



Co-presidents of the 1998 World Cup football Organising Committee Michel Platini (L) and Fernand Sastre pose in front of the official logo on yesterday in Paris. The competition is to be held in France.

— AFP photo

## Star Premier resumes Friday

Sports Reporter

The Star Premier Division football league resumes Friday after a seven-day recess following Muktijoddha's participation in the Independence Cup soccer tournament in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Defending champions Mohammad Sporting Club, who began their return leg campaign on a wrong foot, settling for a one-all draw with Bangladesh Boys, will meet Sylhet Youngmen's Club at the Dhaka Stadium at 6:30 pm.

Meanwhile, Muktijoddha Sangsad Kira Chakra, who returned home yesterday after being eliminated from the six-nation invitational football tournament, will take on Bangladesh Boys on Sunday.

Muktijoddha, who had one win against one defeat on completion of their Group B engagements, were left out of the race on goal difference.

## Bangladesh to play in Surjit Singh hockey

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take part in the 11th Surjit Singh memorial hockey tournament, scheduled to be held in the Indian city of Jullundur from November 8 to 15.

The national selection will play under the banner of Dhaka Eleven, marking second Bangladeshi participation in the meet since 1992. Bangladesh, who made their tournament debut that year, finished fifth.

The team, expected to leave for New Delhi on November 3, will play their first match on the newly-laid astro turf at the Jullundur Stadium on November 9. Their opponents have not been fixed yet.

Bangladesh will also feature in a six-nation tournament in Lahore in February next year.

## AB Bank TT

Sports Reporter

Four teams registered their second successive victories in the AB Bank Metropolis table tennis league at the Dhamondi gymnasium yesterday.

Favourites Bima, who started their campaign in a whirlwind fashion on the opening day, collected a similar win when they blanked Bangladesh Biman three sets to love in the day's one of the four engagements.

Armanitola JS, another title aspirants, cruised against Purbachal Parishad swimming with yet another three-nil victory.

Wari Club, who, too, featured in first day's action with the first two outfits, pummeled Armanitola JS.

In the day's last encounter newcomers Inter Sports, leavened with the experience of former national champion Kisli and talented Akhlaq, made short work of Cynthia 3-0.

## School, madrassah swimming

Sports Reporter

The 23rd national school and madrassah swimming championships began yesterday at the Mirpur National Swimming Complex.

Minister for Education Barrister Jamirudin Sircar inaugurated the meet with Professor Eunus Mia, the Secretary General of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, presiding over the simple opening ceremony.

One hundred natants participated in the 11-event meet.

Meanwhile, the football and handball championships will begin on September 22 and run through to September 25.

## Woolmer, next SA coach?



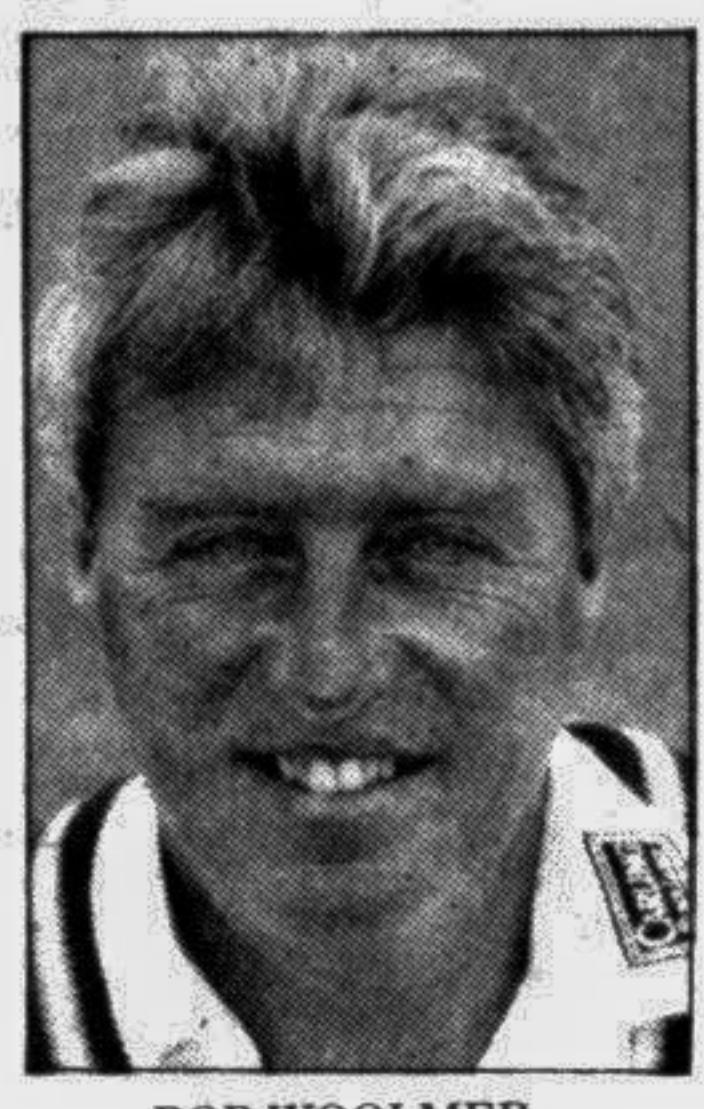
CAPE TOWN, Sept 20: Former England batsman and current Warwickshire coach, Bob Woolmer, has emerged as the overwhelming favourite to succeed Mike Procter as South Africa's national cricket coach, reports Reuter.

