

WI fall short by 107 runs

REUTERS, St John's

South Africa made short work of the West Indian tail on Day Three of the fourth Test at the Antigua Recreation Ground Sunday...

All-rounder Lance Klusener grabbed the first wicket in the fifth over of the day, West Indies captain Carl Hooper (17) undone by an off-cutter which bounced a little more than he expected...

Klusener then fooled Neil McGarrell with a quicker, flatter delivery, the debutant trapped on the back foot plumb in front for a duck.

The West Indies hardly helped their cause when Dinanath Ramnarine was run out for two by a direct hit from Neil McKenzie at mid-on, and after Courtney Walsh flicked Shaun Pollock to the fine-leg boundary for four, he was adjudged leg-before to the first ball of the South African captain's next over.

'Gen Tauqir should quit'

INTERNET REPORT, undated

Pakistan's most respected sports administrator has urged the country's cricket supremo, Lt Gen Tauqir Zia, to accept the rot and step down.

Air Marshal (Retd) Nur Khan, respected throughout Pakistan for his contribution to cricket, hockey and squash, has pinned the responsibility for the current poor form of the cricket team to Zia.

Speaking to Pakistan daily Dawn on Saturday, Khan said that the cricket team was currently "worse than ever before."

"When there is a high rate of unfitness, sickness, laziness and team morale is low, it can only be the basic responsibility of the person heading the institution," Khan headed the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) from 1980 to 1984.

Khan also slammed the attrition rate on the recent tour of New Zealand which saw six senior players come down with injury. "It is unheard of that half the team is unfit and Tauqir should accept total responsibility for this."

Khan said that Pakistan had fallen behind in "all aspects including technique, training health care and preparation of pitches."

He also said the recent coaching stint by Geoff Boycott had been "meaningless", stressing that a long-term coach was vital and that he should have the ability to nurture talent.

"You have to look for the best man, with a proven track record who should be able to remove the players' weaknesses. He should have the aptitude to do this. Unless you are willing to do that sort of thing, hitting the top is not on."

Hussain

FROM PAGE 13

end. They were all out with nine balls to spare.

Opener Hannan Sarkar scored highest 87 off 118 balls with seven boundaries while Mohammad Ramzan added a run-a-ball 57 with a six and five boundaries.

No matches will be played today.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Abahani and Surjo Tarun Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Sunday:

ABAHANI

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes players like Hussain, Nafees, Azam, Iqbal, Ramzan, Saikat, Ziaul.

SURJO TARUN

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes players like Hannan, Saikat, Ziaul, Masud, Naeem.

