that mounting tensions under President Robert Mugabe's regime had prompted him to emigrate, and having British grandparents, he was told he had failed to qualify.

Fletcher moved his wife, Marina, and daughter Nicola to Cape Town, South Africa, but has spent barely nine weeks with them since taking on the England job 18 months ago.

"I applied the first time 10 years ago but was turned down. I didn't push it then but I tried really hard recently, and was refused again," he told the paper.

"I am determined to get a British passport and it does seem strange, with my background, and now having this job as coach of the national team, that my application hasn't been accepted."

A Home Office spokesman said he could not comment on individual cases.

Navy tennis, squash

Cricket

AFP, Indian Wells

Martina Hingis led the way into the fourth round of the Tennis Masters Series tournament here on Saturday night, riding her current wave of confidence to a 6-3, 6-0 win over a Spanish challenger.

Like most early-round opponents, Cristina Valero proved to be no match for the world number one, aiming for a third straight tournament title after winning back-to-back events in the Gulf last month.

"The most important thing is to go into the Grand Slams with confidence," Hingis said as she looked ahead to the French Open in May and said she hoped to remedy mistakes she made in Melbourne.

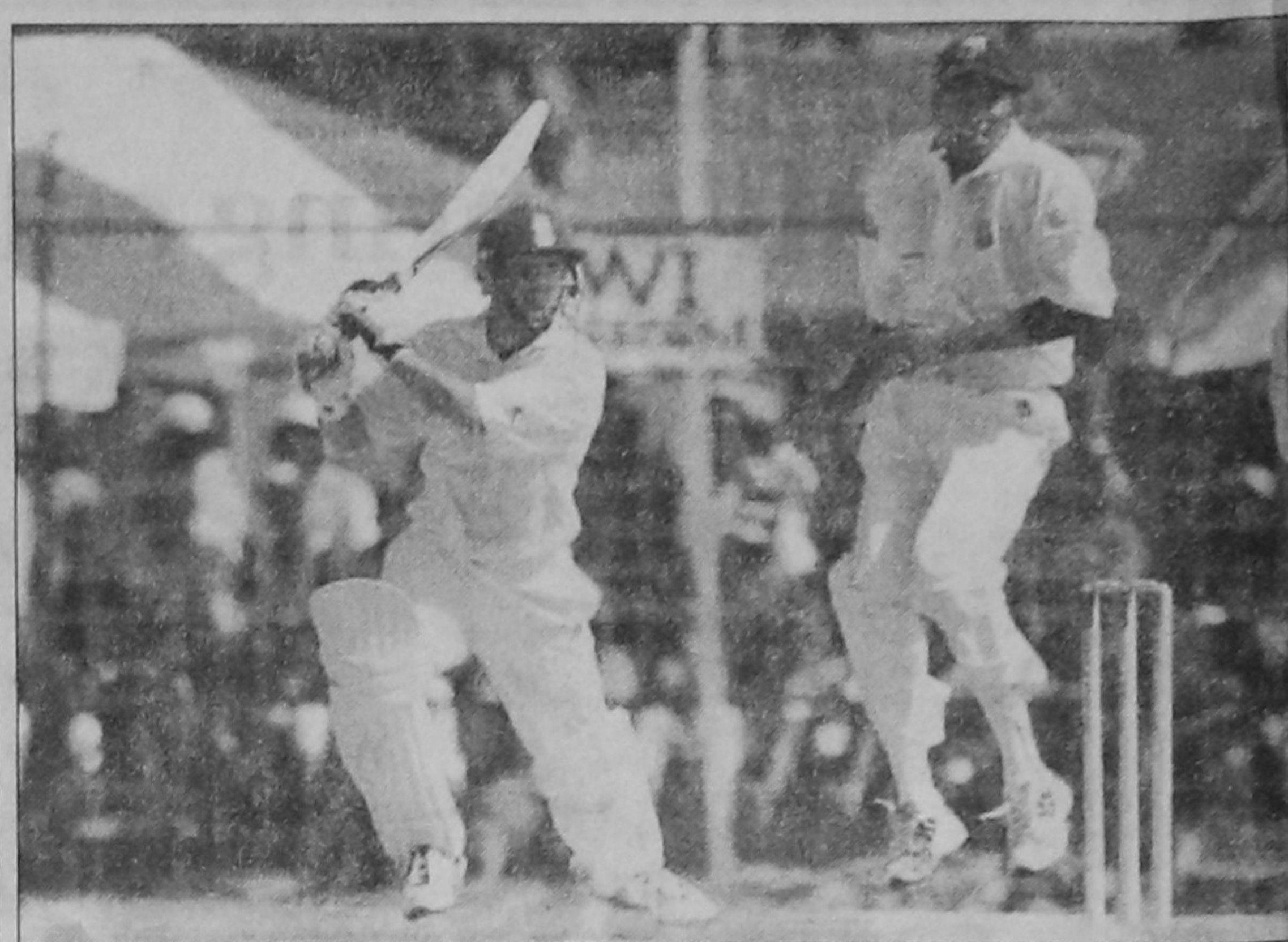
"I had confidence going into the Australian, I won the tournaments before (Hopman Cup and Sydney)."

