



Did U Know?

During a visit to a junior cricket camp at The Oval, Prince Charles had the misfortune of being bowled first ball by a 10-year-old boy.

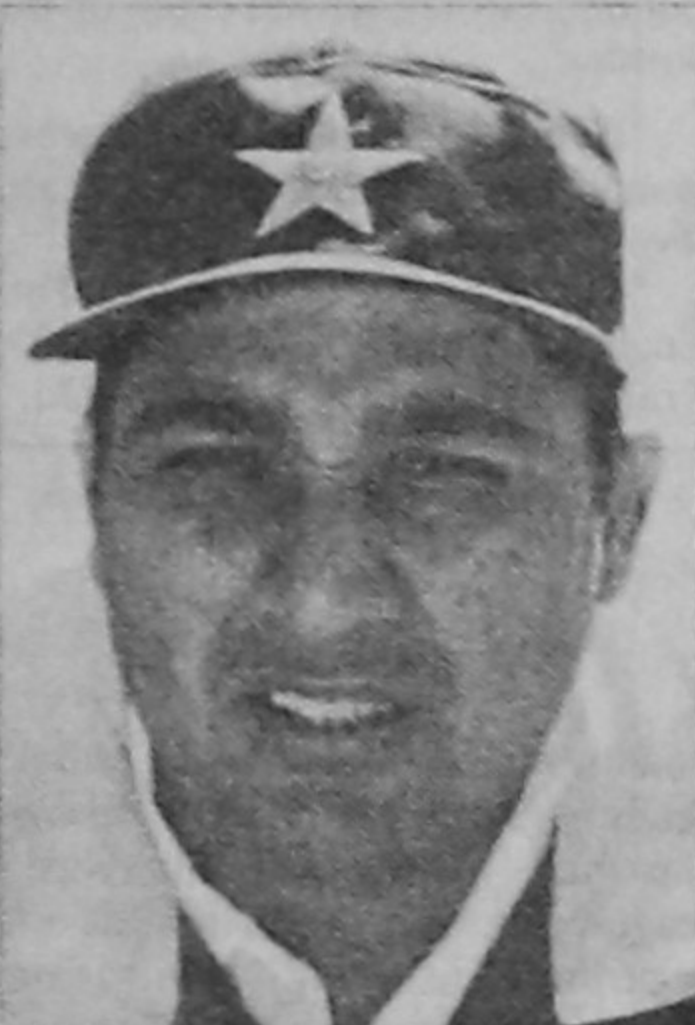


What to WATCH

ESPN
Cricket Magazine
The Cricket Archives 1905-1960
12:00 am (Saturday)
Star Sports
Futbol Mundial
1:00 pm
Pakistan vs England
First Test Day Two
Live at 3:55 pm



TALK TURKEY



Inzamamul Haq

(Pakistan batting star)
"I can run faster than anyone. Anyway it's the batsmen at the non-striker's end who make the mistakes, not me."
On his awful running between the wickets.

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

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

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

CJKS Div I cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Mohammedan Sporting Club and Satabdi Gosthi won their respective matches of the CJKS-Ispahani First Division cricket league at different city venues yesterday.

At MA Aziz Stadium, Mohammedans outplayed Bakalia Ekadosh by 10 wickets.

In the other match of the day at Chittagong Medical College ground, Satabdi registered a 9-wicket win over Kallol Sangha.

BRIEF SCORES

BAKALIA: 92 all out in 35.1 overs (Munna 31; Azim 4/29, Rubel 3/13).

MOHAMMEDANS: 93 for no loss in 14.4 overs (Sumon 47 not out, Nazim 43 not out).

KALLOL: 76 all out.

SATABDI: 77 for one in 12.5 overs (Afif 48 not out, Javed 17 not out).

CCDM in controversy



SPORTS REPORTER

The fate of the First Division Cricket League this year suffered another blow on Wednesday when the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) bowed to an unlawful demand of the twelve participating teams.

The twelve teams, in a joint petition to Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, on May 9 desired not to continue the League, citing inclement weather and the increasing expenses to run camps.

Although the League bye-laws do not entertain such a hilarious proposition, the Board president, instead of turning it down instantly, forwarded the letter to the CCDM.

