

Column One SPORTS TALK

Inquest of Tuesday tragedy



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A hapless Mukta, who expressed his guarded optimism about any punitive measures against the culprits, further added that they have no other option but to abide by the existing law which he claimed is contradictory.

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Nat'l kabaddi in Dinajpur begins tomorrow

The sixth national youth kabaddi championship, organised by Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation in association with Dinajpur District Sports Association, will begin in the district tomorrow morning.

A total of eleven districts including host are taking part in the two-day meet. The other districts are: Dhaka, Sherpur, Tangail, Narail, Satkhira, Comilla, Rangamati, Joypurhat, Panchagarh and Kurigram.

The League of Wales champions defeated Vasutas 3-1 in their qualifying round, second leg match to make the aggregate score 4-4 and then won the penalty contest 4-2 after neither team was able to score in 30 minutes of extra time.

The Welshmen, who beat Latvians Dienburg in the previous round, did a post-match lap of honour in front of a sellout 2,500 crowd at their tiny Jenner Park ground.

Scottish clubs Celtic and Aberdeen both scrambled into the first round in unimpressive style.

Celtic needed a last minute goal from Portuguese striker Jorge Cadete to get a 1-0 win at home to FC Kosice of Slovakia after Dutchman Pierre van Hooydonk had missed a second-half penalty.

The winner came three minutes after Kosice had Karol Tarzenica sent off for his second bookable offence. While Celtic got through 1-0 on aggregate, Aberdeen lost 3-1 at home to Zalgiris Vilnius of Lithuania but advanced 5-4 on aggregate.

BK Odense of Denmark swept aside the challenge of Sluzna Wanderers of Malta, winning 7-1 at home at 9-1 on aggregate. Michael Schjonberg led the way with a hat-trick.

Their compatriots Lyndby, held 0-0 at home in the first leg, got goals from Toby Jonsson in the 24th and 69th minutes to score a 2-0 win away to NK Mura of Slovenia.

Three Russian teams enjoyed success at home with Spartak Moscow, CSKA Moscow and Torpedo Moscow all advancing to the first round.

Spartak won 2-0 against Croatia Zagreb, progressing on the away goals rule, but CSKA and Torpedo were more emphatic winners.

Torpedo beat Hajduk Split of Croatia 2-0 for a 2-1 aggregate win and CSKA downed Akranes of Iceland 4-1 for a 6-1 aggregate triumph.

A fourth Russian team, Dynamo Moscow, won 3-1 away to FC Jazz of Finland to advance 4-2 on aggregate.

Karlruhe of Germany, Guingamp of France and Silkeborg of Denmark won third round Interoto Cup matches to seal places in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

The Germans won 3-1 at home to Standard Liege of Belgium to seal a dramatic 3-2 aggregate win thanks to an 88th minute goal from substitute Markus Schoroth.

The Belgians then completely lost their heads and had three players - Didier Ernst, Guy Helies and Roberto Bisconti - sent off in the final three minutes.

Guingamp edged Rotor Volgograd of Russia 1-0 at home for a 2-2 aggregate score, but advanced on the away goals rule. Stephane Carnot got the vital goal in the 76th minute.

Childs set to pack his cricket kit

LONDON, Aug 21: Former England spinner John Childs will retire from first-class cricket at the end of the season, his county Essex said today, reports Reuters.

The 45-year-old slow left-hander, who has taken more than 1,000 first-class wickets, began his career with Devon in 1973 and made his county debut for Gloucestershire two years later.

Childs at 36 years and 320 days became England's oldest debutant for more than 40 years in the third Test against the West Indies at Old Trafford in 1988.

He played two Tests, taking three wickets and scoring two runs.

ASPUs gen secy visits BSJA

The general secretary of Asian Sports Press Union (ASPUs) Johnson Fernandez, who is on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, visited the Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association office at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Fernandez had a chat with the local sports scribes on various issues.

BSJA president Manjural Haque and other officials of the association were present on the occasion.

Oval ready to take the heat Illy looks his last on Test



LONDON, Aug 21: England will have to produce their best performance of the season in the final Test against Pakistan starting on Thursday if they want to send outgoing chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth into a happy retirement, reports Reuters.

Former England captain Illingworth's 30-month reign officially ends after the one-day series against Pakistan and the announcement of the touring squad headed for Zimbabwe and New Zealand later this year.

But the Oval Test, with the confident visitors ahead 1-0 in the best-of-three series, represents Illingworth's last major engagement in an international career which dates back to his Test debut as a player in 1958.

The 64-year-old Yorkshireman is not the sentimental type, but there are several good reasons why an English victory

over a highly-talented Pakistan side would give him greater than average satisfaction.

