

Kabaddi faces axe

Kabaddi, included in the Hiroshima Asian Games with the pursuance of Indian sub-continent countries, now faces a threat of exclusion from the meet due to inadequate entries, reports UNB.

Three of the seven participating nations — Nepal, Sri Lanka and China — have informed that they might not be able to take part in the event for various reasons.

Kabaddi, which made its debut in the 11th Asian Games in Beijing in 1990, was also included in the Hiroshima 12th Asian Games as one of the 34 disciplines of sporting events with technical support from India and Bangladesh, the champions and runners-up of the last Asian.

If, for any reason, the organisers fail to muster at least four entries for Kabaddi then it will have to be excluded from the prestigious meet.



Action from yesterday's Star First Division football league encounter between East End Club and Dharmodhi Club at the Dhaka Stadium. The game ended 0-0. — Star photo

Jansher, Jahangir at par

BARCELONA. Sept 18: Pakistan's Jansher Khan won his sixth squash World Open crown here on Sunday when he outplayed England's Peter Marshall in the final, reports AFP.

Jansher equalled compatriot Jahangir Khan's record of World Open victories as he defeated Britain's first ever finalist in the men's championship 10-15, 15-11, 15-8, 15-8.

The meeting may have turned into a rout by the end, but Jansher was clearly tense and unable to concentrate at the start.

He conceded four strokes in a first game during which he fought back from 7-10 down to 10-11, only to jar his racquet against the side wall like a novice to set Marshall on his way for 10-12.

Jansher put the next two balls down as he went for a couple of straightforward drop shots and then completely mis-hit his return to concede the game.

Significantly, it was the first

game which the Pakistani star had dropped all week, but still he refused to buckle.

He tightened up considerably in the second game, rediscovering his winning touch during the important rallies and giving little or nothing away to the battling Englishman.

Marshall's luck ran out at 8-10, at which point Jansher accelerated away to 14-9 and a magnificent rally which wrapped up the game for the world champion at the third

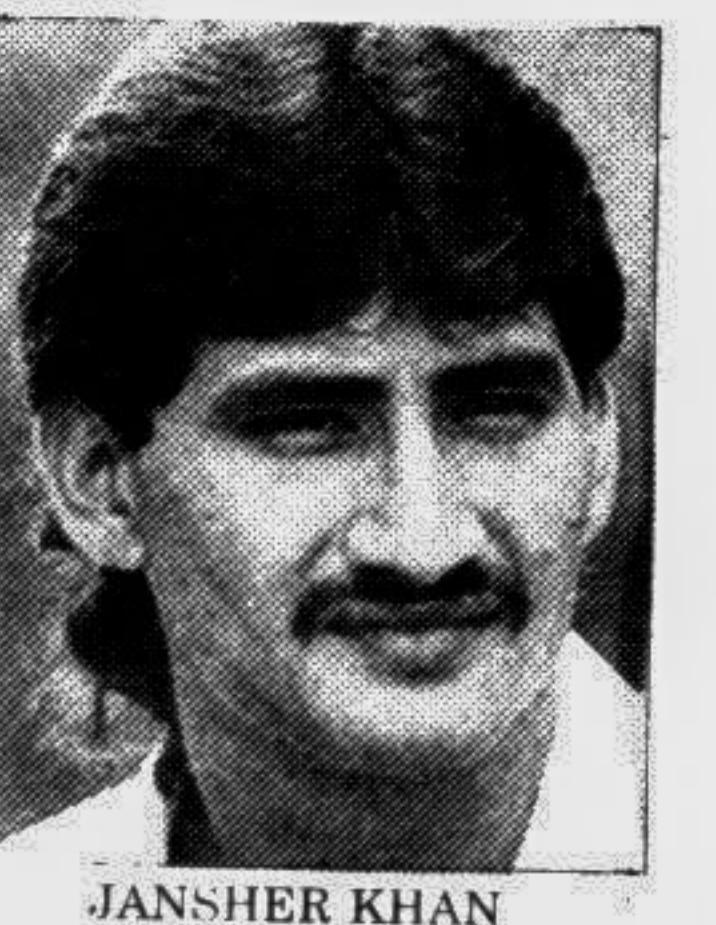
attempt.