The plotting of the clubs took another twist when the CCDM, which runs the Dhaka league, sent back the ball to the Board's court Wednesday. It requested the game's governing body to solve the issue in the first meeting of its new board of directors, which is to be held on May 21.

Interestingly, CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul-Huq said Thursday that he was ready to resume the League, suspended since May 6 due to persistent rain at that time.

"The ground is ready for play, and I personally feel that the League should be completed," said Mahmud, adding that it would require 10-12 days to complete the nineteen remaining games.

Incidentally, Mahmud is also a councillor from a relegation-threatened club that wants to cancel this year's League.

When asked the reason behind the delay at a time when the sun was shining brightly, Mahmud said that it was a moral obligation for the CCDM to support the 'sentiment' of the twelve teams.

He was however searching for words when asked if it were the clubs who should decide whether or when to continue the League.

The League bye-laws clearly state that the participating teams must comply with the fixture of the CCDM. But situation is different here now.

Many believe this plea for the League cancellation is just a smokescreen. The twelve clubs apparently took this unanimous stand only to take some money out of the Board coffers as compensation. The Board has already given Taka one lakh to the six Super League teams and Taka 75,000 to the six Relegation League outfits as donation.

Some also alleged that a high Board and CCDM official engineered the move only to save his

relegation-bound team. Mahmud, a director elect, however refuted the allegation saying that the club were really struggling to run their camps.

"We had taken two teams to the field for three successive days, but could not finish the match due to rain. I think it is a civil design to tarnish my image," claimed Mahmud, a councillor of Eskaton Sabuj Sangha. "Actually, the twelve clubs wish to materialise the Board idea to increase teams (by avoiding relegation of teams) in the First Division from this year."

The Board has planned to increase the teams in the First Division from 12 to 16 within 2003 by promoting four teams from the Second Division and relegating two from the First Division each year.

To make Mahmud's claim more void and contradictory, the CCDM has decided to resume the Second Division League from today. The co-ordinator of the Second Division League, Ali Hossain, expressed his hope that they would be able to complete the remaining seven games by three days. On the other hand, the same organisation has suspended the First Division League for another week. By doing the CCDM itself makes its role furthermore controversial.

Fingers crossed for Sylhet

HASAN MASOOD, back from Sylhet

The Sylhet Stadium soon could be turned into the country's third international cricket venue after Dhaka and Chittagong.

The striking feature of the venue, located in the heart of the bustling divisional headquarters, has to be the lush green outfield. Quite easily the grass is greener than Dhaka's Bangabandhu National Stadium.

This was observed during this correspondent's visit on Wednesday to witness the National School Cricket Championship final.

Unfortunately, there are now only two pitches in operation. So laying more international quality wickets is essential.

The re-constructed stands can accommodate roughly more than 25,000 spectators.

"I have seen several matches at most venues around Pakistan during the 1996 World Cup, but quite frankly, I don't think they

compare to what I have seen here in Sylhet," commented a reporter of a Bengali national daily.

Also, the new VIP gallery and under-construction players' dressing rooms can also be compared to any good cricket venue in the world.

Besides, it is expected to have adequate hospitality boxes, commentary rooms and a full-fledged media box over the roof of the dressing rooms.

The venue, which belongs to the local District Sports Association, is only a 10-kilometre drive from the Osmani International Airport.

"This season we have decided not to allocate the ground to football. Since we are expecting to host a one-day international during Zimbabwe's tour of Bangladesh in November," Dildar Hossain Selim, general secretary of Sylhet DSA, told The Daily Star Sport at the Sylhet Station Club.

"Work on the hospitality and media boxes will start shortly. By that time preparation of three more pitches should be ready."

"In addition, we will be developing a gymnasium nearby so that players can enjoy indoor practice."

"This is a huge project that requires a lot of money. Let's hope the government and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) can assist us," added Selim.

He confessed however that Sylhet still lacks a world-class hotel capable of accommodating at least fifty television crews and two teams. Still he was optimistic that it would be resolved before the Zimbabwe tour got underway.

The local authorities ought to widen the roads around the stadium and reserve enough space for a car parking area.

