

Nannu's defensive stroke

Sports Reporter

Cricketer Minhazul Abedin Nannu, the national all-rounder, dropped by the BCCB from the camp preparing for the ACC and ICC tournaments, defended his case yesterday while talking to The Daily Star.

Replying to a question, the prolific bat and useful bowler, said that he had sought written permission of tour manager Reza-e-Karim to over-stay in the States for a few weeks to enable him to look after his wife's treatment.

On being handed over his passport, normally in the keep of the team manager, Nannu assumed that he was granted his prayer. "As a matter of fact, I was surprised to learn from the press that I have been served a show-cause notice," said Nannu. The former national skipper was last night preparing his reply to the BCCB along with documents.

It may be added that Nannu along with Athar Ali, Faruque Ahmed and Enamul Huq Moni, all serving the national team for long, were surprise exclusions from the camp, paying the penalty for playing abroad.

Although Nannu and Moni have returned in the meanwhile, Athar and Faruque are still with Uncle Sam.

Stewart stymie Pakistan

Sports Reporter



In reply to Pakistan's imposing first innings total of 448, England put up gritty show yesterday, on the third day of the second Test, at Headingley, according to BBC monitored here late last night.

After a lackluster summer, Alec Stewart finally came out of his pale shadow with a brilliant 170 to propel England to 373 for five at stumps. He was the last England batsman out on the day. Nick Knight was unbeaten on 51.

Resuming on overnight total of 52, Stewart went on to complete his first Test ton in two years just before the tea.

The England opener, who had past 50 three times this summer but failed to go on and make a hundred, shared an invaluable 107-run second-wicket partnership with Nasser Hussain (48).

He then put on another useful stand with half-century maker John Crawley before seamer Ata-ur-Rahman made the breakthrough for the tourists, claiming the latter for 53, who notched up his fifty with a sweetly timed boundary off speedster Waqar Younis.

Agencies add: The first half of Stewart's eighth Test century was registered Friday evening when the Surrey right-hander took up the attack against Waqar Younis and Pakistani captain Wasim Akram hitting 52 in only 68 balls as he combined with Hussain to take England to an overnight 104 for one.

Stewart hit eight boundaries for his half-century, and although he was less aggressive when he resumed after rain had delayed play for an hour on Friday, he was still untroubled by the Pakistani paceman, and pushed his score to 72 not out by lunch.

His partnership with Hussain ended when the No. 3 batsman was deceived by a Waqar slower ball and popped an easy catch back to the bowler making it 121 for two. England captain Mike Atherton (12) having been caught behind to Wasim on Friday evening.

Leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who was hit for two boundaries before lunch by Graham Thorpe, had his revenge when he came around the wicket to the left-hander and had him caught bat-pad for 16 making it 168 for three.

Stewart, having been dismissed by Mushtaq twice in the first Test, played him with respect, but treated his bad deliveries without mercy, twice pulling him through mid-wicket to the boundary.

As he reached the nineties for the first time this summer, Wasim replaced the tiring ground and scampered home for three before raising his helmet and bat to celebrate his 168-ball century which included 13 boundaries.

Earlier, on Friday, Moin Khan became Pakistan's first wicketkeeper to score a Test century against England as the tourists made an imposing first innings total of 448.

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram sent the alarm bells ringing early in the England innings when he dismissed key batsman Mike Atherton with the total on 14, but some aggressive batting by Alec Stewart carried England to 104 for one at the close on the second day.

Moin, who earned a recall after Rashid Latif withdrew with a back injury, entered the record books with his 105, bettering the previous best by a Pakistan wicketkeeper — 98 by Imtiaz Ahmed at the Oval in London in 1962.

He was again in the thick of the action when he took his place behind the stumps, holding an excellent catch off an inside edge to remove Atherton for 12.

Shortly before tea Moin completed his third Test century and Pakistan's second of the innings following Ijaz Ahmed's 141 on Thursday.

Moin brought up his hundred when he stole a single to gully and slid headlong over the crease as Nasser Hussain took a shy at the stumps at the bowler's end but missed.

Before his desperate rush for the all-important single, Moin had played with composure for his century, which came off 181 balls from 272 minutes and included 10 fours and a six.



ALEC STEWART... 170

unusually wayward Waqar to put the pressure on.

But Stewart clipped the Pakistani captain for two to move on to 97, and on the next ball drove him down the

Five earn FIDE rating

Sports Reporter

Five more local chess players got the international rating according to a bulletin, published in July by FIDE, the world chess body, increasing the number of Bangladeshi rated players from 41 to 46, said a press release yesterday.