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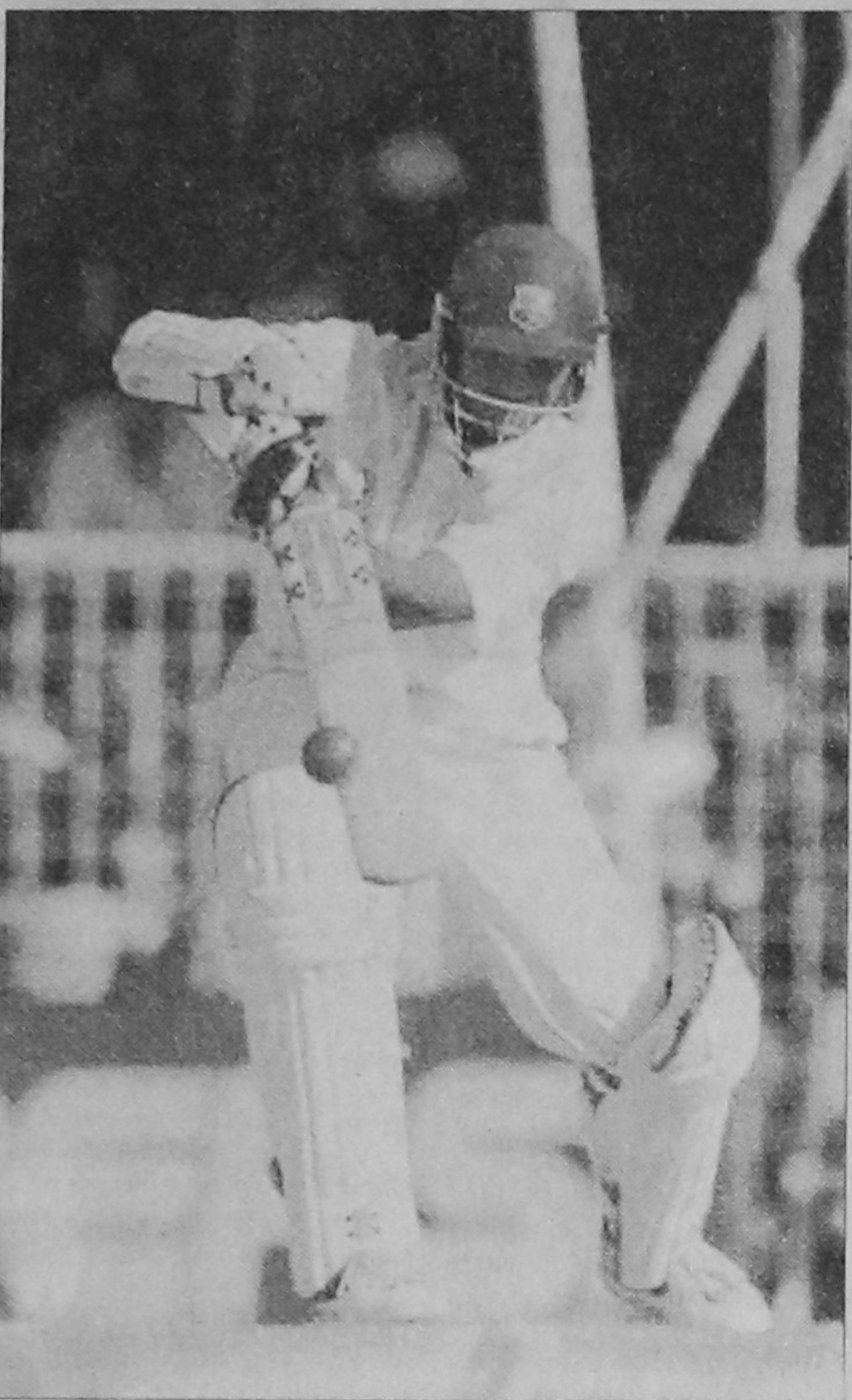
Windies falter

Cricket

AFP, St John's

West Indian hopes of levelling their five-Test series against South Africa suffered a blow on Saturday as they struggled to 130 for six in reply to South Africa's 247 on the second day of the fourth Test at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

Accurate and aggressive fast bowling plunged the West Indies into deep trouble by close of play. They faced the prospect of trailing on the first innings as well as having to bat last on a pitch expected



West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul drives on the up against South Africa during the second day of the fourth Test match at the Antigua Recreation Ground in St. John's, Antigua on Saturday.

to deteriorate.

South Africa reduced the West Indies to 50 for three, then struck three more blows in the late afternoon.

Ramnaresh Sarwan fell to a trap for the second time in the series when he hooked Jacques Kallis to square leg after making 25.

Then the recalled Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who seemed set to take his innings into the third day, was brilliantly caught at slip by a diving Daryll Cullinan for 40. He was the second big scalp for all-rounder Justin Kemp, playing in place of the injured Allan Donald.

Kemp earlier had Brian Lara, whose world Test record 375 was made on the same ground, caught in the covers for 19. Kemp finished the day with two for 17 off eight

overs. Chanderpaul, who did not play in the first three Tests because he was not considered match fit after recovering from an injury, started cautiously but was looking in good form shortly before his dismissal.

A bad day for the West Indies ended when nightwatchman Mervyn Dillon was bowled by a Lance Klusener off-cutter.

West Indian captain Carl Hooper remained unbeaten on 16. He and Ridley Jacobs will be the side's main hopes of enabling the West Indies to get close to South Africa's total after the tourists were sent in by Hooper.

Kemp and Ntini with successive balls to end the South African innings, hitting the offstump with fast, full-length deliveries.

Pollock and left-hander Nicky Boje continued their eighth wicket stand in cautious style after re-summing on 210 for seven. Only four runs were scored in seven overs in the first 25 minutes of play before Boje hit left-arm spinner Neil McGarrell for a straight six.

It was a rare attacking blow, however, on a slow pitch as South Africa continued to dig themselves out of the trouble they had been in at 148 for seven after being sent in.