If those requirements are fulfilled within the next six months, the people of Sylhet will be able to witness an international match on their doorstep.



Groundsmen sweep away water from on top of a pitch cover at Lord's where rain washed out the opening day's play of the first Test between England and Pakistan yesterday.

Raining Lord's



REUTERS, London

Craig White was the one man revelling in the rain on Thursday as the opening day of the first Test between England and Pakistan was washed out without a ball being bowled.

With no play possible at Lord's, the England all-rounder now has a real chance of playing despite missing training for the past three days with a stiff back.

The home team had declined to name their line-up on the eve of the game — the first in the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) new Test world championship to give White a last chance of recovery after he failed to take part in a "final fitness test".

The decision to wait until the last minute — captain Nasser Hussain justified it by describing White as the only genuine all-rounder in the side, as England's



"key player" — seemed the right one as the umpires gave up hope of any play shortly after lunch.

White's good fortune could mean Yorkshire left-arm seamer Ryan Sidebottom, who would have played in his place, missing out on his first cap.

The miserable weather could also prompt a re-think in the Pakistan camp.

Captain Waqar Younis had also kept his cards close to his chest on Wednesday but had been expected to field at least one slow bowler — off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq or leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed — in his eleven.

Better weather is forecast for the weekend but Thursday's conditions, if the rain had relented,

would have been a seamer's delight. England underlined the point 24 hours earlier by releasing their one specialist spinner, Robert Croft, from their squad.

While England often opt for a four-man seam attack, however, Pakistan rarely field a team without at least one spinner.

In Saqlain (145 Test wickets) they have one of the world's best practitioners, while Mushtaq (183 wickets) is also a proven match-winner. Both have had huge success in English county cricket.

The Lord's crowd will have to return on Friday to see any cricket, let alone find out who is playing.

At least, however, they can still



DORTMUND TURNS LIVERPOOL: Liverpool players rejoice with the UEFA Cup after their epic win over Alaves in the final at Dortmund, Germany on Wednesday.

BFF looking for Fed Cup sponsor!

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is yet to manage a sponsor for the forthcoming Federation Cup that begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from Sunday. BFF member and tournament committee secretary Ashrafuddin Chunnun said on Thursday.

Chunnun told the Daily Star Sport that they were confident of signing a sponsorship deal even at such a late stage.

"Currently, we are in talks with two prospective companies. Hopefully, one will eventually come forward," he said.

"If all goes well, a sponsor should be announced at Saturday's press conference," hinted Chunnun.

The organisers of the knockout tournament also failed to attract a title sponsor for last year's edition.

India opt for more pace

AFP, Bangalore

India's cricket selectors on Thursday picked five seamers and just two spinners for a tour of Zimbabwe starting later this month.

The 15-man team for the two-Test series includes all those players who staged an astonishing recovery to defeat world champions Australia 2-1 at home in March.

Debashish Mohanty, Ashish Nehra and Hemang Badani are the only ones not to have featured in the Australian series, in which India fought off a three-day defeat in the first Test and a follow-on margin of 274 in the second to win the rubber and the series.

Saurav Ganguly leads a strong batting line-up that includes Sachin Tendulkar, widely regarded as the world's best batsman, reliable Rahul Dravid and new sensation Venkatasai Laxman.

Mohanty and left-arm seamer Nehra, who join Jagavallu Sriniath, Ajit Agarkar and Zaheer Khan in the pace attack, return to the touring

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Gray wants India to host ICC Knockout

REUTERS, New Delhi

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has asked the Indian government to provide tax exemptions to help hold next year's ICC Knockout tournament in the country, the federal sports minister said on Thursday.

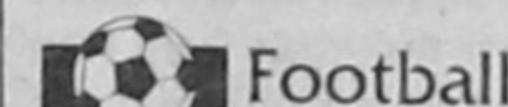
Uma Bharti told this news agency she had received a letter from ICC president Malcolm Gray on Wednesday seeking the sports ministry's support on the tax issue.

"I received a letter from Mr. Gray yesterday. He says he is very keen, he wants to hold the ICC Knockout tournament in India," she said.

"I don't know whether BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) is aware of this or not. But he (Gray) says he seeks my co-operation for the tax exemption," the minister said.

