

Old wine in new bottle

Sports Reporter

The newly appointed ad-hoc committee of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) have decided to follow their predecessors' planned way of running the coming Senior Division football leagues.

BKF picks 15 for SAF Games

The Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation (BKF) yesterday selected 15 players for a long-term training for the forthcoming 7th SAF Games to be held in Madras, India, in December next, reports UNB.

They are: Tariqul Islam, Abdul Rauf, Mir Julhash, Faruq Talukdar, Abdul Qaiyyum, Ashraf Alam, Ziaur Rahman, Hassan Imam Mintu, Md Zahidul Islam, Hafizur Rahman, Abdul Hakim, Badsha Mia, Batu Mia, Md Quamruzzaman and Ashraf Hossain Ratan.

Kabaddi Federation will pick up three more players for its 18-member final squad, which will go on training from July 1 at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP).

The selection committee called nine players for trial at the kabaddi court on June 28 and 29 to choose the rest three players.

Warwicks wreck Yorkshire

LONDON, June 25: County champions Warwickshire snappet up Yorkshire's last seven wickets in 30 deliveries to inflict a crushing defeat by an innings and 168 runs with more than a day to spare on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Yorkshire, 353 behind on first innings, collapsed from their overnight 115 without loss to 185 all out on the third morning at Edgbaston.

Their misery was compounded by captain and opener Martyn Moxon being unable to resume his innings of 36 after X-rays revealed he had broken his right thumb for the second time this season.

Moxon's first-wicket partner Michael Vaughan (65) was bowled by a shooter from paceman Tim Muntin and Yorkshire's main hope vanished when David Byas (24) edged a lifter from South African fast bowler Allan Donald to gully.

Australian Michael Bevan (24) became the first victim in a career-best four for 24 by Dogie Brown, a developing Scottish pace bowler who had a match haul of eight for 59.

Warwickshire's fifth win in seven matches lifted them to second behind Northamptonshire whose push for victory

in their first meeting at the DMFA office yesterday the executive committee have proposed to begin the two-tier Dhaka football leagues — Premier Division and First Division — from June 30 under the existing bye-laws which have been proved oblique to provide any drastic measure against match-fixing.

They have formed a 27 member league committee to run the forthcoming leagues smoothly. Shahidul Islam was elected as chairman while Ferdous Islam, a member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), will act as the league secretary.

The formation of the leagues will, however, remain unchanged.

But that should not be happened. As the NSC chairman has dissolved the previous committee, which defied the BFF's proposal of introducing the method of Super League and the Relegation League after the first leg in a bid to curb arranged affairs widely practised by the clubs, in this year's football leagues.

"I don't think it is possible to introduce the new formation this year," said Moammar Huq Mukta, who replaced Kazi Mishu as the general secretary of the DMFA.

The interesting thing is that Kazi Mishu had also ut-

tered the same thing but had to face a different fate despite being running the DMFA for the last three years with great aplomb.

Asprilla enraged

ROME, June 25: Colombian international striker Faustino Asprilla has turned up the heat in his row with Parma, vowing he will never play for the club again, reports Reuter.

Asprilla, 25, has also blamed coach Nevio Scala for his poor goalscoring record saying "It is over between Parma and me. I will never play for that club again."

Asprilla made this remarks in an interview published in Gazzetta dello Sport daily on Saturday.

Asprilla has fallen out with the UEFA Cup holders, who fined him 44 million lire (\$27,000 dollars) for a newspaper attack on Scala. According to media reports, German champions Borussia Dortmund are interested in signing him for 11 million dollars but Parma are holding out for 12.25 million dollars.

"Plenty of teams want me, but Parma won't take a decision because they first want to buy another striker," said Asprilla.

Meanwhile, Otto Pfister has expressed his satisfaction over his boys' performances.

But said "Initially my plan was to start with 46 booters, but had to content with 38 as it is hard to do away with so many at the same time".

Pfister, who observed some of the players as technically sound, also added that many lack physical fitness.

