

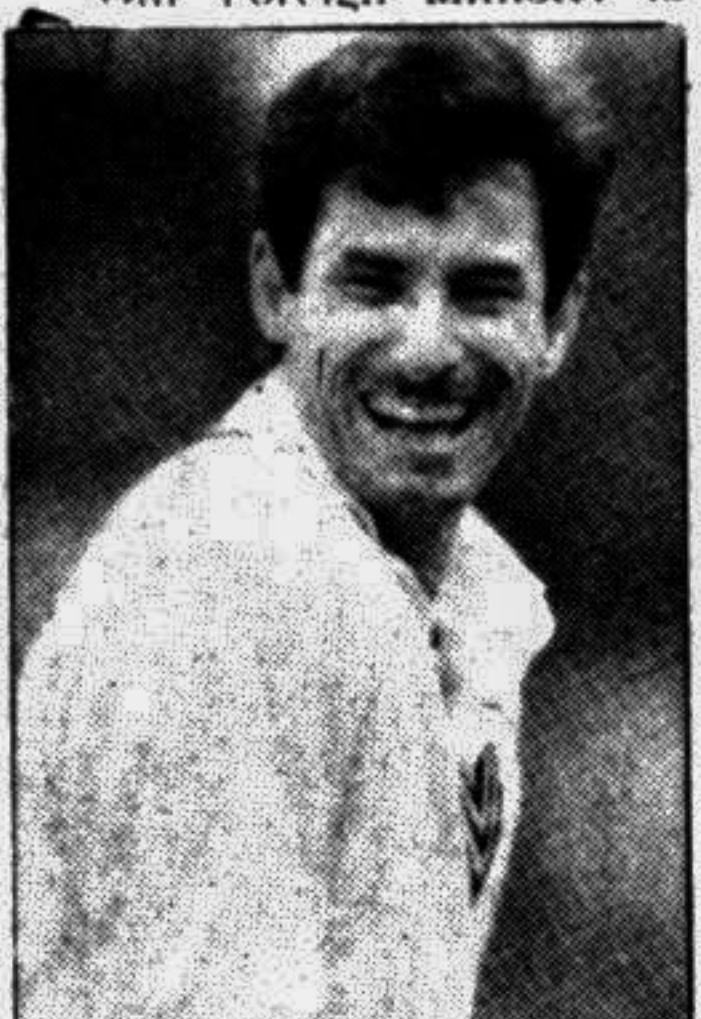
Sport

BCCB keen to hire Hadlee as coach

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Apr 5: Bangladesh cricket authorities have approached their country's foreign office to help sign Sir Richard Hadlee of New Zealand as coach, reports AFP.

"The matter has been taken up at the government level," Rofiqul Hassan, manager of the Bangladesh team currently playing in the Asia Cup here, said today.

"Our Foreign Minister is



SIR RICHARD HADLEE personally in touch with his counterpart in New Zealand. We are pretty confident of signing on Sir Richard," he added.

Bangladesh sacked former Indian Test star Mohinder Amarnath as coach last year after the team failed to qualify for the 1996 World Cup. Efforts to rope in Pakistani batsman Haroon Rashid also failed.

"We want someone who can train our boys for a longer period," Hassan said. "We think Sir Richard is the best, for he can also provide specialised training for budding fast bowlers."

Hadlee, rated as one of the game's greatest allrounders, retired three years ago after becoming Test cricket's most successful bowler with 431 wickets.

Kapil Dev of India surpassed the feat last year.

Bangladesh hope to impress at the Asia Cup here in their bid to gain Test-playing status.

Richardson to open for Windies

BRIDGETOWN, Apr 5: The West Indies selectors, still smarting after their humiliating defeat in the first Test against Australia, have dropped opener Sherwin Campbell for the second Test which starts Saturday, reports AFP.

"We thought the opening partnership did not do the job that we expected in the first Test," said Davis Holford, head of the selection committee on Tuesday.

Campbell's place will be taken by captain Richie Richardson who will open with Stuart Williams, whose 11 innings in seven Tests had yielded 185 runs.

"We lost two quick wickets before reaching 25. We thought we needed to alter the opening partnership," explained Holford.

But Holford held out some hope for the axed Campbell.