Three cheers for Liverpool

Epic final ends in 'suicide goal'



REUTERS, Dortmund

Liverpool beat Alaves 5-4 with a Golden Goal winner to lift the UEFA Cup in one of the most remarkable European cup finals ever played on Wednesday.

Gerard Houllier's side not only completed an unprecedented treble of cup wins by an English club after lifting the League Cup and FA Cup, they also won their first European trophy since 1984, the year an English club last won this trophy.

The massed ranks of the Kop choir singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" at the end of the Westfalenstadion heralded Liverpool's return as a major European force for the first time since their golden era of the 1970s and 1980s.

The match itself — the highest scoring European final since Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt

7-3 in the 1960 European Cup final — also recalled a bygone era when teams scored almost at will and entertainment was the keyword.

The fact that Alaves, whose own remarkable fairytale ended in ultimate failure, finished the match with only nine men after having substitute Magno Mocelin and skipper Antonio Karmونا sent off in extra time, was almost irrelevant.

The pattern for the game was set in only the fourth minute when Liverpool took the lead for the first time. Markus Babbel, back on his native soil, rose unmarked to head home a Gary McAllister free-kick awarded after Emile Heskey was fouled wide on the right.

Liverpool, with Steven Gerrard and McAllister running the midfield, seemed to take an even more secure grip on the game going 2-0 ahead after only 16 minutes when Gerrard broke free of the defence following good approach work by

Dietmar Hamann and Michael Owen.

Gerrard cracked a fierce right-foot drive past Alaves goalkeeper Martin Herrera to deservedly double their lead after their impressive start.

But Alaves, who had scored 31 goals on their way to this final were far from beaten.

Jordi Cruyff and Ivan Tomić began to assert themselves in the middle and, with Cosmin Contra a constant threat on the right, they began to make their impression on the game. In the 27th minute, they were right back in it.

Alaves coach Mane changed the shape of his team after 24 minutes, replacing defender Dan Hegggen with forward Ivan Alonso and it was Alonso who halved Liverpool's lead when he out-jumped Babbel to make it 2-1.

Liverpool were rocked by the goal but after a brief period of

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WI pull second back



AFP, Kingstown

A devastating pace bowling display from Cameron Cuffy set up a consolation win for the West Indies in the seventh and final one-day international at Arnos Vale Wednesday.

West Indies ended a five-match losing streak with a six-wicket victory, with Marlon Samuels hitting an unbeaten 54 as West Indies overhauled South Africa's total of 163 for seven with 34 balls to spare.

South Africa won the series 3-2. West Indian captain Carl Hooper said his team deserved to finish on a winning note after los-

ing both the Test and one-day series against the South Africans.

He said the players had worked hard and the fielding and bowling had shown a big improvement.

"We've got to work hard but the players realise it. Give us a year or two and we'll be back where we belong," Hooper said.

South Africa never recovered from Cuffy's early strikes which reduced them to 40 for four after they won the toss and batted. Cuffy took three for 24, bowling all his ten overs in one spell.

Jacques Kallis made a patient 69 off 147 balls to prevent a total collapse by the tourists.

Kallis hit only three boundaries before being caught at mid-wicket in the penultimate over when he went for a big hit against off-spinner Samuels.

The West Indies found run-scoring on a dry, slow pitch much easier than the South Africans, with Samuels hitting seven fours in a 91-ball innings. Only eight fours were hit in the whole South African innings.

Cuffy had South Africa in trouble almost from the start. His first two overs were maidens and he took the key wicket of Herschelle Gibbs, who was caught off a top-edged hook at deep fine leg.