He further added that he might replace some of the present lot with new ones when the camp resumes in October.

The German coach said "Three will be no training in between. Instead I've given individual homeworks to all the players".

Brief booters' camp ends

Sports Reporter

German football coach Otto Pfister has rounded off his maiden stint with the national booters when a brief practice session before the upcoming football begins completed at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Otto Pfister, successor of Mann Young Kang, the Korean coach, to prepare a national team for the forthcoming seventh SAF Games, scheduled to be held in the Indian port city of Madras on December next.

He has provided a three-day training to the booters which began on June 23.

In the last three days the German coach with an illustrious career has rendered the basic lessons of his style among the 37 booters called for the preliminary trial camp.

Otto Pfister, who is scheduled to leave for Germany on June 30, is expected to return with his family in September before resuming the residential camp on the following month.

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Abbas Saad acquitted

SINGAPORE, June 25: A charge of criminal intimidation against former Singapore soccer star Abbas Saad, earlier fined for conspiracy in match-fixing, has been dropped, a police spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

He said the case had been referred to the attorney-general who decided the 27-year-old Lebanese-born Australian should be given a warning.

Neither Abbas nor his lawyer could be immediately reached for comment.

Singapore's Dundy Times newspaper quoted Abbas as saying he had been called to a police station on Saturday.

The officers told me that everything is over. An officer told me to be a good boy," he said.

Abbas was arrested on June 11 on a charge of criminally intimidating an official of the Football Association of Singapore (FAS).

He was convicted and fined a day earlier for conspiring to fix matches when he played for Singapore in Premier League and Malaysia Cup matches in 1994.

According to the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB), Abbas conspired with Czech player Michal Vana, a bookmaker and others to fix league matches played in March and April 1994. A district court fined him 50,000 dollars (36,000) dollars.

Abbas denied the charges, saying he was threatened and coerced by police into signing several statements.

His lawyer earlier said that during the conspiracy case it had been alleged that Abbas made a telephone call to an official which had been interpreted as a threat to his life.

The Sunday Times said Abbas, who had received an FAS notice barring him from all football-related activities for life, would return to Australia next week.

"I'm so happy that the whole nightmare is finally over. I've just got to accept what happened and go on and continue with my life, try to get my life back on the road again," he told the newspaper.