Woolmer is one of three candidates on a short list drawn up by the United Cricket Board of South Africa's executive committee. A final decision will be announced on Saturday after interviews throughout the week.

Four names were originally proposed by the committee, which consists of UCB president Krish Mackerudj, vice-president Ray White, selection convenor Peter Pollock and managing director Ali Bacher. But current South African 'A' team coach Stephen Jones asked not to be considered.

Woolmer's competition will therefore come from former great south African all-rounder Eddie Barlow and former Zimbabwean captain and current Western Province coach Duncan Fletcher.

With Bacher placing so much emphasis on the committee's desire for "highly qualified technical coach" it seems likely that Barlow, currently without a cricketing job, will find his brand of fire and



BOB WOOLMER

coached Western Province for just one season.

Woolmer's outstanding success at English county Warwickshire (they won three out of four domestic competitions) has not gone unnoticed in South Africa and Bacher conceded that the new coach "could well come from outside

South Africa."

Woolmer said on Monday "I don't want to pre-empt anything ... I may not get the job. It would be a tough wrench to leave Warwickshire after we've achieved so much but I've stated before that my ambition is to coach at the highest level."

"Somehow I would like to, perhaps, combine the two jobs and maybe a deal could be done. I would love to do both ... I've started something at Warwickshire that I would like to continue but the SA job is the ultimate goal."

Warwickshire chief executive Dennis Amis confirmed that the county would be very keen for Woolmer to at least see out the remaining year of his contract even if he was offered the South African job.

"We wouldn't stand in Bob's way if he was the man the UCB wanted but we certainly hope that an agreement could be reached whereby he was able to fulfill both commitments."

Fletcher and Barlow will be interviewed over the next couple of days while Woolmer, due to arrive back in South Africa on Wednesday, will be interviewed in Johannesburg on Friday.

Bacher will then notify the remaining members of the UCB executive on Friday night before announcing the final decision on Saturday morning.

## Greg Chappell's new role

MELBOURNE, Sept 20: Former Australian cricket captain Greg Chappell was Tuesday named as coach of the second Australian team to compete in an international limited-overs series this season, reports AP.

The team, to be known as Australia A, will play in a four-team series against England, Zimbabwe and the regular Australian team during the coming southern hemisphere summer.

Chappell said he expects the second-string Australian team to be very competitive.

"I would be disappointed if they didn't win a few games," he said. "Quite honestly, there's no reason why the second team shouldn't beat any of the other three, including Australia and England."

The same selection panel will choose both Australian teams. Among those likely to be in contention for places on the Australia A team are batsmen Matthew Hayden, Stuart Law, Ricky Ponting and Damien Martyn.

Bowlers Jo Angel and Gavin Robertson, both of whom are on the current Australian tour of India and Pakistan, and Bruce Reid and Merv Hughes — both of whom are coming back from injury — are also likely to be in contention if not named in the first-choice team.

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