"This decision has no bearing on our long-term plans for the two opening batsmen. It is more of a short-term measure. We are 0-1 down in the series and we want to get back in the series as soon as possible," said Holford.

Back in the side is left-handed Keith Arthurton, a 30-year-old middle-order batsman who has played in 30 Tests, scoring 1,149 runs.

Ironically, his highest score came against Australia in Brisbane in the 1992-93 series when he scored 157.

Atlanta Games' marathon in evening

MONACO, Apr 5: Next year's Olympic marathon will be raced in the evening in spite of fears that Atlanta's hot, sticky weather could pose problems, reports AFP.

"Given a choice between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm — the two 'medical' prime times recommended as having the lowest humidity — we picked the evening," International Amateur Athletic Federation spokesman Christopher Winner said today.

"Temperature doesn't kill a marathon, humidity does — and that was our concern," he added.

"We don't expect world-beating times, but we do expect an Olympic calibre race in a city where all the runners knew ahead of time it would be hard to schedule a 'right time' for a marathon in mid-summer."

The marathon has been held as an end-of-show event for the last two Olympics.

Another cakewalk for India

SHARJAH, Apr 5: Defending champions India beat Bangladesh by nine wickets in the inaugural match of the fifth Asia Cup cricket championship at the Sharjah cricket stadium here today, reports BSS.

Winning the toss Bangladesh decided to bat and were all out for 163 in 44.4 overs following some disastrous batting.

India, in reply, reached the target losing only one wicket in just 27.5 overs in the 50-over-a-side match.

The Indians, who expressed their confidence of retaining the trophy, faced little resistance from Bangladesh and won easily.

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar and Manoj Prabhakar who opened the Indian innings produced 57 runs in just six overs sent down by medium-pacers Anisur Rahman and Saiful Islam, scoring more than nine runs an over.

Spinner Md Rafique was the only lucky bowler, getting Tendulkar's wicket by clean bowling the dangerous Indian batsman who blazed a rapid 48. The Indian total then was 72.

Tendulkar played 31 balls and hit nine fours and one six.

The other opener, Prabhakar and Navjot Singh Sidhu ensured a facile Indian victory by putting on 92 runs for the second wicket. Prabhakar and Sidhu remained unbeaten with 53 and 56 respectively. Sidhu hit seven fours while Prabhakar five.

Prabhakar, who was dropped by Akram Khan on 45 off the bowling of Saiful Islam, was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

Bangladesh ambassador to the UAE Zia-us Shams Chowdhury handed over the 1000-dollar purse to Prabhakar.

Bangladesh has faced India thrice in the Asia Cup and lost everytime by a similar margin.

"The Bangladesh batsman miserably failed to prove their ability on a batting track from the very beginning.

Opener Athar Ali Khan was lustily cheered by the Bangladesh supporters when he hit a fine four off the very first ball of the match from Manoj Prabhakar. He took two more

runs from the same over. But the tall Athar, who looked at ease against both the opening bowlers Prabhakar and Srinath, returned to the pavilion after being caught by keeper Mongia off Srinath with 30 runs on board. He hit three fours in his 17 off 19 balls.

Aminul Islam Bulbul top scored for Bangladesh with 30 that included one six and two fours. Bulbul and Minhazul Abedin Nannu added 42 runs in the fourth wicket before Nannu was run out for 21.

Javed Omar Golla, who



PRABHAKAR made 53, was also run out. Akram Khan and Saiful Islam scored 24 and 22 not out respectively.

Akram blames his batsmen

SHARJAH, Apr 5: Bangladesh skipper Akram Khan expressed his dissatisfaction at the failure of his batsmen on a good pitch, terming it "very poor batting", reports BSS.

"During the pre-match briefing everybody was told to be steady and responsible, but we failed to discharge our responsibilities," Akram said.

He said, "Running between the wickets is a most vital aspect of a cricket match and our failure in that department lost us the wickets of opener Javed Omar Golla and Minhazul Abedin Nannu.

"We will try our best to overcome our lapses in tomorrow's match against Sri Lanka," Akram said.

Inter-club booters transfers

A quiet day at DMFA

Sports Reporter

A total of fifty two booters changed their allegiance on the fourth day of the inter-club soccer transfers at the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) office yesterday.