The Pollock-Boje stand was worth 75 when umpire Srinivas Venkataraghavan gave Boje out lbw to Courtney Walsh although replays showed the ball pitched outside leg stump. Kemp could have been given out to the next ball, however, but survived.

Kemp, in his second Test, helped Pollock add 24 runs before he tried to turn Dillon to the leg-side and had his offstump knocked out of the ground. Ntini played a similar shot to the next ball with the same result.

Dillon finished with three for 47. McGarrell, making his debut, took four for 72.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the fourth Test match between West Indies and South Africa at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Saturday:

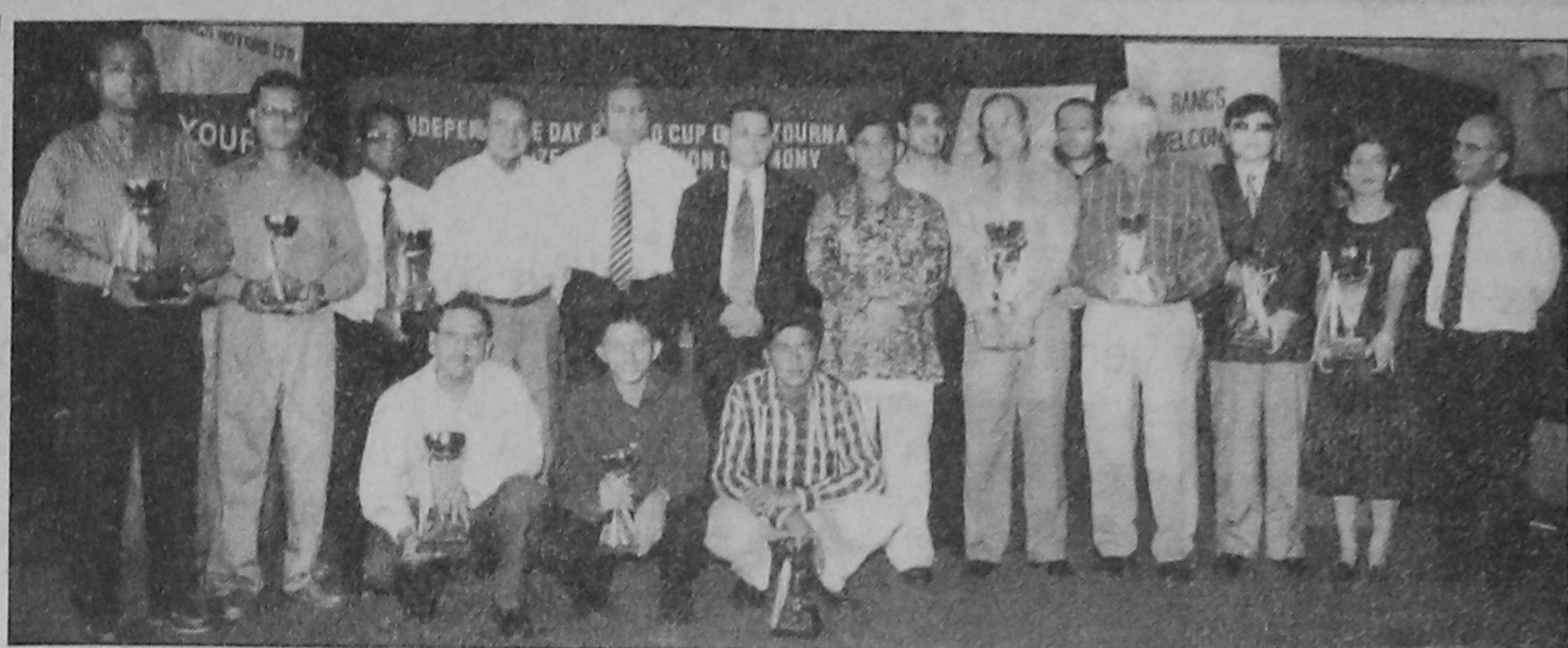
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes players like Dillon, Jacobs, Hooper, Cullinan, Lara, Ramnarine, McKenzie, Jacobs, McGarrell, Boucher, Gayle, Pollock, Boje, Walsh, Kemp, Dillon, Ntini.