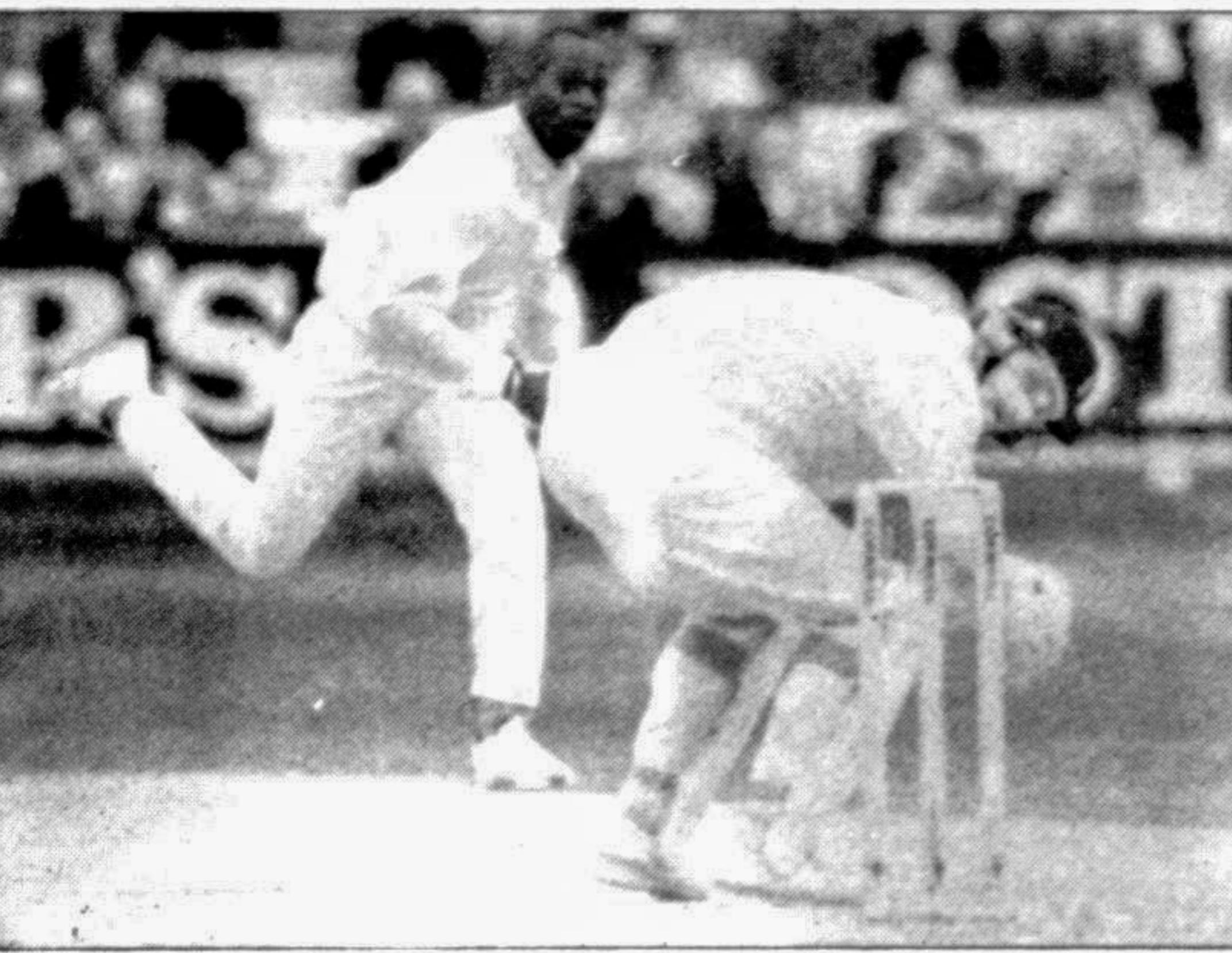
McCall-Bruno bout put off

LONDON, June 25: American Oliver McCall has been forced to pull out of the defense of his World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title fight against Britain's Frank Bruno next month because of a hand injury, reports Reuter.

The bout at London's Wembley Stadium on July 22 has been postponed. Promoter Frank Warren said on Friday that it would now take place in September.

Warren said: "It's a sickness, particularly for Frank, who has been training hard in Tenerife for this big chance."

The WBC super-middleweight fight between holder Nigel Benn of Britain and Italian Vincenzo Nardiello, which was scheduled for the same Wembley bill, will go ahead on the same night but the venue has been switched to the smaller London arena.



England's Robin Smith ducks to skip a snooter from West Indies pacer Ottis Gibson during the third day of their second Test at Lord's on June 24. — AFP/UNB photo

England need 9-wkts, WI 228 runs

Lord's Test hangs in balance



LONDON, June 25: A classic finish was set up Sunday with the West Indies needing 228 with nine wickets in hand on the final day to win the second Test against England and go 2-0 up in the six match series, report agencies.

A fighting 90 by Robin Smith and a courageous return to the Lord's crease by Graham Thorpe early on the fourth day gave England the base for its total of 336 and the challenging target of 296.

In the 19 overs available late Sunday, Brian Lara made some quick ground on the mark with a boundary-studied 38 to take the West Indies to 68 for one at stumps with opener Sherwin Campbell with him on 14 not out.

Smith withheld some hostile quick bowling from Curtly Ambrose especially, taking several blows to the body and suffered a suspected broken blood vessel in his hand.

His 90 included many of his trademark punchy shots square of the wicket and a lot of the courage epitomized by Thorpe who returned after spending the night in hospital recovering from a blow to the head from a Courtney Walsh full toss with the first ball he faced Saturday.