By the third game, it was clear that Jansher had simply found a higher gear in which to play. He hauled the Englishman around the court like a Spanish matador, finishing a string points with a spinning, unreturnable drop shot which brought roars of approval from the Barcelona crowd.

Marshall predictably began to tire in the onslaught as Jansher raced into a 7-0 lead and the English number one struggled to pick up drop shots from the front wall. He rallied to 5-12 and then 6-13, but a stroke gave Jansher the first of his game balls and the Pakistani finished with a nick shot on the back wall.

Marshall was again on the receiving end in the final game, trailing 1-5 before again rallying to 4-6 — only for the now familiar pattern to be repeated as Jansher's exquisite stroke-play at the front wall brought him the next eight points and his first match ball.

Jansher took the title, raising his arms aloft in victory, when Marshall's shot off the left side wall flew into the tin. — Star photo



JANSHER KHAN

Kawasaki lead in J-League

TOKYO. Sept 18: Last year's champions Verdy Kawasaki took top place in the Japanese football league Saturday with a 3-1 win over Urawa Red Diamonds and Bellmare Hiratsuka, both with 8-3 records.

Marinos, without Argentine stars Ramon Angel Diaz and David Carlos Bisconti due to suspension, crashed to a 0-1 loss as Yokohama Flugels ran away with Brazilian Valber da Silva Costa getting the only goal.

Gilberto Carlos Nascimento of Brazil and Koji Noguchi gave Bellmare their first win over Kashima Antlers as they coasted to a 3-1 victory.

First-stage champions

Inter-school madrassah meet From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH. Sept 18: Mymensingh PL High School beat Gazipur Chandana High School in the final of the inter-school and madrassah football championship today.

In handball, Bandura Holy Cross High School trounced Mymensingh Zilla School 14-5 to clinch the title while in the girls' event Viquarunnisa Noon High School edged out Mymensingh Vidyamoyi School 7-6 for the championship.

It was their ninth win against two defeats and gave

Espanol hold Barcelona

BARCELONA. Sept 18: Spain's first Division newcomers Espanol moved a point clear at the top of the table despite being held to a goalless draw by last season's champions Barcelona on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Pereira scored from a free kick to give his team a 1-0 lead going into the break, and then put them further in the lead with another fine score only two minutes into the second-half.

Rui Ramos produced an immaculate pass for Santos in the 63rd minute to set up the match.

It was their ninth win against two defeats and gave



Record lifts

SALONICA. Greece, Sept 18: Georgia's Evgeni Kakiahsishvili set a new record of 185.5 kg for the snatch in the 91 kg class at the weightlifting World Cup here Saturday, reports AFP.

Alexander Kurlovish of Belarus raised the snatch record in the 106 kg category to 202.5 kg and equalled the total record of 450 kg.

Manchester United striker Brian McClair (R) is congratulated by teammate Eric Cantona after scoring Premier league clash at Old Trafford on Sept 17. United won 2-0. — AFP photo

Sport

Draw, order of the day

Sports Reporter

Draw was the order of yesterday's two Star First Division football league matches but the pattern was diverse with one reportedly being prearranged while the other played fair and square.

The second of the two matches billed for the Dhaka Stadium between Victoria Sporting Club and Eskaton Sabuj Sangha made mockery of organisers the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association's (DMFA) strict regulation regarding arranged affair when they played to a three-all draw under floodlights.

In a farcical and all to obvious display of mutual understanding, every goal from one team was reciprocated by the other at every alternate minute.

Victoria, who rested three regular players — Aman, Angur and Amin Khan — in the match twice came from behind to make it 2-2 through goals from Titas and Shamsuddin before Faisal put them in the lead in the 80th minute by a spectacular free-kick.

However, Eskaton took a double lead with goals from Tulu and Akku, restored parity one minute later when substitute Shaheen was apparently allowed to shoot into an open net.