WEST INDIES: First innings

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes players like Pollock, Kallis, Walsh, Dillon, McGarrell, Ramnarine, Hooper, Kemp, Sarwan, Boje, Cullinan, Hooper, Ntini, Jacobs, Boje, Extras, Total.

Umpires: Ed Nicholls (West Indies), Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India). TV umpire: Pat Whyte (West Indies). Match referee: Mike Dennis (England).



Winners of the Independence Day Pajero Cup golf tournament which was held at the Bhatiyari Golf & Country Club in Chittagong on April 6. The meet was sponsored by Rangs Group. 130 golfers participated in the tournament.

PCB orders probe

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan ordered an inquiry Sunday into the cricket team's dismal performance on the recent tour of New Zealand but said it would not probe match-fixing allegations, officials said.

"The inquiry will be about players' attitude, their injury problems and below performance during the one-day series in New Zealand," said Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia.

He said the inquiry would not investigate claims by former coach Javed Miandad that Pakistan's 3-2 defeat in the one-day series was fixed after Miandad apparently withdrew his allegation. Pakistan also lost the three Test series to New Zealand last month.

"The inquiry will not be about match fixing as Miandad has denied saying anything on match fixing. He has told us that he has demanded a normal inquiry and not any match fixing inquiry," Zia said.

Miandad on Saturday alleged Pakistan's loss in the one day series was fixed and demanded the PCB to launch an inquiry.

"Enough is enough. I was silent just for the country's sake but now I must come out in open. We have video and audio footage that can prove we lost to New Zealand due to match-fixing," Miandad said. He was not available for comment Sunday.

New Zealand cricket operations manager John Reid called Miandad's allegations a "kick in the guts" for the game. Rifts between senior players and Miandad marred Pakistan's tour.

Key players Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar, Saeed Anwar, Abdur Razzak and Azhar Mahmood returned home after the one-day series with injury problems.

PCB chairman confirmed that Miandad was no longer a coach but said he had been given the new post of advisor.

"We have given him a break (from the job of coach) but we have not sacked him," he said.

Aminul

FROM PAGE 13

Bangladesh to win a World Cup berth for the first time.

IMPROVEMENT INDEED

Naimur Rahman seemed to have learned from his mistake when he decided to field after winning the toss for a second successive day at Harare Sports Club ground on Sunday.

The Bangladesh captain kicked off a stormy debate when he chose to bat in the first one-dayer on a wicket that offered generous bounce and movement off the seam.

His belated wisdom and faith in the bowlers only helped the cause of the visitors as Monjurul and Sharif responded gallantly. The left-right combination of new-ball bowlers shared six wickets among them to restrict the hosts to their lowest ever score against Bangladesh.

Left-arm seamer Monjurul returned with his career-best spell of 10-0-37-3. And it could have easily been the first five-wicket haul for a Bangladeshi player had not Javed and Rafique dropped those catches. The previous best bowling figure of the southpaw, who has the ability to move the ball both ways, was 33 for two against Scotland in the 1999 World Cup.

Young right-arm seamer Sharif, playing only his second match, finished with three for 48. The 17-year-old pacer earned the respect of the home team when he dismissed a classy Campbell with a beautiful in-cutter on his debut on Saturday.

The two opening bowlers not only bowled well in the first 15 overs, but also handled the job intelligently in the last seven overs.

Although Mushfiq returned wicket less, he was as miser as he was in the first match.

As the seamers bowled well, this was for the first time in Bangladesh's 43rd ODIs that spin was introduced in the 27th over.

Politicians pad up

Cricket

AFP, Sharjah

Cricket organisers in Sharjah, worried at India's refusal to play there for three years, have invited influential politicians to champion their cause.

Former Test cricketer Kirti Azad and film star Shatrughan Sinha - both ruling party members in India's parliament - have been invited to witness the Sharjah tri-series which opens later on Sunday.

Zahid Noorani, chief executive of the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series (CBFS), said he expected the two to reach here in the next few days.

The Indian government announced last week that the national cricket team will stay away from "non-regular" off shore venues like Sharjah, Toronto and Singapore for three years, but did not spell out the reasons for the decision.

Sharjah, which has hosted more one-day internationals (167) than any other venue in the world, relies heavily on the traditional India-Pakistan rivalry to attract crowds at matches.

The Indian media speculated that the government, which has repeatedly stonewalled cricket ties

with Pakistan over the past one year, also believes that Sharjah is a centre for betting and match-fixing.

