



Did U Know?

The history of Radley College tells of WEW Collins that he has dismissed three men with one delivery. The first victim was hit on the thumb and was led out bleeding profusely, his colleague fainted and the next man in decided not to bat!



What to WATCH

ESPN

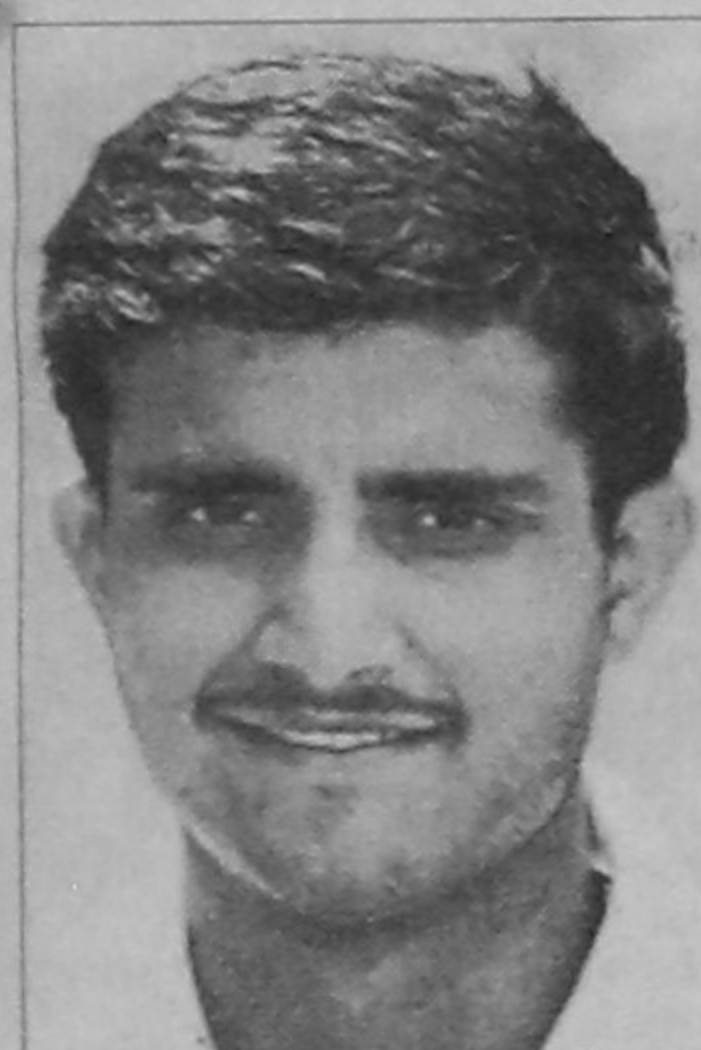
Serie A highlights
4:00 pm
Sportscenter
Live at 8:30 pm
Cricket Magazine
The Cricket Archive-1905-60
12:00 am (Thursday)
Alaves vs Liverpool
UEFA Cup Final
Live at 12:30 am (Thursday)

Star Sports

Real Sociedad vs Villarreal
Primera Liga
Repeat at 8:30 am
Sportline Tonight
Live at 8:00 pm
South Africa vs West Indies
Fifth one-day international
Highlights at 11:00 pm



TALK TURKEY



Saurav Ganguly

(Indian cricket captain)
"My aim will be to win a series abroad... We have the side. But having a side is not enough... We have to be competitive, like the way we played against Australia."
On their forthcoming tour of Zimbabwe.

Sports WHIZZ KID

Competition 149
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
May 18, 2001 and draw
shortly afterwards

1. Who clinched the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters Series title?	Agassi	Arazi	Kuerten
2. Who lifted the Ary Gold Cup Sharjah tri-series cricket trophy?	New Zealand	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
3. What was the result of the South Africa and West Indies Test series?	4-1	3-2	2-1
4. Who was the man-of-the-match in the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe first test?	Heath Streak	K Masood	Javed Omar
5. How many Test wickets did Courtney Walsh capture when he retired?	536	520	519

Name:
Class: Roll No:
School Address:
Phone: (If any)

Kenya tri-series cancelled

UNB, Dhaka

The proposed tri-nation series comprising Bangladesh, Kenya and the West Indies in Nairobi has been cancelled as the Caribbean team is not interested to play.