But it was rather a quiet day after a hectic third day on Tuesday with most of the leading clubs choosing to stay out of trading yesterday.

Only Brothers Union, who lost almost all their key booters during the first three days of the six-day players' transfers, got into the act roping in four youngsters.

They are — defender Bishu Das (Agrani Bank); striker Don (Esaton SS); goalkeeper Milon (Arambagh) and Mosadde of PWD.

Defending champions Abahani, however, made a brief visit to ensure the services of their diminutive winger Mintu for the second successive year collecting his token from the DMFA office yesterday.

The other trading of the day involved the middleings and minnows of the Premier Division clubs as well as the supremos of the Star First Division outfits, was are out to prepare their teams for the coming football season.

The transfers conclude tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Asia Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and India at the Sharjah Stadium here today:

BANGLADESH:

Athar Ali Khan c Mongia b Srinath	17
Javed Omar Golla run out	18
Sajjad Ahmed Shipon c Mongia b Prabhakar	4
A I Bulbul c Vaidya b Utpal	30
M A Nannu run out	21
Akram Khan c Utpal b Vaidya	24
E H Moni lbw b Prabhakar	8
Mohammad Rafique b Kumble	2
K M Pilot lbw b Kumble	4
S Islam not out	22
Anisur Rahman c Sidhu b Vaidya	2
Extras: (lb-7, nb-3, wb-1)	11
Total: (44.4 overs)	163
Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-40; 3-51; 4-93; 5-99; 6-114; 7-119; 8-125; 9-138.	

Bowling:

Prabhakar	10	0	43	2
Srinath	8	3	21	1
Utpal	10	0	28	1
Vaidya	8.4	1	41	2
Kumble	8	0	23	2

INDIA:

M Prabhakar not out	53
Sachin Tendulkar b M Rafique	48
N Sidhu not out	55
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1, w-5)	7
Total: (27.5 overs for one wicket)	164

Bowling:

Anisur Rahman	5	0	42	0
Saiful Islam	5	0	31	0
Mohammad Rafique	5	0	15	1
E H Moni	6	0	25	0
Athar Ali	3	0	22	0
M A Nannu	3	0	19	0
A I Bulbul	0.5	0	9	0

Walkovers galore at national cricket tourney

The Pepsi 21st national cricket championship advanced to the zonal semifinal stage but the tournament lost its charm as four of the six matches ended in walkover on the second day at different venues across the country yesterday, reports UNB.

The beneficiaries of the walkovers were — Magura against Bhola in Zone A at Jessore, Bagherhat over Chuadanga in Zone F at Rangpur, Sathkhira against Rajshahi University in Zone E at Jhenidah, and Noakhali over Sunamganj in Zone C at Barisal.

In a Zone B match at Barisal, Rajbari defeated Chandpur by five wickets to meet Narsingdi in the zonal semis on Friday.

Chandpur: 113 all out in 32 overs. Sunon 36, Himel 14, Nahid 4/33 and Shampa 2/17.

Rajbari: 114 for 5 in 20 overs. Sajjad 43, Shampa 22, Bulbul 2/23 and Himel 2/23.

In Zone D at Thakurgaon, Nilphamari crushed Joypurhat by 163 runs to face Dinajpur in the zonal semis, also on Friday.

Nilphamari: 291 for 6 in 45 overs. Kaiser 87, Muktar 42, Jaherul 2/39 and Aloke 1/22.

Joypurhat: 128 all out in 34.2 overs.