"I beat the Williams sisters in Melbourne, that made me very happy. But in the final I just didn't have enough energy any more."

There is no danger of Hingis having to play both sisters before the final here as she did in Australia.

The US pair is down in the bottom half of the draw opposite to the top-seeded Swiss and could meet each other in the semi-finals.

Hingis took the title here in 1998 and lost the final last year against Lindsay Davenport, her longtime rival and world number two.



Gary Kirsten of South Africa hits a boundary as Ramnareh Sarwan of the West Indies leaps out of the way during the second day of the first Test match in Georgetown Saturday.

Kirsten, Kallis dig in

Cricket

AFP, Georgetown

Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis shared a century stand as South Africa moved into a strong position on the second day of the first Test against the West Indies at the Bourda ground Saturday.

South Africa were 130 for one at the close of play in reply to a West Indian total of 304.

Kirsten made 80 not out and Kallis was unbeaten on 39 as they batted soundly on a slow, lifeless pitch.

The only West Indian success came when fast bowler Mervyn Dillon bowled Herschelle Gibbs for eight with a ball which cut back sharply when the South African total was on 25.

New West Indies captain Carl Hooper made 69, his highest score in five Tests at his home ground, to enable his team to post a respectable total after they had resumed at a precarious 232 for seven.

It was a total which did not seem likely when Dinanath Ramnarine was run out for five in the second over of the morning.

Hooper tried to steal a single off the last ball of the over from opposite number Shaun Pollock but stopped in mid-pitch as Gibbs swooped from backward point.

Ramnarine sacrificed himself by setting off for a hopeless run as Gibbs trotted in to break the stumps. But Hooper found support from number ten batsman Dillon, who was content to play defensively while his captain farmed the strike and hit some sparkling offside strokes.

Kirsten, playing in his 69th Test, a record for South Africa, reached his half-century off 109 balls with eight fours.

Leg-spinner Ramnarine gave both batsmen some awkward moments but the pitch was too slow for him to hurry the batsmen into their shots.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the second day of the first Test between the West Indies and South Africa at the Bourda ground Saturday.

Table with columns: WEST INDIES: First Innings (overnight 232-7), Finds c Boje b Pollock, Gayle c Boucher b Kallis, Samuels b Boje, Lara c Dillon b Kallis, Sarwan b Donald, Hooper not out, Jacobs lbw b Donald, McLean b Klusener, Ramnarine run out, Dillon not out, Extras: (b-2, lb-12, w-2, nb-9), Total: (for 8 wks) 300, Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-131, 3-165, 4-206, 5-221, 6-221, 7-228, 8-238, Bowler O M R W.

Table with columns: SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings, Kirsten not out, Gibbs b Dillon, Kallis not out, Extras: (lb-1, nb-2), Total (for 1 wkt, 50 overs) 130, Fall of wicket: 1-25, Bowler O M R W.

LATEST STAR SPORT MONITOR Mr Reliable Gary Kirsten carried South Africa to 195 for three at lunch on the third day of the first Test against West Indies at Bourda ground in Guyana Saturday.

The southpaw was unbeaten on 117 that included 12 fours and a six. The two batsmen out before lunch were Jacques Kallis (50) and Cullinan (7).

