

Sport



Action from yesterday's Star First Division match between Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Shantinagar Club at the Dhaka Stadium. The game ended in a one-all draw. — Star photo

Beginning of an old tale

Sports Reporter

After an unscheduled three-day recess the Star Premier Division football league resumed on a depressing note as the sparse spectators who thronged at the Dhaka Stadium in the evening left the vicinity in sheer disgust as Motijheel neighbours Arambagh Krira Sangha and Fakirpore Young Men's Club played out a seemingly pre-mediated goalless draw making a scarecrow out of the Dhaka metropolis Football Association's strict disciplinary measures.

Earlier in the afternoon, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha and Shantinagar Club also ended their First Division affair in a one-all deadlock but that was a different story at least in the sense that both teams battled fair and square.

However, the first match of the day often regarded from a spectator's point of view, a tune-up for more important fixtures of the day, led to somewhat a disappointing experience on the viewers

Warwickshire bow to Notts

LONDON, Aug 16: Title favourites Warwickshire surrendered their unbeaten championship record to an innings defeat by Nottinghamshire at Edgbaston on Monday, reports Reuter.

Their hopes of salvaging a draw disappeared in the opening half and hour when, after resuming at 134 for three, they plunged to 155 for six.

The overnight pair both contributed to their own downfall. Trevor Penney (33) was bowled padding up to Jimmy Adams while Roger Twose, who made 80 from 151 balls, trod on his wicket playing back to Chris Lewis.

Warwickshire's last seven wickets went down for just 99 runs in 140 minutes to leave Nottinghamshire victors by an

WC charges dogs Parreira

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 16: Carlos Alberto Parreira, who guided Brazil to victory in the World Cup last month, denied on Monday that he was stubborn and that outspoken striker Romario had been given special treatment during the competition, reports Reuter.

Parreira, frequently accused of stubbornness during the World Cup for refusing to change his line-up, added that the public was "an echo without its own opinion."

"I'm not stubborn, I'm insistent," Parreira, who has now taken charge of Spanish side Valencia, said in an interview with the daily newspaper Folha de São Paulo.

He said he had had arguments with a health insurance company which wanted him to appear in a television commercial saying he was stubborn.

"I told them: I'm not doing that even for a million dollars," he said.

Parreira eventually appeared saying the words: "I'm persistent," I've said it from the start," two of his favourite catch-phrases during the World Cup.

He denied there had been special treatment for temperamental striker Romario.

"At no moment was Romario a star. When Diego Maradona is a star, he takes a psychologist, dietist, his wife and children, all staying in the team's headquarters. Romario never demanded privileges."

Parreira blamed the eternal

criticism of his management, which began with a 2-0 qualifying defeat in La Paz and continued until the day of the final, on press coverage.

The population is an echo without its own opinion, it just reflects what it hears," he said.

You average guy goes to the Maracana Stadium and watches the game but always listens to a transistor radio. It's important that somebody tells him what he is seeing. He can't analyse the game himself, he thinks that, for example, Flamengo are playing well because the radio says so."

On his team's style, frequently criticised for lacking traditional Brazilian artistry, Parreira replied: "The game is more difficult, speed has increased, space has been reduced."