The CBFS pleaded with the Indian government to elaborate on its decision to pull out of Sharjah.

"We just want to know what we can do to change India's mind," Noorani said.

"If it is because of Pakistan, we can't do anything about that. But if playing in Sharjah is a problem, then we would certainly want to know why?"

Noorani added that the CBFS had taken steps to pre-empt allegations of betting and match-fixing, including the appointment of a high-powered committee to investigate any charges of corruption.

The committee comprises noted British solicitor George Staples, former West Indian captain Clive Lloyd and a senior official of the United Arab Emirates government.

"We have offered them every assistance to carry out their work," Noorani said, but declined to set a time frame for the completion of the probe.

"We don't want to rush them. It is more important that the investigations are fair and exhaustive."

Noorani, however, stressed that former Pakistan captain Asif

Iqbal, whose name figures in some match-fixing inquiries, had not been sacked as the chief coordinator of the CBFS.

"Asif resigned on his own for personal reasons and we accepted his decision. There was no question of sacking a person who was with us for more than 20 years."

Noorani also rejected reports that the CBFS planned to take the Indian cricket board to court for not honouring its commitments, despite fears of heavy financial losses.

Soft drinks giants Coca Cola pulled out as the title sponsors after India's withdrawal and the sale of tickets was poor for the two-week event featuring Sri Lanka, Pakistan and New Zealand.

Three former Indian cricketers, Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, Farokh Engineer and Chetan Sharma, will lose 35,000 dollars each because of their country's decision not to play in Sharjah.

The three were earmarked to receive the benefit purse awarded by the CBFS to former players at every tournament.

"The beneficiaries are named by the Indian board, not by us," Noorani said. "They will be on the list whenever India plays here next."

Saurav sees 'schoolboys' off

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly said on Sunday he was glad to see the Australians leave the country after the tour become increasingly marred by a personal battle with visiting skipper Steve Waugh.

"It just puts me off, they are complaining just about anything and everything," the Sunday Age newspaper quoted Ganguly as saying of the visitors.

"They are supposed to be a good team but to see them complaining every time is just school-boy stuff."

"There seemed to be just too much of it, which started right from the beginning of the series."

Waugh targeted Ganguly even before Australia arrived for their three-Test tour.

Waugh expressed concern Ganguly would receive specially-prepared pitches to suit his side as the world champion Australians attempted to win their first series in India in 31 years.

India ended Australia's world-record winning streak of 16 matches in the second Test and won the series 2-1 before Australia salvaged some pride by claiming the limited-overs series 3-2.

Waugh complained late in the tour that Ganguly had arrived late

for the toss "seven times" and that Ganguly even once tried to wrongly claim he had won the toss before match referee Cammie Smith had to intervene.

Ganguly averaged under 20 with the bat in the limited-overs and Test series as Waugh's men made their dislike for Ganguly

obvious whenever he strode to the crease.

"He is a very seasoned pro and knows the business of cricket inside out," Ganguly said.

"He may have realised here that there are others who can play the same mental game," added Ganguly in a reference to how his

side had triumphed in the test series.

"I don't know and do not care whether he respects me or not. But I have a lot of respect for captains and players around the world."

"There were some words exchanged on the field, but that happens in the heat of battle. Also, we proved that they are not unbeatable."

Waugh said: "We got along reasonably well in the end. It's no good airing dirty laundry in public."

Wasim

FROM PAGE 13

Table with 5 columns: Player, Runs, Wickets, Overs, Extras. Includes players like R Raftique, Ujjal, Ferdous, Tutul, Lipu, Rashed, Extras, Total.

SAURAV GANGULY

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Fixing charges hurt Reid

Cricket

INTERNET REPORT, Wellington

Match fixing allegations by dumped Pakistani cricket coach Javed Miandad levelled at the recent tour of New Zealand have been described as a "kick in the guts" for the game.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) operations manager John Reid was sickened to learn of Miandad's assertions that Pakistan fixed the outcome of last month's five-match one-day series that New Zealand won 3-2 after trailing 1-2.

"It's just like a kick in the guts for the game," Reid said on Sunday, adding that the allegations had to be followed up.

He said that Sir Paul Condon, the head of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) anti-corruption unit, had to have direct input to any investigation

launched into Miandad's claims.