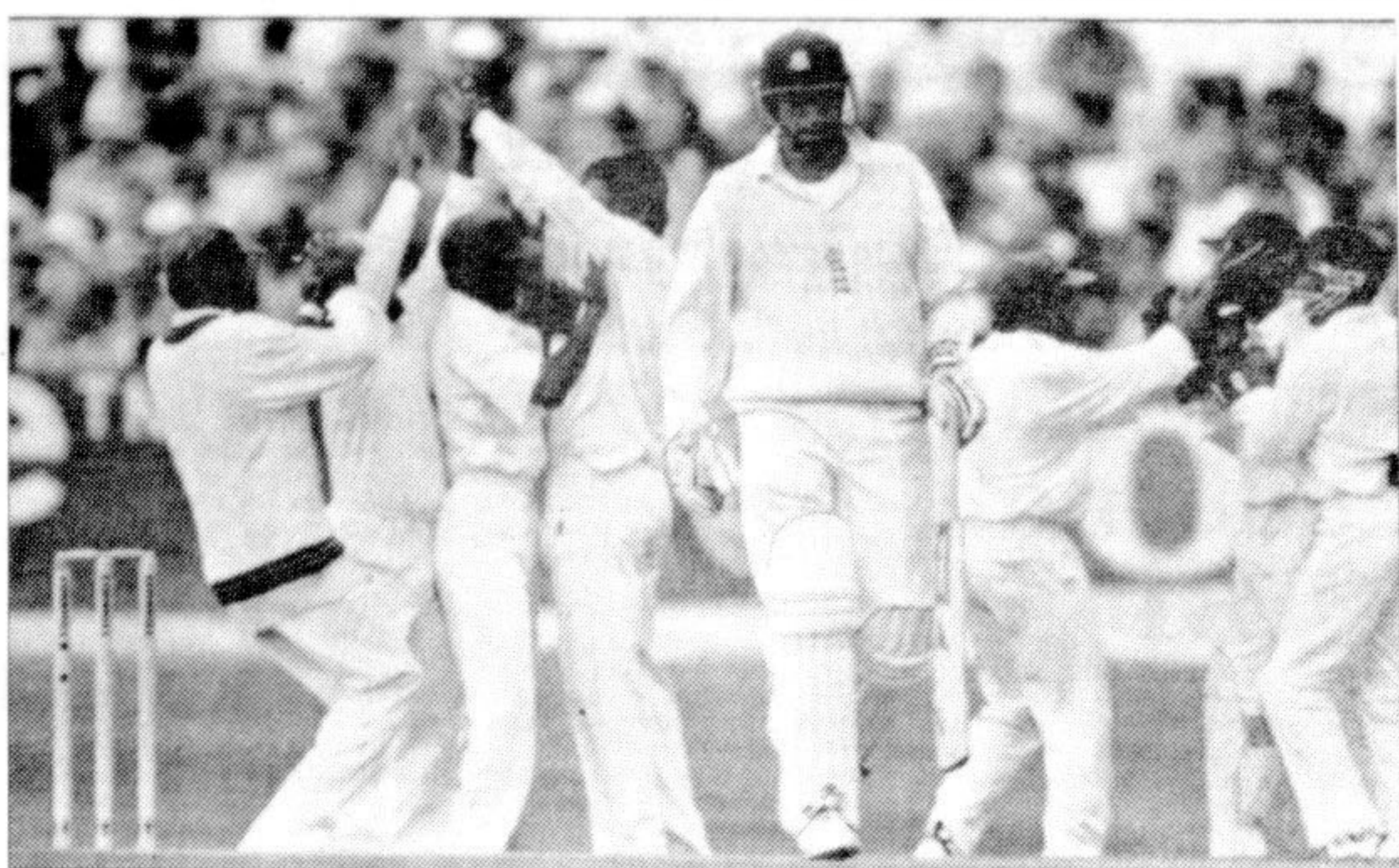
The newly-christened players in the elite category are - Abul Kashem, Imon, Labu, Arman Monir and Masum.

The survey also confirmed Niaz Murshed, the lone Grand Master of the country, as the highest rated player of Bangladesh with 2510 points. IM Reefat with 2465 takes second position while his rival IM Ziaur Rahman follows closely with 2460.