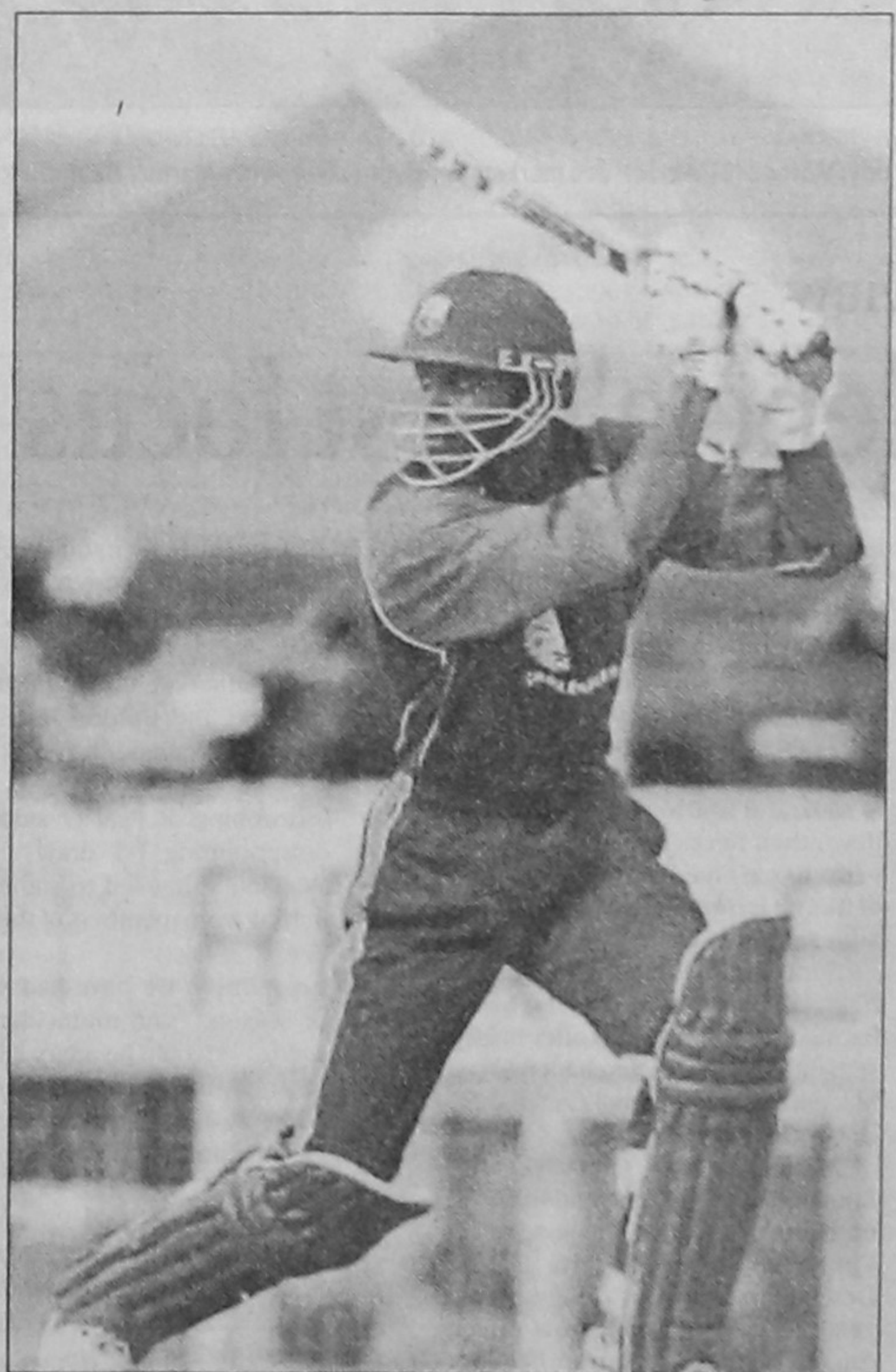
Fast bowling partner Corey Collymore had Gary Kirsten spectacularly caught by a diving Daren Ganga at backward square leg before Cuffy struck twice more to dismiss Justin Ontong and Neil McKenzie.

For virtually the first time in the series, the West Indies kept the pressure on the South Africans, with consistent performances from all their bowlers, who were backed up by good fielding.

Kallis had partnerships of 39 with Jonty Rhodes, who was playing in his 200th one-day international, and 53 with Mark Boucher. But the batsmen were unable to dominate.

West Indies made a good start, with Daren Ganga and Chris Gayle putting on 40 for the first wicket, and were always on track to win despite star batsmen Brian Lara

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West Indies' Marlon Samuels, who scored a match-winning 54 not out, looking for runs during the seventh one-day international against South Africa in Kingstown on Wednesday.