"We want to ensure Pakistan do something about this allegation and that it's just not left, that something is put in place to prove or disprove it," he said.

"We are happy to help any such inquiry, by making available players, match officials and video footage of games."

"It's hard to know how we can

worked hard, achieved a terrific result and now the gloss has been taken away from that.

"It's surprising because due to the emphasis that's been placed on this aspect for the past 12 months in world cricket, one wouldn't have expected any player to be involved in anything that's even tainted with match-fixing in the present climate.

Cowie to stand in NZ matches

AFP, Sharjah

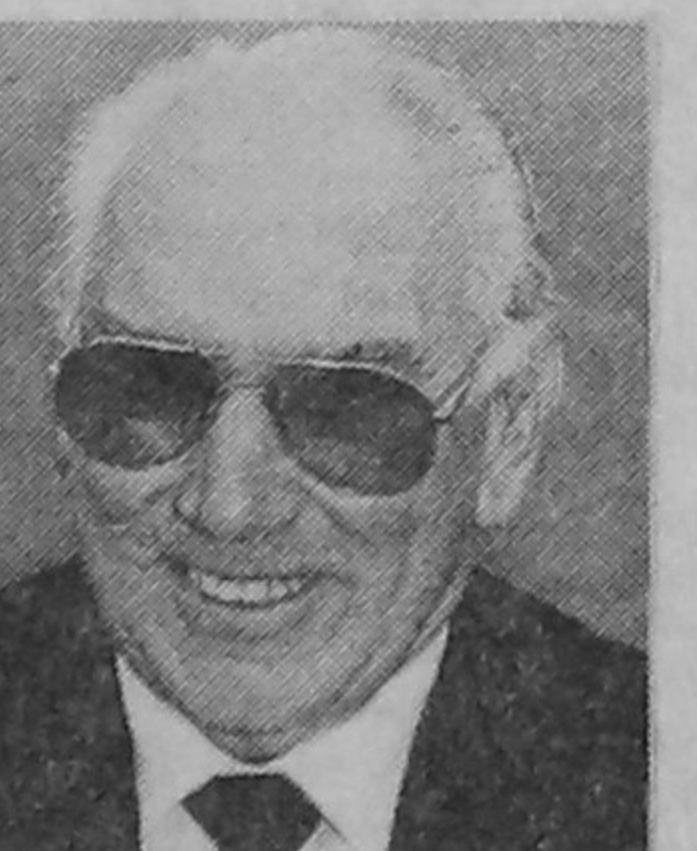
In a break with tradition, New Zealand umpire Doug Cowie will officiate in his country's matches during the Sharjah tri-series here, officials said on Sunday.

Cowie was appointed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) along with Dave Orchard of South Africa and John Hampshire of England to stand in the tournament that was originally supposed to feature India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

But when India pulled out at the last minute and were replaced by New Zealand, time was too short to line up another umpire in place of Cowie.

The umpires rota drawn up by the organisers had Cowie standing in only two matches between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, while Hampshire and Orchard were given the four games featuring New Zealand.

The list was, however, revised by match referee Ahmed Ebrahim of Zimbabwe after the Sri Lankan and Pakistani team managements said they had no objection to Cowie doing duty in New Zealand matches.



JOHN REID

directly help such an inquiry. There's not been a suggestion before this of anyone suspecting something. There is no suggestion any of our players have been involved in anyway."

Reid said the allegations saddened him, not just because they raised a subject that had rocked world cricket since South African Hansie Cronje and Indian Mohammedi Azharuddin were disgraced when caught in the match-fixing web.

"It's extremely disappointing. Not only do I think the game is adversely affected but I have a lot of sympathy for our players and management who went through a difficult injury-ravaged summer,

M'singh cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mysore

Mukul Foj Sabuj beat Seraj Memorial Club by 122 runs in the Beg Steel First Division Cricket League at the local stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Mukul Foj scored 227 runs for five in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Seraj Memorial made only 115 runs in 31 overs all out.

In another match, Mohammedian Sporting Club defeated Station Quarters Club by 127 runs in the Pepsi First Division Cricket League at the local Circuit House ground yesterday.

Mohammedian made 244 runs for six in the stipulated 40 overs.

In reply, Station Quarters made 117 in 32.5 overs all out.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.