Marseille win

MARSEILLE, France, Aug 10: Striker Xavier Gravelaine scored the crucial second goal with a deft lob in the 69th minute as Marseille beat Lyon 3-1 on their much anticipated return to the French First Division on Friday, reports Reuter.

The rebuilt Marseille side, with Bulgarian Jordan Lechkov always influential in midfield, recovered after going behind in the seventh minute to dictate play and take a deserved three points in their first step back towards the summit of French soccer.



Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram, the sultan of swing, seen celebrating the prized scalp alongwith his teammates while his English counterpart Mike Atherton makes a long walk to the pavilion during the second day of the second Test at Headingley Friday.

Hodde does the trick

LONDON, Aug 10: England coach Glenn Hodde has persuaded Stuart Pearce to change his mind about retiring from international football, reports AFP.

The Nottingham Forest midfielder had announced his intention to end his England career after the defeat by Germany in the semifinals Euro '96.

But, after talking to Hodde in Nottingham last weekend, he asked for a few days to reconsider his decision.

Pearce told the new England coach by telephone today that he would be available for England's World Cup qualifying campaign, beginning in Moldova on September 1.

Hodde, who succeeded Terry Venables, said: "I'm thrilled Stuart has changed his mind. His contribution to the England team over many years has already been substantial, not least in Euro '96."

"It's a major boost to have him available for selection again. His ability and experience will be invaluable to us."

Chess board unchanged

Sports Reporter

Defending champion IM Reefat-bin Sattar, his arch-rival IM Ziaur Rahman and Arman Monir maintained their all-win record in the Open International Rating chess tournament on completion of the fourth round at the NSC chess room yesterday.

IM Reefat, one of the two most talented players in the country after the departure of Grand Master Niaz Murshed from the national circuit, crossed a major hurdle on his way to retain the title defeating International Women's Master Rani Hamid.

Meanwhile IM Ziaur Rahman, a perennial foe of Reefat, continued to shadow his Biman teammate at the cost of Shawkat Hossain Pallab.

On the other hand, Arman Monir, a surprise pack at the top, got an effortless yet crucial win to earn full four points, thanks to the unavailability of his opponent Khandaker Kayes Hassam.

Trailing the table leaders by half a point are - Indian Vargosh Koshi, Saifuddin Labu, Hasibul Hasan Hanif and Sayed Ruhul Kabir.

In this round, Koshi, the lone overseas player in the 10-round Swiss League meet, defeated an unheralded Ashrafur Rahman Murad. Shipul checkmated Tofazzel Hossain Rumu while Labu and Hanif split a point in a drawn match.

DMCA's int'l soccer tourney

Sports Reporter

The Dhaka Metropolitan Club Association (DMCA), a welfare body of the Dhaka-based clubs, has expressed their desire to jointly organise an international tournament this year.

This was disclosed by the president of DMCA, ASM Sultan, in a press briefing at the conference room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

"We want to organise a tournament like the BTC Cup which we successfully hosted jointly with the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) way back in 1991," said Sultan, who is also a vice-president of the DMCA and president of Arambagh KS.

DMCA's 1991 tournament involved three Calcutta giants- East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Calcutta Mohammedan — along with the three local powerhouses Abahani, Mohammedans and Brothers Union.

This year the DMCA are planning to organise such a meet after the completion of the Senior Division football league which kicks-off tomorrow.

Nat'l TT Ansars lift team title

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Ansars, the undisputed women's table tennis monarch in the country, won the team title of the 21st national championships in Rajshahi on Saturday.

While Bangladesh Biman, a la Ansars in the men's circuit, captured the boys' team crown with a thumping 3-0 win over hosts Rajshahi, who had earlier faced the same ignominious situation in the women's final.

In the best-of-five boys team event final, Pappa of Biman set pattern of an otherwise one-way traffic by defeating Rokin 22-20, 21-22. Gautam then erased Nazmul 21-13, 21-12 before Edison completed the Rajshahi whitewash with a crushing 21-12, 21-14 defeat on Zia.

In the women's team event final, Ansars' Zobera Rahman Litu, a long-standing national padder, met little resistance in overpowering Rajshahi's Tumpa 21-17, 21-12.

Rinu then made it 2-0 with a facile 21-13, 21-9 thrashing on Shaheen. She then joined Shantin to wrap up the match defeating the Tumpa-Shaheen pair 21-15, 21-16.



President of the Dhaka Metropolitan Club Association addressing a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Atlanta Games revisited!