Nirman schools championship

Shahidullah's unique feat

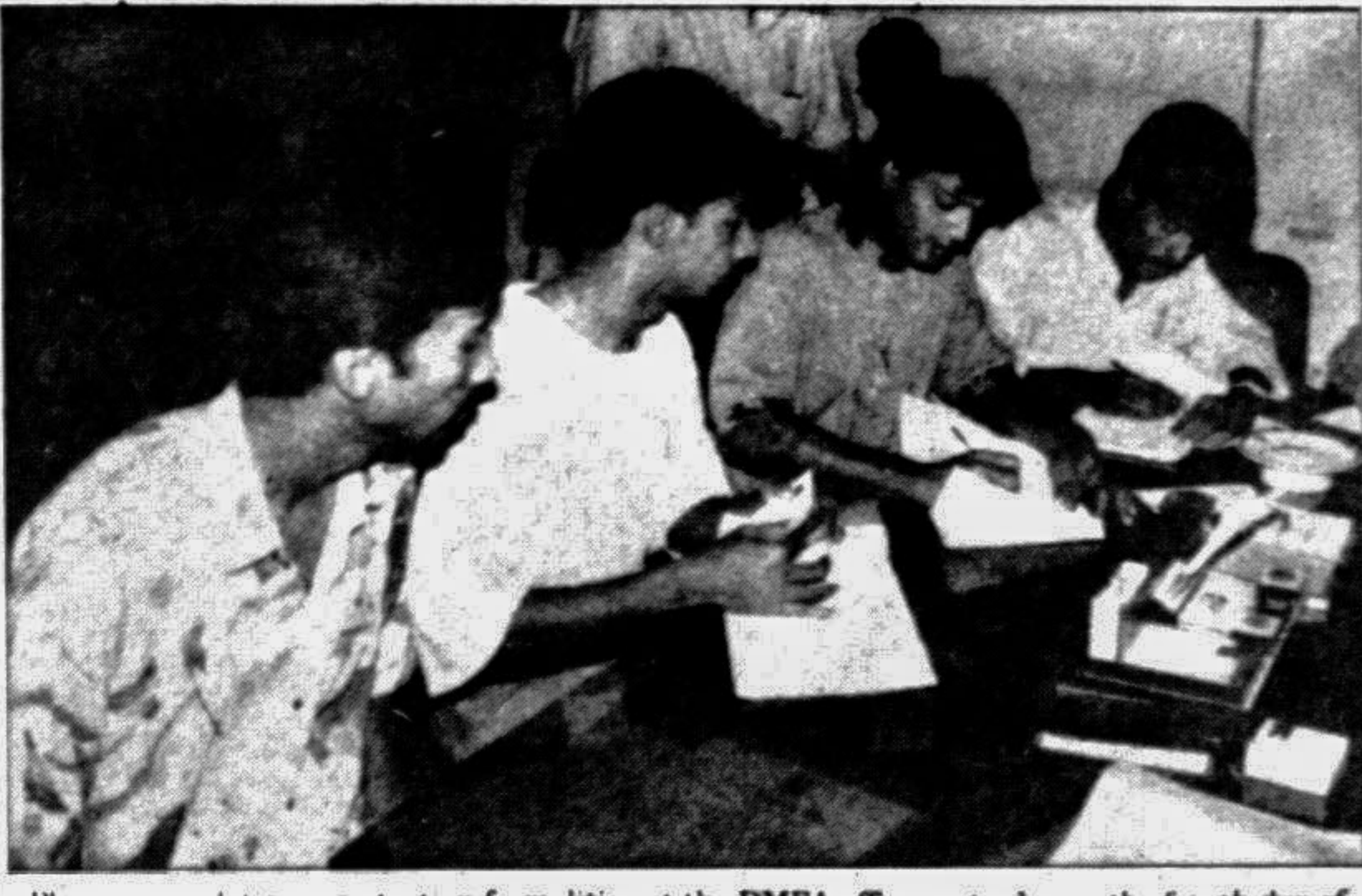
Sports Reporter

Shahidullah Kaisar earned a unique distinction of claiming seven wickets in a match to propel St. Philip High School of Dinajpur to a massive 162-run win over Taruli High School of Jhalakati in one of the three final round matches of the 13th Nirman schools cricket championship played at different city venues yesterday.

At the Jagannath Hall ground, Shahidullah picked up seven wickets for only 14 runs as Taruli, set to score a massive 245 runs for an outright win in the stipulated 45 overs, skittled out for a paltry 82 in 23.5 overs.

Earlier, electing to bat, St. Philip High School compiled a mammoth 244 before being all out in 41.2 overs.