England under Mike Atherton and Illingworth have endured dismal overseas series in Australia in 1994-95 and South Africa a year later, not to mention their abortive World Cup campaign on the sub-continent.

At home, though, they have proved a more resilient bunch during Illingworth's tenure and have not lost a domestic series in four attempts since returning to winning habits with a 1-0 success over New Zealand in 1994.

Critics, of which Illingworth has attracted many in the last two years, will point out that England have won only six of their 27 Tests at home and abroad in the same time span and have selected 39 different players for Test duty.

Yet even his worst enemies will acknowledge Illingworth's unswerving desire to boost English credibility, even after being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and being fined 2,000 pounds sterling (3,100 dollars) by his employers this year.

The Test and County Cricket Board ruled he had made comments prejudicial to the interests of cricket in the wake of the row over the treatment of Devon Malcolm in South Africa, although his appeal is due to be heard next month.

In the meantime, Illingworth must hope his final gamble in charge will outflank Wasim Akram's tourists who warmed up in ominous fashion with a 271-run win over Essex this week.

Wicket-keeper Jack Russell has been dropped and Alec Stewart handed the gloves once again on his home ground to enable an extra bowler to be squeezed into the starting 11.

The switch comes just at the point when Stewart has re-established his opening partnership with Atherton, but if England had second he is likely to drop down the order again with Nick Knight stepping up.

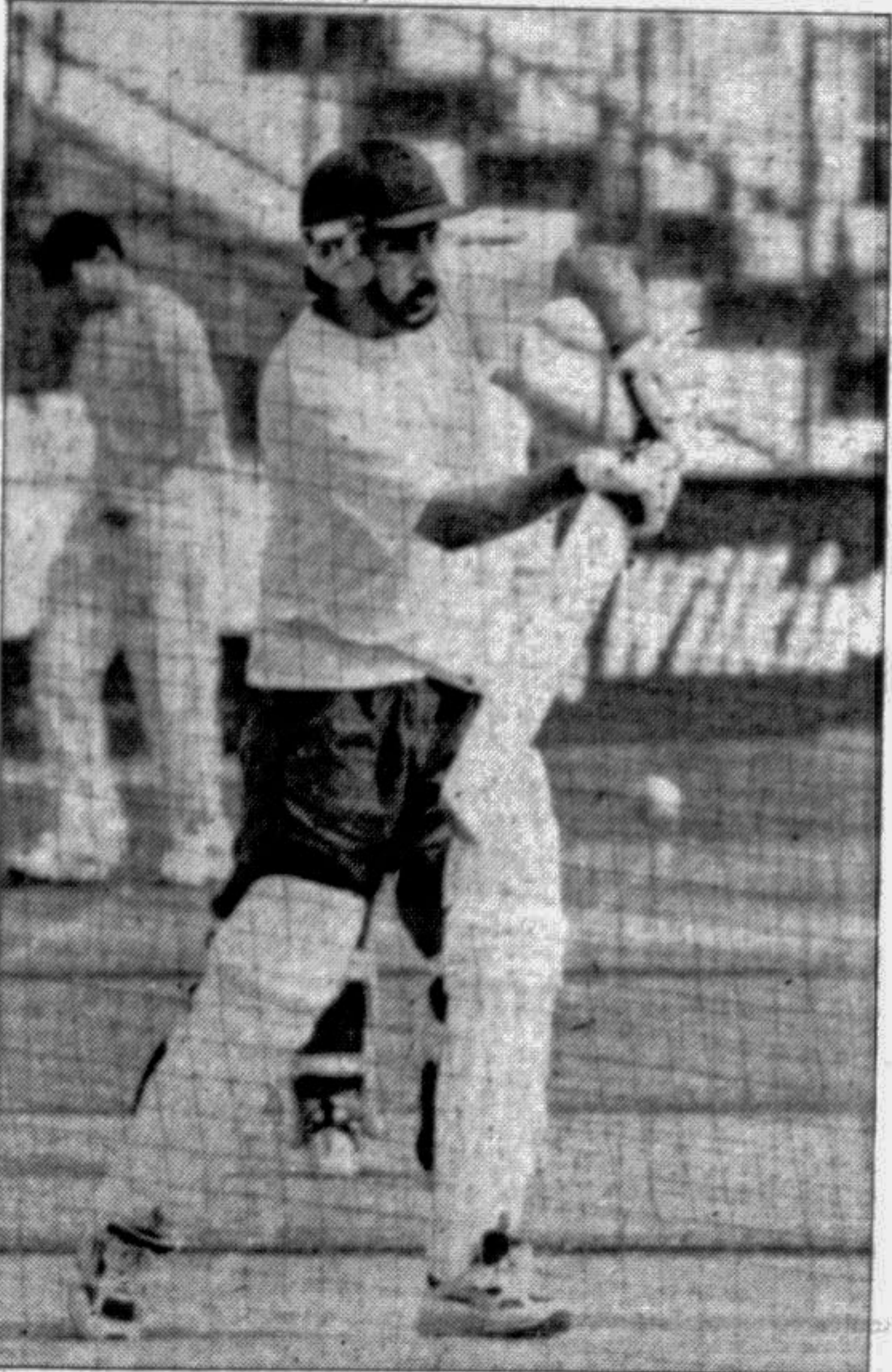
This time, though, England do not have Malcolm to blast through the opposition on the fastest pitch of the summer, preferring to keep faith with the seam attack which let Pakistan off the hook in favourable conditions on the first day at Headingley.