ATLANTA, Aug 10 (AP): Six years of anticipation. Seven years unforgettable days. Then, a few hours after the closing ceremony, the Olympic atmosphere began to fade.

The week since the games ended has seen the rapid removal of Olympic decorations, a quick exit by the visiting throng and the return of Atlanta to, well, just Atlanta.

By the end of the work week, groggy Atlanta commuters had for the most part gone back to their normal routines. A partially reopened Centennial Olympic Park was drawing a smidgen of a crowd. And the few sidewalk souvenir vendors that remained were offering bargain basement prices.

The memory of the Games was still fresh. But some already missed the Olympics.

"I came back to work on Tuesday, and I was shocked. What happened to all the people?" said Darlene Webster, who works in an office building two blocks from the park that was the social center of the Olympics.

"I thought there was going to be a lag before it got back to the way it was before," she said Friday. "It's kind of sad."

While the city catches its breath from the Olympics, it will have a chance to party again — although on a much smaller scale — when the Paralympic Games begin on Thursday.

Then the city gets down to the business of figuring out how to keep up its Olympic momentum, especially in drawing people to Atlanta's ordinarily somnolent downtown for entertainment.

Just before the Games, Coca-Cola Co chairman Roberto C. Goizueta warned city leaders against complacency once the Olympics end.

"My concern is that our city

Jacquet the chosen one

PARIS, Aug 10: French coach Aime Jacquet extended his contract, to lead the host nation into the 1998 World Cup finals, it was announced by the French Football Association here on Friday, reports AFP.

His continued role at the head of the national team, however, was never really in doubt despite the disappointing defeat by penalty shoot against the Czech Republic in the semifinals of Euro '96.

Federation president Claude Simonet said that the announcement had been delayed in order to let the post Euro '96 tensions settle.

"A few days after his return from Euro '96 he assured us that we could count on him (Jacquet)," said the president.

"There were no need for long discussions between the various parties." Jacquet was first appointed in December 1993 after France's failure to qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States.

Until the Euro loss, the French team went 27 matches without suffering a defeat under his leadership.

For his part, the president of the national league Noel le Grand indicated his pleasure at the resigning of Jacquet, and gave the coach the full support of French football.

Jacquet too, found it difficult to disguise his enthusiasm.

"The World Cup in France represents a fantastic objective, he said, breaking the media silence that has reigned since Euro '96.

Bebeto starts with a winning note

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug 10: Flamengo celebrated the return of international striker Beбето by beating Atletico Mineiro 2-1 as the Brazilian Championship got off to a distinctly flat start on Thursday, reports Reuter.

In the only other match, Sao Paulo beat Portuguese by the same score in their first competitive match under Brazil's former World Cup coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

Bebeto, who has replaced his former international striking partner Romario at Flamengo this season, failed to get on the scoresheet, his closest effort hitting the crossbar in the second half.

Hockey league Players' transfer from Sept 15

The inter-club players' transfer for the metropolis first division hockey league will begin on September 15 at the Bangladesh Hockey Federation office, reports UNB.

The five-day transfer formalities are scheduled every day from 5 pm to 7 pm.

The league is likely to start in the first or second week of November. But this will depend on completion of renovation works and laying of astro-turf at the Hockey Stadium, scheduled to be completed by October 31.

As in the past, each participating team will be allowed to enlist and field a maximum of four foreign players in the league.

Asia Cup football

AMMAN, Aug 10: Two goals from national football star Jerjess Tadrus helped Jordan win a 4-0 victory against Pakistan in Friday's Asian Cup qualifying match, reports AP.

Pakistan meet Iraq Sunday in the second match of the qualifying round, while Jordan play Iraq in Tuesday's final match.

The Group Six winner proceeds to the finals that will be held in the United Arab Emirates in December.

Bangladesh, another member of Group Six, withdrew from the competition, citing lack of funds to finance their team.

Solidarity race in Sarajevo

PARIS, Aug 10: Some of the world's top athletes will be in Sarajevo next month for a solidarity meeting aimed at helping to rebuild the war-hit city, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said on Friday, reports Reuter.

A delegation from the IAAF travelled to the capital of Bosnia and on Thursday finalised the details of the first sports event to take place in the country after the 43-month war which ended last December, the IAAF said in a statement.

The competition on September 9 will be preceded by a ceremony led by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Juan Antonio Samaranch, and the IAAF president, Primo Nebiolo.