Bangladesh Cricket Board director-elect Syed Ashraf Haq

Re-investigation for what?

Cricket

RABEED IMAM AND SYED ASHEQUIL HAQUE

The inquiry committee is repeating the same method for its re-investigation into the alleged manipulation in the February 25 election of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

After being snubbed by State Minister for Sports Obaidul Quader, the head of the three-member probe committee Brig. Gen. Ahsan Habib, who is also the Director General of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratisthan (BKSP), on Monday delivered a copy of the letter he had earlier sent on April 15, seeking help from the media.

The letter, undersigned by Brig. Gen. Habib has asked the Sports Editors of reputed dailies of the country including the Daily Star to provide evidence (like photos, documents, video or audio tape) so that the committee can have more proof in the allegation of election manoeuvring by a few districts forum leaders.

Sports Minister Obaidul Quader sent back the previous inquiry report Sunday, terming it incomplete and inconclusive. He was particularly unimpressed with the way the committee tried to

garner information from press people.

However, the way the probe body is conducting itself has given rise to suspicions and questions.

After delaying the submission of its findings over and over again, the report that finally came out was apparently a big zero in terms of substance.

It failed to unearth any wrongdoing on part of the main players in the scandal -- Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) secretary general Jafar Imam and his ally, BCB director-elect and secretary of the infamous district organisers' forum Sheikh Nizamuddin.

Now as Brig. Gen. Habib and his men tries to follow the same route in search of some concrete evidence, the question is bound to arise does the committee have any credibility left?

What chances are there that they will discover something sensational within May 20 (the deadline for submission of the report of re-probe) that they couldn't find after nearly three months of painstaking investigation?

Further more, the childish plea towards the media to provide flimsy evidence like video/audio cassettes etc. goes to show how shallow the committee's line of thinking is.

They make the election seem like a pre-arranged game where reporters went prepared with video cameras and recording devices!

The sincerity of the probe-body members is also questionable.

If they were really serious about evidence, they only needed to go through the reports of credible Bengali and English dailies regarding the election and decide for themselves who to ask. After all, it was the media outburst that prompted the Sports Minister to order a thorough investigation in the first place.

Brig. Gen. Habib too is not free from adverse influence.

A former Director General of the BKSP pointed out that the main problem lay with the selection of the head of the probe committee.

"It is practically impossible for Brig. Gen. Habib to work with freedom as he is only a government servant. Therefore, chances are that the report is going to be just another eye-wash."

"People like Jafar Imam have thrived under the rule of every government. Unless you have solid backing of the highest authority, you can not go on with such corruption year after year", said the person on condition of anonymity.

Fed Cup fixtures released

Football

SPORTS REPORTER

The first round of the Federation Cup football tournament, the traditional curtain-raiser of the domestic football season, begins in the capital from May 20.

According to the fixture list released by the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) on Sunday, sixteen teams including Bangladesh Army and Navy, will be split into four groups in knockout format round which is expected to conclude on May 25.

Later, the four group winners will join last year's semifinalists Abahani, Mohammedan Sporting Club, Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Arambagh Krira Sangha in the second round which will be held on round robin league basis in two groups.

The second phase is likely to start from May 27 while the final of the tournament is expected to be held on June 6.

On the inaugural day, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society will take on Navy at 4:30 pm in the first match while Sadharan Bima meet BRTC at 6:30 pm.

The following 16 teams will take part in the knockout first round:

Group A: Rahmatganj MFS, Bangladesh Navy, Sadharan Bima and BRTC.