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Table with columns: Match referee: M Denness (England).

Uproar over umpiring

Cricket

AFP, London

England cricket stars Michael Atherton and Alec Stewart have called for a radical overhaul of international umpiring following the ill-tempered opening two Tests of their Sri Lanka tour.

Both players condemned umpiring standards on the current tour, which has been marred by a string of controversies and dubious decisions affecting both sides.

England levelled the series at 1-1 after winning the second Test by three wickets on Sunday.

Writing in the Sunday Telegraph, Atherton said the series was the most ill-tempered he had ever played in, and called on the International Cricket Council to set up an elite panel of umpires to officiate in future matches.

"The situation has got so far out of hand during this series that the ICC will have to act to prevent serious damage to the game," the former England captain said.

Atherton said although increased technology had highlighted umpiring errors, he was in no doubt umpiring standards had declined during his career "to the point where some games, such as the two in this series, have become farcical."

The England opener - involved in a furious exchange with Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara during the second Test in Kandy - said a panel of well-paid neutral umpires should be set up to handle international cricket matches.

"Umpires need to be as prepared and professional as the players and put under the same scrutiny by their employers... those who have a bad run of games should be dropped as any player would be," Atherton wrote.

Atherton's team-mate and fellow former England captain Stewart said two neutral umpires should be appointed immediately to handle next week's potentially explosive third Test in Colombo.

"These have easily been the two most controversial and acrimonious Test matches I have played in," Stewart wrote in a column for the Sunday Times referring to the first two Tests.

"What has happened in Kandy and Galle has really shown up the problems which the game faces with umpiring," said Stewart, who described a decision he had received in the first Test as the worst of his career.

Stewart said having two neutral umpires handling Test matches would be "an important step forward."

"If the ICC is worth anything then that is what it should do," he said.

"It is not that local umpires are consciously biased towards the home side, but in situations where a few controversial decisions are made it is very easy for the visitors to get into the frame of mind where they think they are being hard done by, even when they are not... before you know it the two teams are at each other's throats," Stewart wrote.

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Martina, Serena sail

Tennis

AFP, Indian Wells

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Hingis took the title here in 1998 and lost the final last year against Lindsay Davenport, her longtime rival and world number two.

Serena Williams followed elder sister Venus into the third round whipping Adriana Gersi in straight sets.

Sirajganj cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Rajshahi Cricket Training Centre defeated Sirajganj Muktiyoddha Sangsad Ekadash by four wickets in the Hazrat Sha Mukhdum-ud-doula (R) Cricket Tournament at Shahajadpur Government High School playground on Sunday.