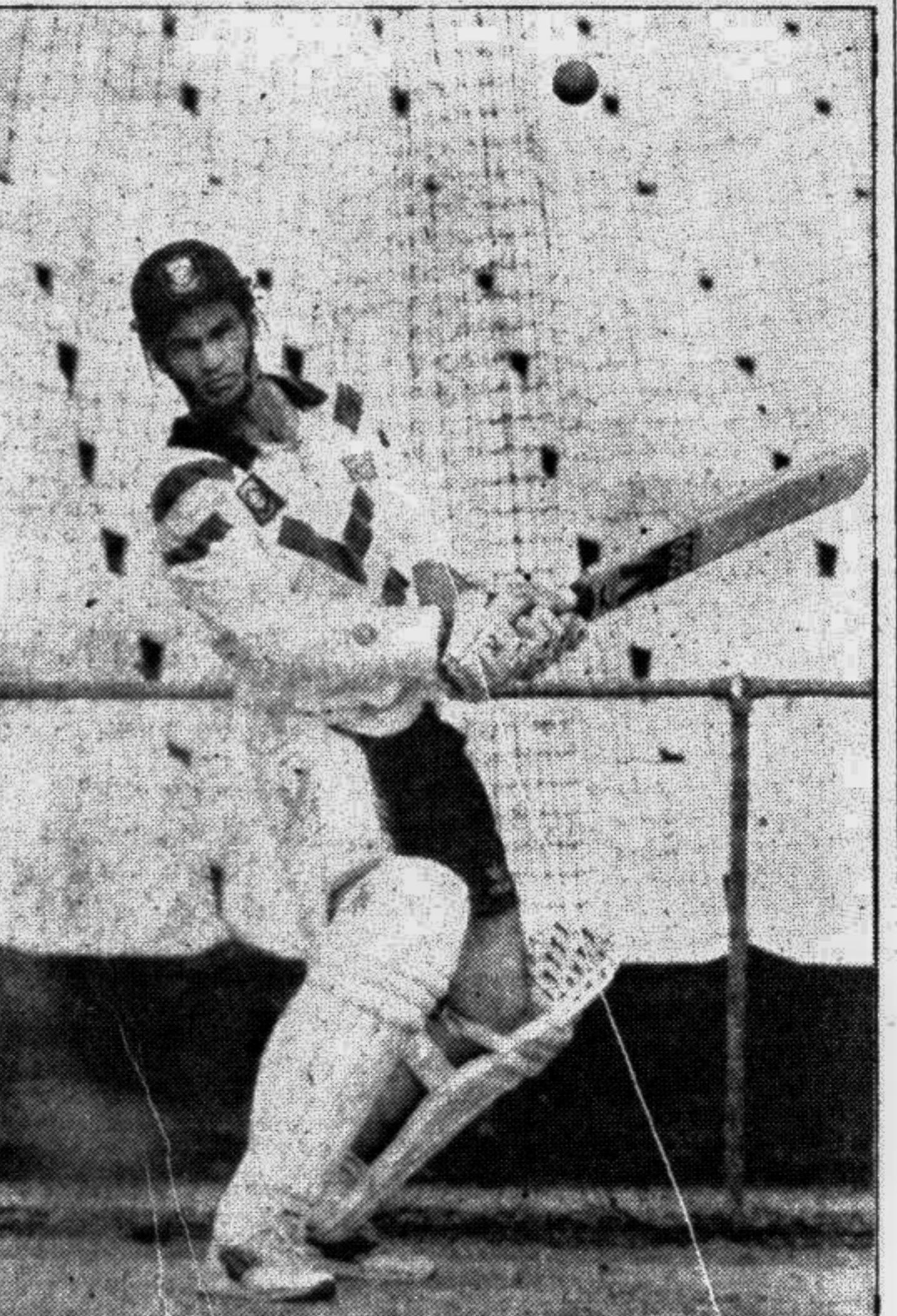
Penalised by ex-wife

LAPAZ, Aug 16: Bolivian World Cup soccer player Alvaro Pena is in hospital after being attacked by his former wife, police sources said Monday, reports Reuter.

Pena, 29, is expected to be in intensive care for a further three days and will take at least six weeks to make a full recovery after being attacked with a kitchen knife by his ex-wife on Saturday.

A police official in the city of Santa Cruz, where the attack happened, said Pena has been awarded a divorce from his wife Martha Roca by a judge three days before.

Parreira blamed the eternal



Kepler Wessels, captain of the touring South African cricket team, sprints out of the line of a flamer during a practice session at the nets at The Oval yesterday. Currently leading the series 1-0, the South Africans take on hosts England for the third Test beginning at the same venue from next Thursday. — AFP photo

TCCB freezes import of foreign players

LONDON, Aug 16: The Test and County Cricket Board, under pressure to ban foreigners from English county cricket, on Tuesday imposed a partial four-month moratorium on the signings of overseas players, reports AP.

In its summer meeting at Lord's, the TCCB did not consider a formal proposal for the elimination of overseas players, but said it would likely consider the matter at its winter meeting in December.

"There will be a moratorium until the December meeting of the Board," TCCB chief executive Alan Smith said. "In this period no county will sign a new contract for an overseas cricketer that goes beyond the 1996 season."

"We will ask Lancashire to make an official proposal next month and our various committees will meet to examine all aspects of overseas players in county cricket," Smith said. "I anticipate a decision at the winter meeting."

The Lancashire club have led the drive to phase out overseas players by 1996, arguing that an ever-expanding international program doesn't allow counties to get their money's worth from players called up for foreign Test duty.

The county lost Wasim Akram halfway through this season and Somerset is doing without Mushtaq Ahmed because of Pakistan's tour to Sri Lanka.

The issue has also created argument that overseas players have a negative influence on the standard of England's game at an international level.

West Indies currently have a full team — Brian Lara, Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Phil Simmons, Jimmy Adams, Carl Hooper, Cameron Cuffy, Desmond Haynes, Winston Benjamin, Kenneth Benjamin — playing for English county clubs.

TODAY'S MATCHES

PONTYPRIDD, Wales, Aug 16: Opener Andrew Hudson is in danger of losing his place in South Africa's Test side after another batting failure on Monday, reports Reuter.

He followed his first innings four with jittery 23 as the touring team drew their three-day game against Glamorgan.

Hudson has played in all 16 of South Africa's Tests since their return to the international fold.