Victoria, who are trailing league leaders Rahmatgani by one point, with this draw raised their collection to 15 from 11 matches while Eskaton upped their tally to 11 playing as many outings.

The first match of the day between East End Club and Dharmodhi was a legitimate 0-0 draw.

East End's collection now stands at 11 from as many matches while Dharmodhi has nine from eleven matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Sadharan Bima vs Muslim Institute 4:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Parashganj SC vs Dhaka Wanderers 6:30 pm (Dhaka Stadium)

Maradona's new life begins

BUENOS AIRES. Sept 18: Diego Maradona sparred with defenders and goalkeepers Saturday in his first day as assistant to Boca Juniors coach Cesar Menotti, reports AP.

"It's good to be back in the Candy Box," Maradona told reporters after the one-hour training session at Boca Stadium in Buenos Aires, known as the Candy Box because of its square shape.

Maradona led Boca to the 1980 Argentine league title, and then was transferred to Spanish club Barcelona, then Napoli and finishing his club career in Europe with Sevilla.

Both Maradona and Menotti refused to say what Maradona's exact duties would be as assistant coach.

"It's not fair to say I'm here as advisor to Menotti," the 33-year-old former midfielder said. Menotti "has 25 years experience as coach. I'm here to learn," he said.

"My work today consisted of sparring with the defence and shooting at the goalkeepers."

Meanwhile another report says, in Naples, judicial sources said a judge had ordered Maradona to stand trial over child maintenance payments he allegedly owed his Italian former girlfriend.

The Argentine was ordered to pay five million lire (3,200 dollars) a month maintenance when a court ruled two years ago that he was the father of Cristina Sinagra's son.

But Trinidad popped up quickly and did not appear to be injured.

Trinidad, 21, began to open

Ferreira pockets Bordeaux title

BORDEAUX, France. Sept 18: Wayne Ferreira of South Africa completed a busy weekend as he won the Passing Shot tennis tournament Sunday, beating American Jeff Tarango in the final, 6-0, 7-5, reports AP.

Ferreira had to play four matches within 30 hours as rains plagued the tournament throughout the week.