Enter Kambli, exit Manjrekar Azhar stays in the team

CALCUTTA, Aug 10: India's cricket selectors today retained deposed captain Mohammad Azharuddin in the 14-man squad for two limited-overs series, while exciting left-hander Vinod Kambli was recalled.

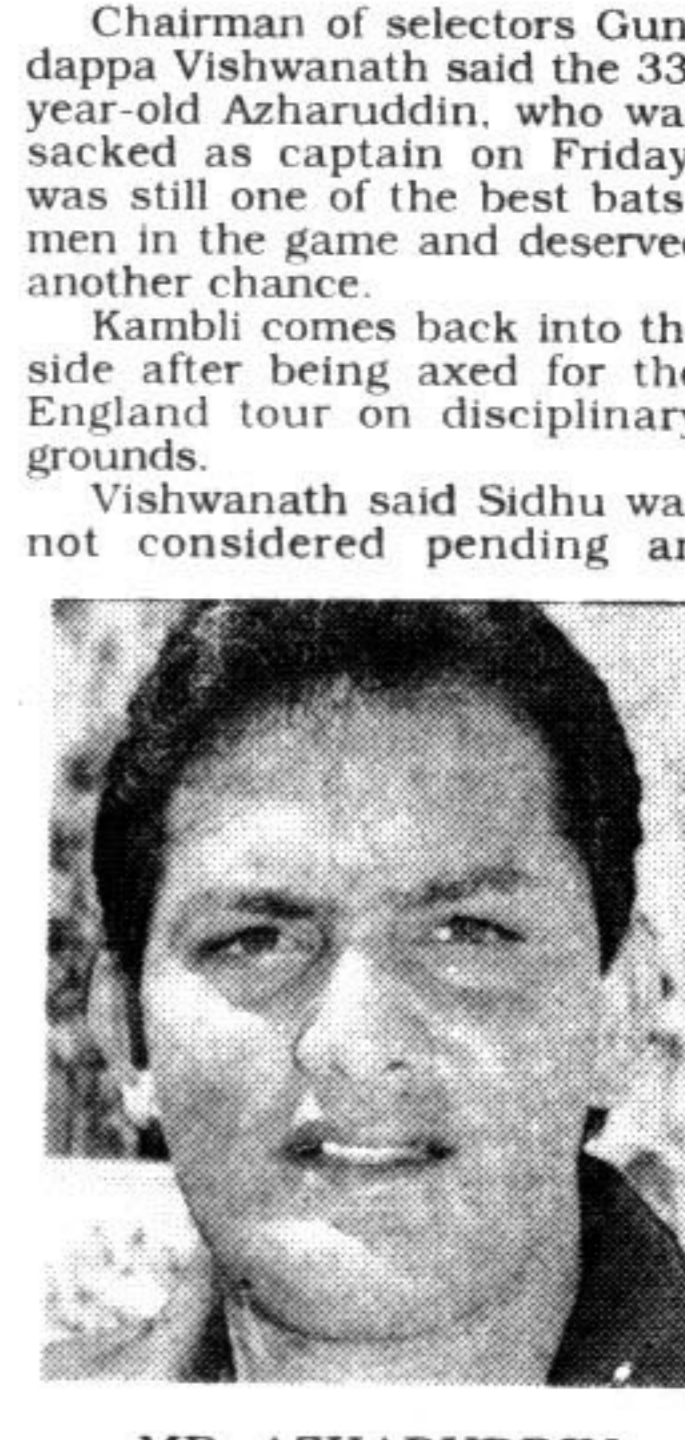
Kambli comes back into the side after being axed for the England tour on disciplinary grounds.

Vishwanath said Sidhu was not considered pending an enquiry against him for the unprecedented walk-out, but insisted the opener may be back for the home series against Australia and South Africa in October.

Also omitted from the England tour party were batsman Sanjay Manjrekar, spinners Venkatapathy Raju and Narendra Hirwani and seamers Paras Mhambrey and Sali Ankola.

India take on World Cup champions Sri Lanka, Australia and Zimbabwe in the Singer World Series.

The India-Pakistan series, organised by world-wide sports promoters International Management Group (IMG), will be played in Toronto from September 14 to 22.



MD. AZHARUDDIN

Tall order for Tendulkar

BOMBAY, AUG 10 (Reuter): Mild, impetuous, but often daring, Sachin Tendulkar, named India's new cricket captain, has been a dream come true for a nation where millions of fans adore the game and its heroes.

The diminutive right-handed batsman, is counted among the world's best along with West Indian Brian Lara and Australian Mark Waugh.