Group B: Dhanmondi Club, Agrani Bank, Badda Jagarani Sangsad and Youngmens Club Fakirpool.

Group C: Farashganj SC, Mirpur Chalanika, Wari Club and Victoria SC.

Group D: Brothers Union, Bangladesh Army, Muslim Institute and Prantik KC.

FIRST ROUND FIXTURES

Date	Match	Kick off time
May 20:	(1) Rahmatganj MFS v Bangladesh Navy	4:30 pm
	(2) Sadharan Bima v BRTC	6:30 pm
May 21:	(3) Dhanmondi Club v Agrani Bank	4 pm
	(4) Badda Jagarani v YMC Fakirpool	6 pm
May 22:	(5) Farashganj SC v Mirpur Chalanika	4 pm
	(6) Wari Club v Victoria SC	6 pm
May 23:	(7) Brothers Union v Bangladesh Army	4 pm
	(8) Muslim Institute v Prantik KC	6 pm
May 24:	Group A final (W 1 v W 2)	4 pm
	Group B final (W 3 v W 4)	6 pm
May 25:	Group C final (W 5 v W 6)	4 pm
	Group D final (W 7 v W 8)	6 pm



Pakistan star Wasim Akram (L) talks to England fast bowler Darren Gough during their respective practice sessions at Lord's on Tuesday.

Pybus warns hosts

Cricket

AGENCIES, London

Pakistan coach Richard Pybus has told England not to rely on home advantage in their Test series, arguing many of his players feel perfectly comfortable on 'enemy territory'.

Pybus, with his squad at Lord's before the start of the first Test on Thursday, said on Tuesday: "All our main bowlers have experience of playing in England so the conditions should not be a problem."

Skipper Waqar Younis (Surrey and Glamorgan) and fellow strike bowler Wasim Akram (Lancashire) have had long and successful associations with county sides in England, he said.

Spinners Saqlain Mushtaq (Surrey) and Mushtaq Ahmed (Somerset) have also played several seasons in the English County Championship.

The 24-year-old Saqlain was named one of Wisden's five crick-

eters of the year in 2000 after taking 66 wickets for Surrey at 15.39 apiece.

Pakistan's batsmen, however, are less well versed in the local conditions, with damp pitches and cloudy skies favouring seam and swing bowling at the start of summer.

Inzamam-ul-Haq, in fine form for the past two years, has scored 31 in two innings while Yousuf Youhana, the team's most classical batsman, has made scores of five and four to follow a golden duck in his first visit to the crease.

But Pybus was not concerned, arguing that his players would perform when it mattered and highlighting Saeed Anwar's rapid acclimatisation since the start of the tour two weeks ago.

The left-handed opener, a veteran of 52 Tests and 223 one-dayers, has had two innings to date, scoring 89 against British Universities and 201 against Kent.

Pybus said: "There are not many players in the world as good

as Saeed Anwar when he is in form."

"His record against the better sides shows what a top performer he is. I'm sure he'll have a good series."

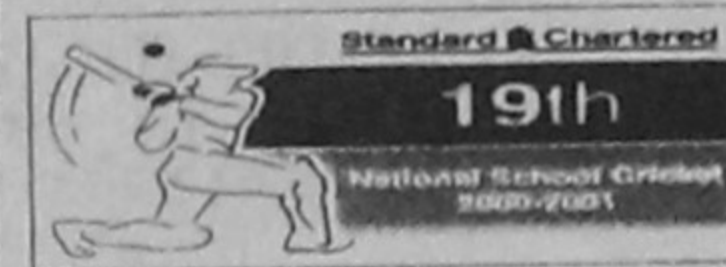
Pakistan are due to take part in a one-day triangular series event also involving Australia after the two-Test series.

Pybus claimed Monday his side was in great shape going into the first Test despite seeing their final day's play with Kent fall victim to that most English of reasons — rain.