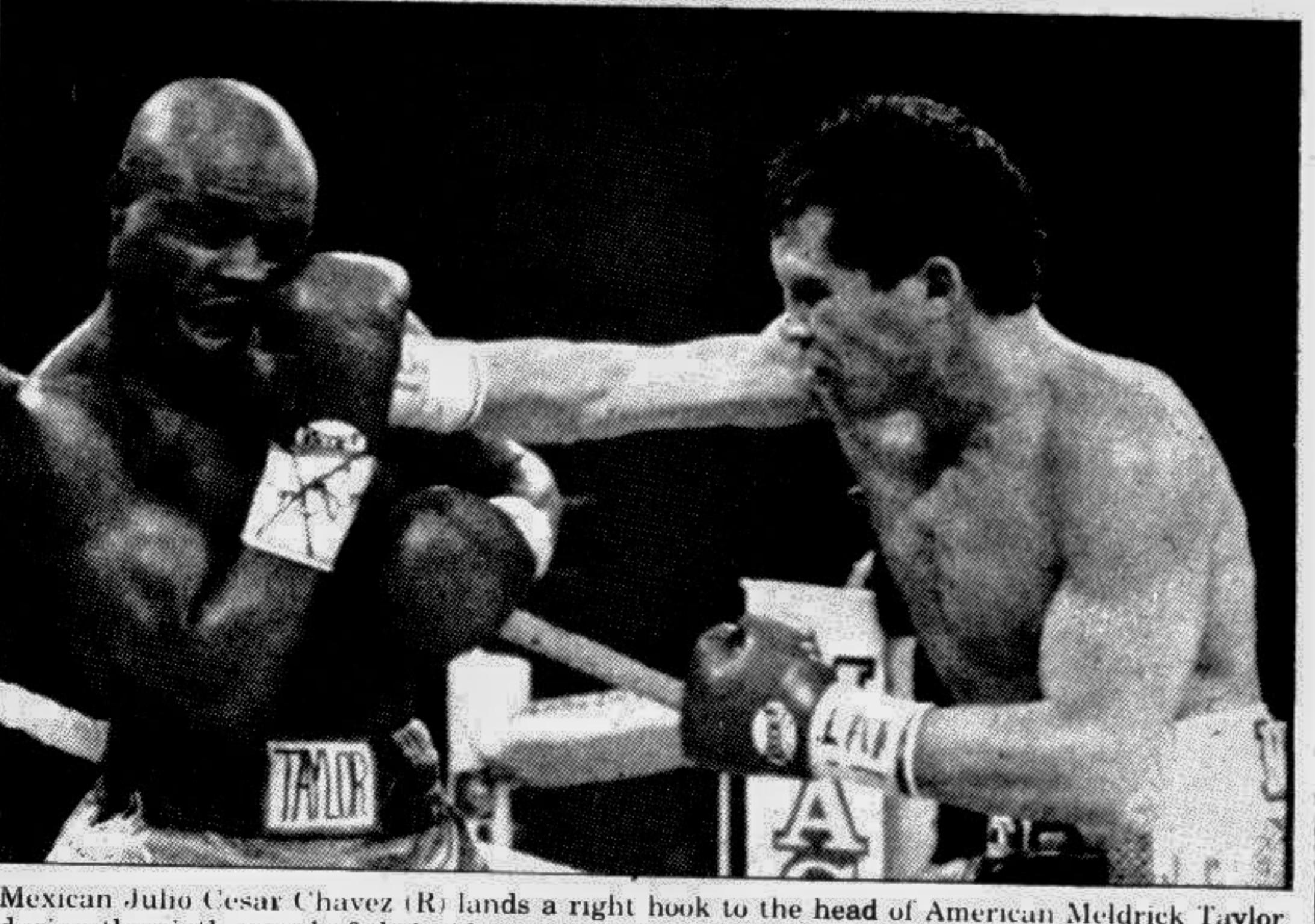
On Saturday morning the second-seeded Ferreira defeated Mats Wilander in three sets in a second-round match. The South African came back in the afternoon to beat Olivier Delastre of France in two sets in the quarterfinals.

Sunday morning in the semifinals, Ferreira needed two hours to beat another Frenchman, Guy Forget, in three sets. Less than 90 minutes after that victory Ferreira had to return to the court for the final against Tarango.

Tarango played one match on Saturday but returned Sunday morning to beat fourth-seeded Marc Rosset, 6-1, 6-3 in the semifinals.

In the final Ferreira rushed through the first set in 20 minutes. Tarango came back into the match, getting a break against Ferreira in the fifth game of the second set to go up 3-2.

The letter, under the name



Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez (R) lands a right hook to the head of American Meldrick Taylor during the sixth round of their 12-round WBC super lightweight title bout in Las Vegas on Sept 17. Chavez stopped Taylor in the eighth round to retain his crown.

— AFP photo

the entire round in exchanges that brought the sellout crowd of 15,200 to its feet.

"I knew I would win his fight," Chavez said. "I was so dedicated."

The fight for a time appeared a replay of the Classic first bout, a fight that Taylor was winning until Chavez caught him in the final seconds of the 12th round.

Taylor's career went into a tailspin following that defeat but he appeared reinvigorated in recent fights and had won three straight by knockout going into the fight.

"I felt strong," Taylor said. "Obviously until I got hurt I thought I had him hurt a couple of times. But he's a great champion and I take my hat off to him."

Chavez (91-1-1) took care of one controversial decision, but wants to avenge another.

"I want Randall," he said.

Promoter Don King, however, said Randall will first fight Pernell Whitaker before meeting Chavez in a rubber match of their two fights.

But Moenchengladbach, inspired by some brilliant play by Stefan Effenberg, were unlucky not to equalise when Bremen goalkeeper Oliver Reck pulled off a magnificent save from midfielder Peter Wynhoff.