But he will be lucky to make Thursday's third and final Test against England at the Oval after totalling only 266 runs from 18 innings on this trip — an average of 15.64.

He did his cause no good Monday by holding out to Adrian Dale at long leg after top-edging a sweep off spinner Robert Croft.

"Andrew is too good a player to be discarded lightly," said coach Mike Procter. "But he has had every opportunity and hasn't made runs. Obviously, we have to consider our options."

Those options are to promote either Peter Kirsten or Hansie Cronje to opener and bring in Darryl Cullinan, who has scored three half-centuries in recent weeks.

Aspirilla, 24, a sleek and gifted striker, faces a make-or-break season at the helm of Parma's attack after failing to live up to high expectations at the World Cup.

Baggio, a tall midfielder who scored key goals as Italy took the runners-up spot to Brazil in the US, must now prove he can perform week in week out in the Serie A after his summer move from Juventus.

Troubled by a series of injuries, Baggio had a poor season with Juventus last year.

Parma are his fourth club in five seasons and he has never really reproduced his Italy form at league level.

The Australians have put the word about that they are going to win everything. That's upset a few teams," South African swimming coach Brian Graham said on Sunday.

With their 19 swimmers and barely two years experience back in international competition, South African can hardly expect to pose a serious threat to Australia's crack 45-strong squad.

But they have learned a lot since their disastrous first big international outing at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and confidence is returning.

Lewis to miss Zurich meet

ZURICH, Aug 16: The Weltklasse Grand Prix track meet, billed as the competition of the season, offers a star-studded lineup for the men's 100-metre dash — despite a last minute pullout by Carl Lewis, reports AP.

America's sprinting elite — world record holder Leroy Burrell, rival Dennis Mitchell and record-happy Jon Drummond — are training for a showdown with Olympic and world champion Linford Christie of Britain in the event Wednesday evening.

Lewis, two-time Olympic gold medalist and three-time world champion, also planned to run after being sidelined by a stomach infection at the Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg last month.

But the darling of the Zurich fans withdrew late Monday after doctors advised that a mineral deficiency caused by the infection could cause muscle damage.

Also in the world-class lineup are 1993 world champion Andre Cason, the world 200-metre champion Franklyn Fredericks of Namibia, and Olapade Adenikin, Davidson Eziwui and Daniel Eflong, all of Nigeria.

The flamboyant Drummond has already boasted he will set a new world record at the prestigious meet.

"I will set the world record of ... 9.79 seconds. Then I will take a victory lap around the track," he predicted.

Burrell set the record of 9.85 at Lausanne, Switzerland, last July 6, slices one-hundredth of a second off the previous mark held by Lewis.

Drummond's training partner, the 1994 Goodwill Games

and Par Africa-USA meet winner Dennis "The Green Machine" Mitchell, is more quietly confident.

He has clocked five sub-10-second wins this season and is at the top of his form.

Mitchell is ready to take on

the men's 200 metres will likely be another highlight of the meet with Michael Johnson of the United States pitched against the Norwegian European champion Geir Morten.

Johnson has the season's second fastest time in the 200 metres, 19.94. He also won in the Goodwill '90 last month in 20.10.

In the long jump Heike Drechsler of Germany, who dominated the field at Helsinki, will have to battle it out against Jackie Joyner-Kersee of the United States.

The American strained a ligament in her right knee during the 110 metre hurdles at the Pan-Africa-USA meet last week and withdrew from the long jump.

"But her sights have long been set on the Zurich meet."

Other events attracting attention will be the men's 110-metre hurdles, where Britain Colin Jackson's challenge will most likely be the clock; the men's long jump, in which record-holder Mike Powell of the United States faces competition from up-and-coming compatriot Kareem Streeter-Thompson; and the men's 800 metres, where Kenyans Wilson Kipketer and Nixon Kiprotich will be up against Italian Andrea Benvenuti and Norwegian Athle Douglas and Veibjorn Rodal.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, fit out on Monday at big-money transfers like Chris Sutton's five million pound (7.72 million dollar) move from Norwich to Blackburn.

He said they were inflating the market, forcing less well-off clubs to look abroad for cheaper options and could be damaging to the long-term interests of the England team.

Some players, let alone fans, see Asprilla, who cut his soccer teeth at Nacional Medellin, as the sole question mark hanging over an otherwise solid squad.

"Faustino wasn't consistent last year and a true champion cannot allow himself such ups and downs," said Brolin.

"We have a 50 per cent

chance of winning the title. If Asprilla comes through, then the entire squad will reap the benefits," he said.

Asprilla has said he wants to be regular internationals, they need to be in the top band of wages, and the fee needs to reflect a world-class player."

Taylor is particularly annoyed at the interest in cheap American players. Coventry almost signed US World Cup defender Alexei Lalas and have since bought his teammate's Jones.

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