Smith followed his first innings 61 with a classic tough knock against the West Indian pacemen to prove he is much better value batting at No 5 than acting as a makeshift opener where he failed in both innings of the first Test which England lost by nine wickets.

Thorpe made 42 of an 85-run stand with Smith before he was brilliantly caught by Richie Richardson at gully off Curtly Ambrose.

He came to the wicket when Mark Ramprakash was out in the first over of the day for his second duck of the match, and after a cautious start, he and Smith began to open up and play their shots.

When Thorpe went to make it five for 240, Smith was well supported by Dominic Cork who made 23 and Darren Gough with 20 to give England a chance of victory.

Gough then had Carl Hooper caught by Peter

Martin at mid off when he was 14 and the total 15, and England's tails were up as they charged in looking for at least one more wicket.

Earlier, a determined 75 by Keith Arthurton steered the West Indies past England's first innings score of 283 as the tourists, already 1-0 ahead in the series, were bowled out for 224.

The left-hander was last man out leaving Courtney Walsh unbeaten on 11 while English bowler Angus Fraser finished with five for 66.

Resuming at 209 for six, Arthurton and Ottis Gibson moved the score on to 246 before England paceman Darren Gough struck with the new ball. He produced a delivery that kept low and trapped Gibson leg before wicket for 29 out of a seventh wicket stand of 49.

"From now on, no Lazio player is on the market. Our transfer campaign is closed," said Cragg, adding that this also meant there would be no close-season signings.

Cragg said he met Inter president Massimo Moratti on Friday morning and rejected the bid for Boksic.

Fellow-Lazio strikers Giuseppe Signori and Pierluigi Cisaraghi, plus Dutch midfielder Aron Winter, had all been rumoured to be moving from the Roman club.

The owner subsequently said he intended to sell the club, but told reporters on Friday that he had not received any offers.

Khan couple to perform 'Umrah' in mid-July

DUBAI, June 25: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan will take his new wife, British heiress Jemima Goldsmith, for performing Umrah to Saudi Arabia next month, a Saudi newspaper said today, reports Reuter.

The English-language daily Saudi Gazette said the couple would visit Makkah, Medina and Jeddah in mid-July.

Mrs Khan a recent convert to Islam, was said to be keen to perform Umrah.

The couple were married in an Islamic ceremony in Paris in May and a civic party was held in Britain earlier this month.

The paper quoted Pakistan press reports as saying the couple would be guests of the Saudi government.

ROK, China book berth in Atlanta

SEOUL, June 25: South Korea won a 1996 Olympic berth Sunday by defeating Japan 97-78 in the semifinals of the Asian basketball championships, reports AP.

South Korea have sent a men's basketball team to the Olympics only twice previously. They last qualified in 1988 as host of the Seoul Olympics. Their previous participation was in 1968.

The South Koreans face China on Monday for the Asian title.

Both finalists will go to the Olympics since the number of berths allotted to Asia has been increased to two from the previous one.

Lazio reject Inter's bid for Boksic

ROME, June 25: Lazio have turned down a bid from Italian Serie A rivals Internazionale for Croatian striker Alen Boksic — and club owner Sergio Cragg said on Friday that they do not plan to sell any of their players, reports Reuter.

"From now on, no Lazio player is on the market. Our transfer campaign is closed," said Cragg, adding that this also meant there would be no close-season signings.

Cragg said he met Inter president Massimo Moratti on Friday morning and rejected the bid for Boksic.

The owner subsequently said he intended to sell the club, but told reporters on Friday that he had not received any offers.

Muster blasts ATP, Becker

BONN, June 25: Austrian tennis star Thomas Muster criticizes the ATP and calls for an independent European circuit in an interview to be published here on Monday, reports AFP.

Muster also attacks German rival Boris Becker, fined 20,000 dollars last week over his "miracle comeback" comments about the Austrian's Monte Carlo Open win in April.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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4 Teeter-totter	28 Page of music	4 Birdcage	12 English homework
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