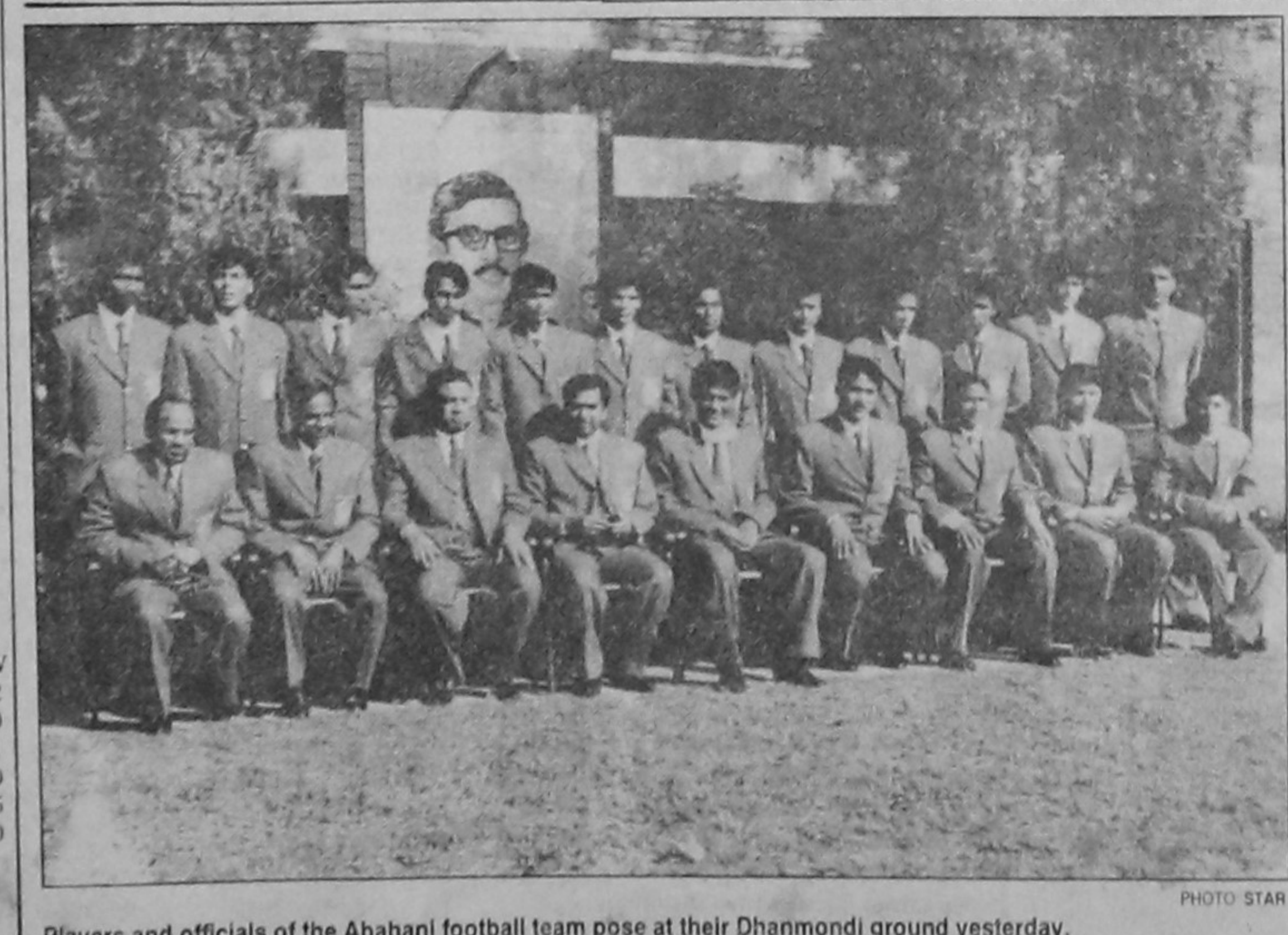
Winning the toss, Sirajganj Muktiyoddha batted first and collected 121 all out in 35.4 overs of the stipulated 40-over match. In reply, the winners scored 123 for six in 21.4 overs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Door-frame part, 5 Burn, 9 Understood, 12 Mimic, 13 Base-runner's goal, 14 Internet abbr., 15 D.C. denial, 16 Grad, 17 Fast, 18 Impulse, 19 Hosp. workers, 20 Puffed, 21 Use a ray gun, 23 Listener, 25 Boards, 28 St. George's foe, 32 Be, 33 Out of the way, 34 Made a profit, 36 Lied to. 37 All the Things You..., 38 Last (Abbr.), 39 Tealime, 42 Expert range, 48 Director Howard Bustles goal, 49 Bustles, 50 Soft drink, 51 9mm favorite, 52 Gun, 53 Recog-nize, 54 Under-stand, 55 Con, 56 Wields a needle, 10 Desire, 11 Radiale, 20 Essentials, 22 Change, 24 Thin as..., 25 Corral, 26 Down-size, 27 Little house, 29 Hodges of base-ball, 30 Praise piece, 31 Homer's neighbor, 35 Muffle, 36 Granola-like cereal, 39 '60s dance, 40 Leak slowly, 41 Monad, 43 Mackinaw, for one, 45 Sans partner, 46 Till the soil, 47 Adages, 49 "Eureka!"



CRYPTOQUIP V R K E W C E G V C B E G W U G R H W Z W W K Z Y A V C W A A G J A J C J U K Y H H R E J E A E W J B Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOTED POET STUDIED AT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES: EDGAR ALLAN POE-TATO. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O. The Cryptoquip 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.



Players and officials of the Abahani football team pose at their Dhanmondi ground yesterday.