Opener Haider hammered a blazing 67 off only 58 balls embellished with seven hits to the rope while Shahjalal, who shared a century partnership with Haider for the second wicket, chipped in with a 66-ball 45. Babu with 25 and Antony, who scored a rapid 36 off 30 balls, were the other notable run-getters for the Dina-



Players completing registration formalities at the DMFA office yesterday — the fourth day of the inter-club booters transfers. —Star photo

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CJKP cricket

CHITTAGONG, Apr 5: The First Division Ispahani cricket league of the Chattagram Zilla Krira Parishad (CZKP) begins at the Chittagong Stadium here tomorrow, reports BSS.

The participating teams are — Friends Club, Rising Star Club, Shaheed Shajahan Sangha, Elite Paint Club, Atrabad Nowjoan Club, Rafa Cricket Club and Young Star Club.

The CZKP is going to introduce a "pool system" in the First Division cricket league for the first time," he said.

The league will be held on single league basis and the inaugural match will be participated by the Friends Club and the Young Star Club, he added.

Addressing a press conference at the CZKP auditorium here this evening, CZKP cricket secretary Shahin Aftabur Raja Chowdhury said about taka 1.17 lakh was allocated for the tournament to be participated by seven teams.

Asian Championships

BEIJING, Apr 5: Olympic champion and top seed Allan Kusuma of Indonesia led all the other seeded shuttlers enjoying easy wins or walkovers at the opening day of the Seiko Asian badminton championships here on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

Kusuma scored a lopsided 15-1, 15-3 win against Ronald Magnaye of the Philippines in just half an hour as his compatriot Marleve Mainaky, the third seeded player in the men's singles, trounced Iftekh Hussain of Pakistan 15-4, 15-7.

The second-seeded Lee Kwang Jin of South Korea just had a day-off on Tuesday and is to meet the winner of a second round match between Sayed Bahador of Iran and Ali Yar Beg of Pakistan today.

"Kusuma and Marleve are the medal hopes here for Indonesia but we are expecting tough challenge from China, South Korea and Malaysia," said Tong Sin Fu, coach of the Indonesia national team, which has dominated the men's singles and doubles as well as the women's singles events both in Asia and the world in the past four years.

But the badminton powerhouse left home Herynato Arbi and Susi Susanti, their world No 1 players in the men's and women's singles, respectively, and sent of Beijing mainly their young generations of shuttlers.

"Arbi and Susanti are at home preparing for the upcoming World Championships in May. Since the All-England Championships and the Asian Championships and the World Championships are so close in dates, so we want our best to play the world tournament,

Ruling on Krabbe's damage suit May 17

MUNICH, Apr 5: Katrin Krabbe asked a court for \$800,000 marks (570,000 dollars) in damages from the German and International Athletic Federations here Wednesday for being suspended from athletics for unprofessional conduct, reports AFP.

The court will make a ruling on May 17.

Krabbe, who was expecting a baby in May, has fought a series of long-drawn out legal battles to clear her name since 1992.

The 1991 double world sprint champion escaped a four-year ban for irregularities at a random test while training in South Africa in January, 1992, on a technicality. But she tested positive for clenbuterol in July that year.

She had just started training again after deciding to miss the 1992 Barcelona Olympics because of the huge media interest.

However, medical opinion differed over whether clenbuterol, normally used by asthma-sufferers, should be classed as a stimulant or an anabolic steroid.

Stimulant-use carries a one-year ban while the punishment for steroid-use was increased from two to four years in 1991.

The German Federation (DLV) ruled a four-year ban could not be upheld in a German court and reduced Krabbe's suspension to one year.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation then ruled she was ineligible for unprofessional conduct as she had admitted using clenbuterol. That ban prevented her from running in the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart where the IAAF imposed another two-year ban.

That ban, upheld by an IAAF panel in November, 1993, is due to end on August 23.

Two other former East German runners, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr, who had been suspended along with Krabbe, withdrew their cases.

World 400m record holder Butch Reynolds of the United States was granted 27.3 million dollars in damages after contesting a positive steroid test but the IAAF won its appeal last year.

EAF disbanded

ADDIS ABABA, Apr 5: Ethiopia dismissed its National Athletic Federation on Tuesday, accusing officials of failing in their responsibilities to the country's athletes, reports Reuter.

A Sports Ministry statement broadcast on state radio said the Ethiopian Athletic Federation (EAF) had been "guilty of undermining sports and frustrating the country's top athletes" from holding training sessions and organising themselves to participate in international athletic contests."