Pybus even had encouraging words to say about paceman Shoaib Akhtar, who has been laid low by allegations over his bowling action and a bout of gastroenteritis which delayed his arrival till last week.

The "Rawalpindi Express" also looked overweight for his tour debut against Derbyshire and faces a battle to win the nod ahead of the less experienced Mohammed Sami as Pakistan bid to

BKSP-M'ganj finale today



SPORTS REPORTER

Hot favourites Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratisthan (BKSP) take on Manikganj Government High School in the final of the Standard Chartered 19th National School Cricket Championship at the Sylhet Stadium this morning.

BKSP reached the final defeating Blue Bird School of Sylhet by 81 runs in the first semifinal while Manikganj booked their place against New Model High School of Dhaka by eight wickets.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president and Deputy Minister for LGED Saber Hossain Chowdhury is expected to witness the final as chief guest and also give away prizes.

SAFF tourney from Jan 26

SPORTS REPORTER

The Third South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, which was scheduled to be held in Dhaka from October 31 to November 15 under the auspices of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), has been deferred by two and a half months because of the inaugural Afro-Asian Games in New Delhi from November 3 to 11.

The tournament will now be staged here from January 26 to February 6.

The decision was taken in an emergency meeting of the SAFF executive committee in Colombo on May 14.

Representatives of six countries -- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal -- were present in the meeting. Although Maldives did not have any representative in the meeting.

According to a fax received here on Tuesday, BFF assistant general secretary and SAFF secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu said that the meeting initially thought of holding the tournament in December.

But after considering the month coincided with holy Ramadan, it was finally decided to have the seven-nation competition from January 26 to February 6.

The first SAFF Championship was held in Nepal in 1997 while the second edition was staged in Goa, India, in 1999. On both occasions India won the final against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively.

FIFA to ensure stadia tragedies don't occur

AFP, Colombo

FIFA are set to hammer out a comprehensive set of measures to prevent a repeat of the recent football stadia tragedies, the president of the sport's world governing body said Tuesday.

"Every stadium must have a rescue plan anticipating all possibilities to ensure safety and security of all," Sepp Blatter said as he opened a football centre in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

He was speaking in the light of the deaths of 126 supporters at a match in Ghana last Wednesday. The tragedy followed fatal incidents at stadia in South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Ivory Coast earlier this year.

Blatter said the security council of FIFA will hold an extraordinary meeting in Buenos Aires to decide on the measures.

With it starts Test C'ship

REUTERS, London

The first Test between England and Pakistan starting on Thursday will launch a new cricketing era as the first match of the new World Test Championship.

The Championship was introduced this month to impose a clear league table on the sport at the top level.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said in a statement on Tuesday that the idea was "to add interest, context and excitement to the game at the highest level."

"It will run on a rolling league basis, with the system used for calculating positions based on the results of the most recent series (a minimum of two Test series applies), home and away, between each of the teams."

The Championship, which follows a format pioneered by



FIFA president Joseph Blatter (L) presents a souvenir to Bodhi Liyananage, president of the Sri Lankan Football Federation in Colombo yesterday. Blatter attended the opening ceremony of the newly constructed football headquarters there.

Don't 'cheat the system'

Football

LENIN GANI

Cheating never pays. Obviously Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) doesn't seem to agree.

In an effort to curb fielding of over-aged players in age-group tournaments, the executive committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) took major decision on Thursday, to hand down suspensions and fines on five offending nations.

The countries --Bangladesh, Oman, Thailand and Iran -- were found guilty of using over-aged players in last September's Asian Youth Under-16 Championship in Danang, Vietnam.

Medical tests revealed that 16 footballers' bone age did not match the age mentioned in their passports. In most cases they were either 19 or 20 years old.

Consequently, the AFC banned them from international football for two years and slapped a 10,000-dollar fine on their respective federations.

The regional body based in Kuala Lumpur has been waging a 15-year campaign to prevent such deceptions from occurring. Unfortunately, the national federations sought to continue 'cheating the system.'