Bayern Munich, one of four teams on seven points, two behind the leaders, were held to a 1-1 draw by Hamburg despite the visitors having goalkeeper Uli Stein sent off for deliberate handball outside the area 15 minutes into the second half.

Hamburg took the lead in the 16th minute through new-comer Andre Breitenreiter and Bayern were saved from defeat only by an 84th-minute penalty converted by Lothar Matthaeus.

Borussia Dortmund, whose flying start to the season came to an abrupt halt with a 4-1 defeat against Eintracht Frankfurt two weeks ago, were held to a 2-2 draw away to Bayer Leverkusen.

PSV climb

AMSTERDAM. Sept 18: The new look PSV Eindhoven team went to the top of the Dutch First Division on Saturday with a 4-0 win over Dordrecht, reports Reuter.

Striker Peter Hoekstra opened the scoring in the 37th minute punishing a defensive error with the assistance of PSV's Brazilian teenager Ronaldo.

Marciano Venk, returning to Dutch soccer after a spell with Genoa, put the Eindhoven side further ahead just two minutes later with a well-placed header.

After a slow start to the second half, veteran defender Jan Wouters, who retired from international soccer after the World Cup, emerged to score a third goal in the 63rd minute.

AB TT on

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Bangladesh Biman along with other title aspirants made a roiling start on the opening day of the Metropolis AB Bank table tennis league which got underway at the Dhamondi gymnasium yesterday.

Paddlers of the airline team came against little resistance from their counterparts of Purbachal Parishad chalking up a 3-0 win.

Armanita JS, who have two Indians in their ranks — Ganesh Kundu and Arjun Datta, sustained the pattern with another three-love win over Bangladesh Bank.

Three-nil was the victory in the match between new entrants Inter Sports and Mariners with the latter emerging victors.

Wari broke the monotonous pattern conceding a set to Cynthia Sports before wrapping it up 3-1.

The month-long single-league meet comprising 16 teams was inaugurated by Ramzanul Straj, vice president of the sponsors AB Bank.

Kapil at the end of the road?

NEW DELHI. Sept 18: Is Indian cricket's superstar Kapil Dev really on the verge of retirement?

Yes, if you go by a searching question-answer session involving him and a handful of children at a Doordarshan programme beamed last evening, reports PTI.

When asked by a tiny tot that what steps the hero of many a cricketing battle was taking to become the captain of the Indian cricket team once again, the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket replied: "No I am preparing to leave everything."

The words to this effect were used at least twice in the informal chit-chat.

In a lively session where cricket crazy kids hurled searching missiles of questions on him, the cricket icon discussed everything ranging from elementary things like how to grip a bat to the glorious days when nothing went wrong.

In reply to a question, Kapil said he was unable to work for long hours, which he did in his youthful days, as his body may not be able to take that much strain.

It came out during the course of the informal barrage of questions that the chairman of selection committee, former batting sensation G R Viswanath, who many believe is the person whose faith in Azharuddin has kept Kapil out of captaincy, was his favourite player during his childhood.

Lucky Bremen atop Bundesliga

BONN. Sept 18: Werder Bremen increased their German First Division lead on Saturday with a somewhat fortunate 1-0 win over Borussia Moenchengladbach, reports Reuter.

A close-range shot by Bremen striker Bernd Hobbs and a clumsy attempt save by Moenchengladbach goalkeeper Uwe Kamps in the 27th minute sealed victory for the home team and took them two points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

But Moenchengladbach, inspired by some brilliant play by Stefan Effenberg, were unlucky not to equalise when Bremen goalkeeper Oliver Reck pulled off a magnificent save from mid-fielder Peter Wynhoff.

Bayern Munich, one of four teams on seven points, two behind the leaders, were held to a 1-1 draw by Hamburg despite the visitors having goalkeeper Uli Stein sent off for deliberate handball outside the area 15 minutes into the second half.

Hamburg took the lead in the 16th minute through new-comer Andre Breitenreiter and Bayern were saved from defeat only by an 84th-minute penalty converted by Lothar Matthaeus.

<p