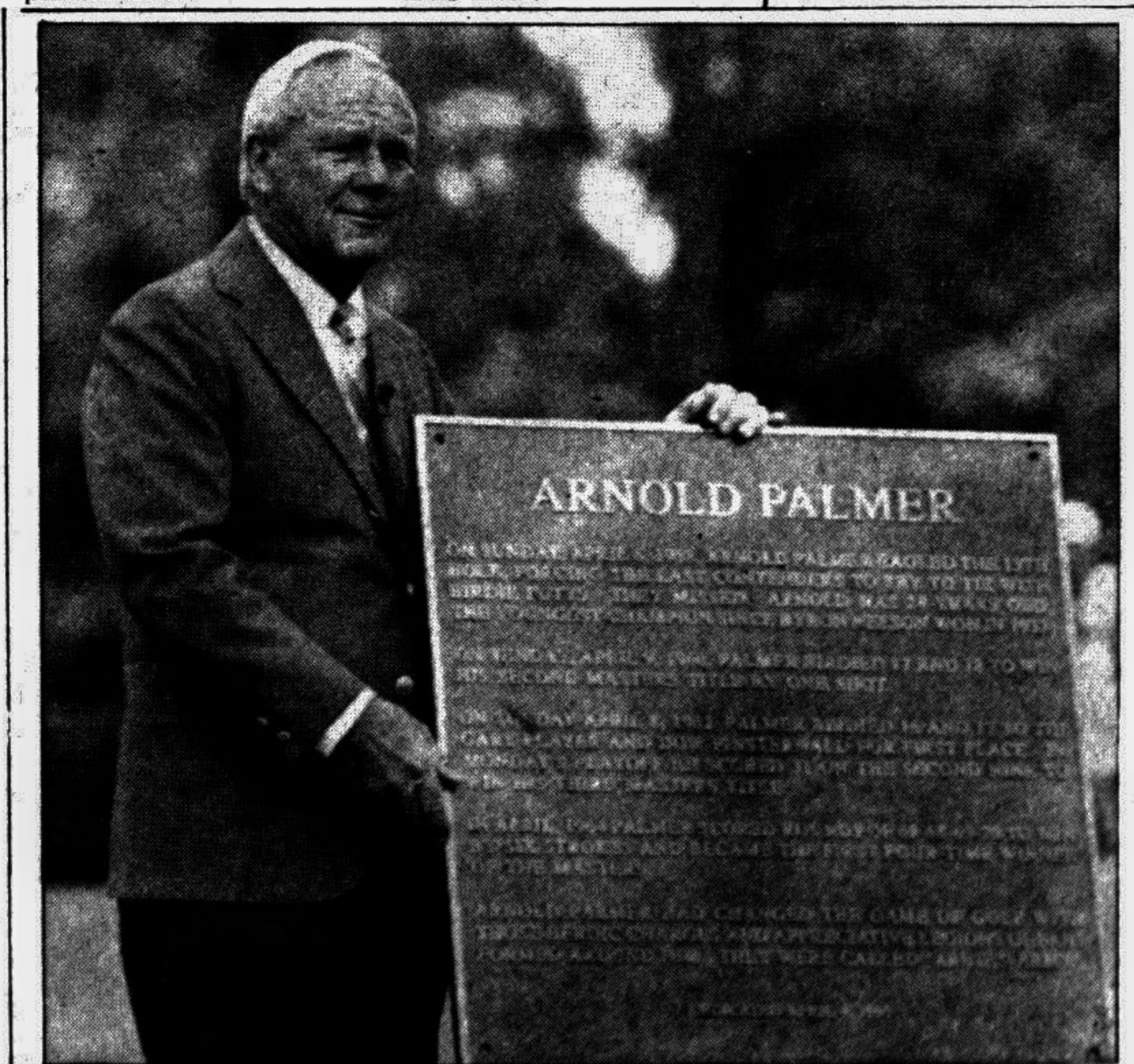
The ministry said a new committee had been formed to look after athletics.

The ministry accused federation officials of sending athletes to international competitions without proper training or funds for their expenses and added leading athletes and their coaches had been refused permission to train at Addis Ababa's national stadium track.