"For 15 years we have been asking national associations not to cheat, to teach the players to be honest but unfortunately this advice was ignored," said AFC general secretary Dato' Peter Velappan.

"We undertook X-ray tests 10 years ago to determine a player's age but scrapped that and decided that honesty was better than X-rays."

"However, last year we brought back X-ray testing at the Asian Youth Under 16 Championships in Danang in Vietnam and we appointed a committee to check the players."

The five offending countries have been suspended from participating in the 2002 edition that will be renamed the AFC Youth Under-17 Championship.

Velappan said the punishments served as a last warning to Asian nations who had flouted the rules in the past and that, in the future, the sentences could be more severe.

"If there is a repeat there could be a total suspension for the national association for a period of time as FIFA did with Iraq, Mexico and Nigeria, which was a total suspension for cheating."

Iraq were banned for two years from all football activities in the early Nineties for fielding overage players while Mexico were kicked out of the 1990 World Cup in Italy after fielding four overage players at the 1988 World Youth Championships.

Rather than feeling ashamed of having three over-aged players, the BFF seems to be satisfied with the verdict and punishment. It even plans to lodge an appeal!

While this is not first time it has committed such a wrong. Spare a thought for those three players -- Mohammad Mahbub Alam, Mohammed Tutul and Mohammed

Raqibul Islam. Each aspired to play for the top three (Muktijoddha, Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani) and represent Bangladesh at full international level.

Now that has all but disappeared because of persons such as team manager Ghulam Sarwar who failed to perform their moral obligation to ascertain the truth. Incidentally, Sarwar was one of the five team managers punished by the AFC committee.

The BFF, it seems, just like in the past, tried to select the players with help of educational documents, (Secondary School, Certificates), passports and lastly facial appearances.

This is absolutely unacceptable. As everyone knows in Bangladesh that determining age is very tricky. Because not until very recently official birth registration has been introduced.

It is the responsibility of the officials working at the BFF office to take care of such vital matters. Simply stating that they will be vigilant in future is not the solution. They have to employ more scientific approach for estimating how old a player really is.

To avoid further embarrassment, the BFF should conduct proper medical examinations, such as bone scans, X-rays before sending teams to any age-group tournaments.

This is definitely a wake-up call for our local football administrators. If they wish to remain ignorant or indifferent they will do so at their own peril!

Time is Wright

Cricket

AFP, Bangalore

India's cricket coach John Wright said on Tuesday the time was right for India to end a 15-year Test series drought outside Asia.

"The time is right to strike," Wright told this news agency at the Indian probables' training camp in the southern city of Bangalore.

"We have proven to ourselves and the Indian public we play good cricket. All we have to do

now is to play to our full potential," Wright said, referring to India's recent home win against Australia.

The 26 Indian probables for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe are undergoing rigorous training sessions here which include yoga, breathing techniques, meditation and physical exercises.

The team for the 42-day tour, comprising two Tests and a limited-overs tri-series also featuring the West Indies, will be named on Thursday.

Despite an enviable home record, India last won a Test series outside Asia in 1986 when they defeated England 2-0.

"The whole camp is aimed at improving sound cricketing skills. It is fun but at the same time physically demanding," Wright, a former New Zealand Test opener, said.

He said the Indian team had to build on the success against Australia.

"Results anywhere depend completely on the quality of play. We have to play good cricket," said the 47-year-old Wright, who was appointed Indian coach last year.