At 23, he already has seven years of international cricket behind him since his Test debut against Pakistan at the age of 16, when he became India's youngest Test player and the world's second youngest after Pakistan's Mushtaq Mohammed.

He becomes India's second youngest captain after "Tiger" Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi, who captained India at 21.

With 2,911 runs including 10 centuries from 41 Tests, Tendulkar has a batting average of 54.9 runs. He is the

youngest cricketer to score 1,000 runs in Tests.

He is also said to be the world's highest-earning cricketer after signing a 10-million dollar commercial deal to market his name.

In a rare interview this year, Australia's Donald Bradman, widely regarded as cricket's best batsman, said that among the batsmen he knew, Tendulkar came nearest to his mould. Tendulkar acknowledged it as the greatest compliment he has ever received.

What is most striking is his immense self-belief and ability to handle pressure. Tendulkar's infectious smile and curly locks are a cruel act of deception. Under the visage of a cub lurks the ferocity of a tiger," Rajdeep Sardesai wrote in India's Sunday magazine recently.

Vice-captain since India's tour of Sri Lanka in 1992-93 Tendulkar has been waiting in the wings as a natural successor to skipper Mohammad

Azharuddin.

A fine product of a generation that grew up with one-day cricket, Tendulkar is also a prolific run-getter in limited over games. He usually bats at number four, but has often opened the innings in one-day games with devastating effect.

As a bowler, he has often fetched crucial wickets with his gentle medium-pace deliveries. His fielding is considered impeccable.

"The expectations (of the public) are quite high and I will try to live up to it," Tendulkar told Reuters in February ahead of the World Cup played in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Tendulkar became Bombay cricket club's youngest player when he was selected a year before his Test debut.

Tendulkar, who dropped out of school to concentrate on cricket, feels comfortable in Bombay's modest surroundings, where he learnt his game playing with a tennis ball.

FBI rebuts 'apology' report

ATLANTA, Aug 10: The FBI on Friday denied a report that it would apologise to Olympic bomb suspect Richard Jewell if it could find no definitive evidence linking him to the July 27 attack on the Centennial Olympic Park. He helped police clear people away before the device detonated.

The CBS evening news said on Thursday that Federal investigators were preparing to make what was believed to be the FBI's first ever public apology to the private security guard, who has been named a suspect but has never been arrested or charged with any crime.

The news report that the FBI is preparing to issue an apology is inaccurate. At this time there are no plans to issue an apology to anyone," said Jay Spadafora, a special agent at the FBI's Atlanta office.

Spadafora declined to comment on a separate press report saying the agency could issue a public statement clearing Jewell of suspicion in the bombing, which left two dead and 110 injured.

Jewell, 33, was the first person to spot the backpack containing a homemade pipe bomb in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. He helped police clear people away before the device detonated.

CBS reported that searches of his residences by investigators have turned up no definitive physical evidence to link Jewell to the crime.

Meanwhile, official records released on Friday show police response to the anonymous warning about the bomb was delayed by a series of errors as emergency operators struggled to convey the threat to park security.

The caller phoned the 911 emergency line from a nearby pay phone at 12:58 am saying in a calm voice: "There is a bomb in Centennial Park. You have 30 minutes."

But according to police transcripts, the emergency operator spent 10 minutes struggling to log the entry into a computer to notify the police dispatcher. The system would not accept the entry without an address for the 21-acre (8.5 hectares) park.

The operator finally had to get the park's telephone number from a police command centre and called the facility for the address without mentioning the bomb threat before sending the dispatch notice on its way.

In the immediate aftermath of the blast, police officials said there had been no delays and that the 911 operator had followed protocol correctly.

On Friday, deputy chief Louis Arcangel continued to defend the actions, saying police already had received an overwhelming number of bogus bomb threats.

Transcripts show the operator got a busy signal at the Atlanta police command centre on the first try and, at one point, had to check the entry by confirming that the word "centennial" had been spelled correctly.

The operator then got through to the command centre and was told by an attendant there: "I ain't got no address to Centennial Park. What y'all think I am?"

When the operator pleaded, saying a bomb threat had been received, the attendant responded: "Oh, it's going to go off by the time we find the address."

After getting the park's telephone number, the operator called Centennial Olympic Park and was put on hold for two minutes.

The threat finally was relayed to a police dispatcher, who radioed patrol officers at 1:12 am, 14 minutes after the call had been received.



International Open Rating title-chasers engage in deep celebration at the NSC chess room yesterday.