Their failure to carry out their responsibilities properly has humiliated the country and the government internationally," the statement said.

It said some 32 Ethiopian athletes, who took part in the world cross country championships in Durham, England, on March 25 had run only a few hours after arrival.

The athletes spent two nights at airports in Athens and London without food and could not go to a hotel because federation officials had brought no money with them.



Veteran US golfer Arnold Palmer poses with a plaque on Tuesday that will be installed at Augusta National Club to mark the anniversary of his 40th Master's tournament. — AFP/UNB photo

No problems for Kusuma

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"Arbi and Susanti are at home preparing for the upcoming World Championships in May. Since the All-England Championships and the Asian Championships and the World Championships are so close in dates, so we want our best to play the world tournament,

which worth more than 600 ranking points". Tong told Xinhua.

The current 30,000 US dollars Asian Championships will bring a winner 470 ranking points and is equivalent to a 'four-star' event as the World Championships is listed with 'six-star'.

Asian Games champion and world No. 2 Bang Soo Hyun of South Korea, the top seed in the women's singles here, rested on the stands with other six seeded rivals on Tuesday as China's Zhang Ning whitewashed P V Lakshmi of India 11-1, 11-0 to start a first round winning sweep for the host country.

About 300 players from 23 Asian countries and regions are competing in the five-day event, which also serves as one of the qualifying tournament for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games.

CSA to tackle drugs problem

BEIJING, Apr 5: The embattled Chinese Swimming Association (CSA) today pledged to clamp down further on illegal use of performance-enhancing drugs, saying doping had "infected" the sport in China, report agencies.

The officials Xinhua news agency said the association was reviewing proposals including lengthening China's two-year ban for first-time violators and imposing equivalent bans on anyone responsible for the offence — presumably coaches, advisers and other officials.

Aside from the proposed amendments to the association's charter, some reforms will take effect immediately.

"In addition to the amendments, the CSA had decided to increase the number of random tests, including out-of-competition tests," an association official was quoted as saying. "Those who refuse to such tests for whatever reasons will be banned."

The association pledged in a six-day conference to stick to its policy of "strict prohibition, strict tests and severe punishment" in its fight against doping in swimming, "which has infected the sport in China in recent years", Xinhua reported from the meeting site.

The official newspaper China Sports Daily reported that more than 300 medalists and coaches were among the members attending the meeting, which will discuss the problem that led to a ban on Chinese participation in the Pan Pacific meet in February.

Liu Ji, head of the association and deputy director of the China Sports Commission, told the meeting that China would continue to strengthen its "long-term, complicated" battle against doping by improving team management, the report said.

"Chinese swimmers were banned from the Pan Pacific competition after almost a dozen of its swimmers tested positive for drug use in the previous 12 months.

The ban prompted the International Swimming Federation, or Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur, to send a commission to China in March to investigate the slew of positive doping tests.

Those cases prompted the Chinese Swimming Association to suspend five of its athletes from competition for one year and to give FINA more access to its training facilities.

FINA has since announced that while it was concerned

IOC move to shortlist bids for 2004 Games

MONACO, Apr 5: Cities seeking to host the 2004 Olympics are likely to face an early elimination procedure reducing the candidates to a shortlist of four, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

About a dozen cities, including Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Istanbul and Rome, have already indicated an intention to bid for the Summer Games, IOC director general Francois Carrard said.

"We are going towards a selection procedure with four final candidates from 2004," he said, adding that the IOC would make a final decision on this at its next session in Budapest in June.

To reduce costs, the IOC last year introduced a shortlist in the selection procedure for the 2002 Winter Olympics after nine candidates bid for the right to stage the Games.

In January, four finalists were chosen — Salt Lake City in the United States, Quebec of Canada, Oestersund in Sweden and the Swiss city Sion — for a final showdown in Budapest.

The city to stage the 2004 Summer Games will be chosen in 1997.

Coach sacked

EDINBURGH, Scotland, Apr 5: Five days before their first-ever regular season game, the Scottish Claymores of the World League of American Football have fired their head coach, reports AP.

Larry Kuharich, hired in November to coach the new franchise in the WLAFA's comeback season, was dismissed Tuesday and special teams coordinator Jim Criner named as his replacement.