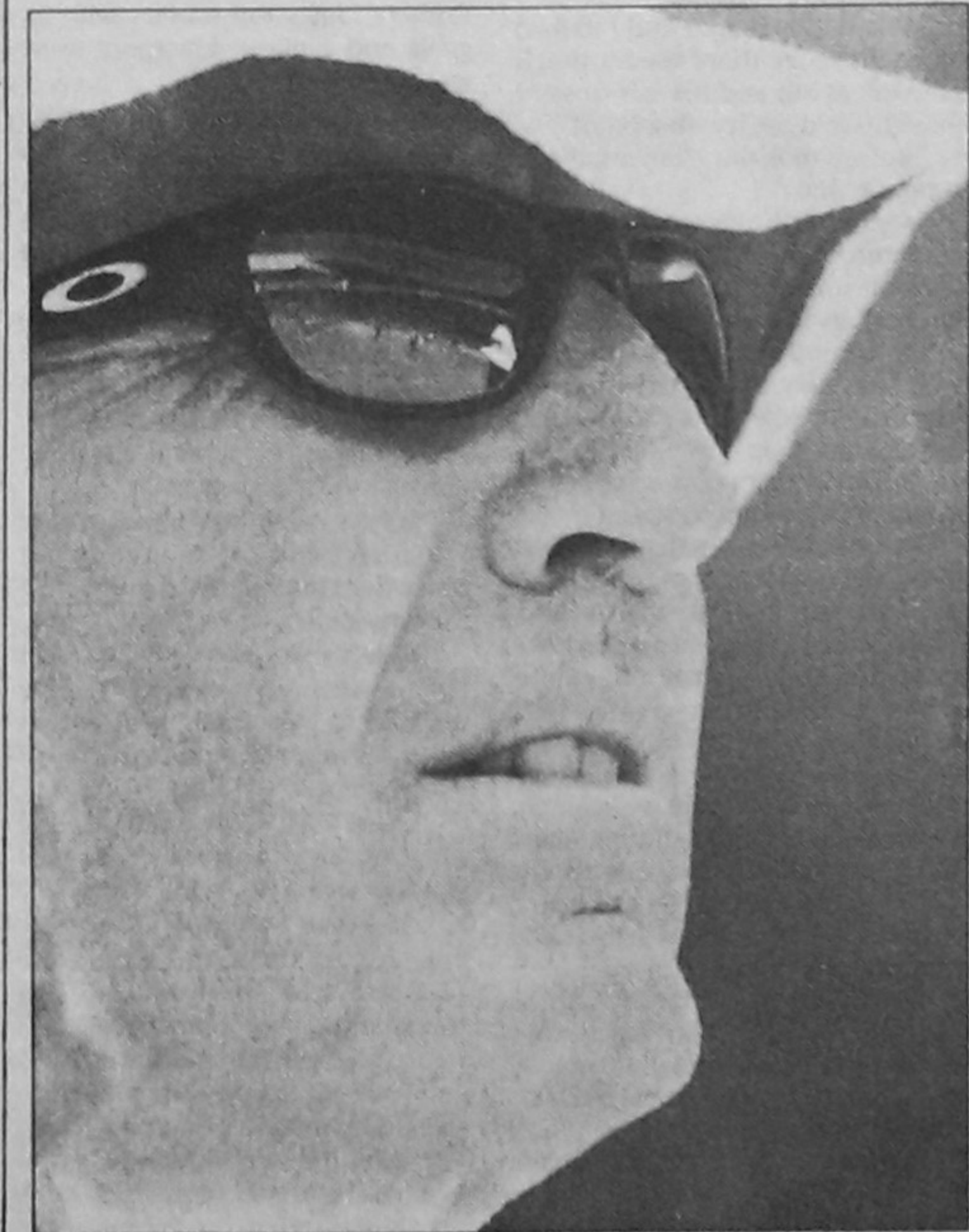
He said India may go in for three spinners and four seamers in the 15-man squad.

"The final balance will have to be discussed (with the selectors)," Wright said.

Rodney Marsh, former Australian Test wicketkeeper and current director of the Australian Cricket Academy, has also chipped in with advice to the three wicketkeepers at the camp.

Mursh is a consultant with India's National Cricket Academy based in Bangalore.

The senior players' session



Indian cricket coach John Wright watches over his charges at the camp in Bangalore yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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