England coach David Lloyd described the pitch in terms that will please Pakistan's attack. "It's white, it's rock hard, firm and bare. It will have some pace," Lloyd said. "We have no jurisdiction over Test match wickets," he added.

The Pakistanis have promised to attack cricketers to the end rather than sit back on their 1-0 lead and can again select from a position of strength.

An indication of their resources is the sight of teenage off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, unable to claim a Test place, on top of the national averages with 29 wickets in his last four matches.

"It is possible we may go into the Test with five recognised bowlers, but no decision will be made until we see the composition of the Oval pitch," said Pakistan manager Yawar Saeed.



Salim Malik, the Pakistan middle-order bat shapes himself up in the nets on the eve at the third and final Test against England at The Oval on Aug 21. - AFP/UNB photo

Garri vs 'Deep Blue' part 2

NEW YORK, Aug 21: World chess champion Garri Kasparov will play IBM's supercomputer Deep Blue next year in a 1.1 million dollar rematch of last February's historic contest, the IBM said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

An IBM spokeswoman said the six-game match would be played at the Millennium Hotel in New York from May 3-10, with 700,000 dollars going to the winner and 400,000 to the loser.

In Philadelphia last February, the powerful machine - capable of looking at 200 million possible moves per second - created history when it became the first computer programme to defeat a Grand Master in classical chess format, in which games can last several hours.

Kasparov recovered from the first game defeat and eventually won the contest and 400,000 dollars with three wins and two draws in the remaining games. The IBM team of scientists and programmers were awarded 100,000.

The Philadelphia match, part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the association of computing and machinery, drew hundreds of spectators and an estimated one million "hits" on a website retrieved by fans all over the world.

"The first match was to test the 'Deep Blue' technology," said CJ Tan, manager of the IBM team. "Scientifically our experiment was extremely successful. We learned a lot from duelling Kasparov. We have now refined our technology and are in the process of strengthening our game."

IBM's purpose in the first match was to test parallel computing systems intended for use in such diverse areas as the manufacture of new drugs for the pharmaceutical industry and air traffic control.

Kasparov, who characterised the match as a battle between human intuition and the brute force of a huge calculating machine, said he welcomed the prospect of a rematch.

"I look forward to taking on IBM's new and more powerful machine and hope to prove that human knowledge, intuition, creativity and imagination can overcome the incredible capacity of the new machine," Kasparov said in a statement.

IBM spokeswoman Marcy Holle said spectators in New York could watch the games on screens in the Hudson Theatre adjoining the hotel. Kasparov, 33, has previously played in the theatre.

Kasparov broke ties with the international chess federation, known by its French acronym Fide, in 1993 to form the Professional Chess Association (PCA). He successfully defended his PCA title in New York in October 1995 against Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand.

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Gail Davers

(American ace athlete) Use me as an example that ever you want to do, if you have faith, it can happen.

(On her overcoming Graves Disease and winning the Olympic gold.)

WIN TK, 2000/- PRIZE BOND EVERY FORTNIGHT

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-51

(Competition closes: 8 p.m. August 30, 1996)

1. The new Zimbabwean cricket captain is

2. Number of centuries scored in the Headingley Test between Pakistan and England were

3. Australian Michael Bevan plays county cricket for

4. The new football skipper of Muktijuddha Sangsad is

5. What was the position Brothers Union Club in last year's Premier Division football league?

Name: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Judo belt test Sept 9

A two-day belt test (yellow to black) for the judokas, organised by Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation, will be held in National Indoor Stadium, Mirpur, from September 9 to 10, says a press release.

Interested judokas will be requested to enroll by September 7 at the BJKF office, Mirpur.

Hernandez put behind bars

DALLAS, Aug 21: A former Dallas policeman who put out a contract on football star Michael Irvin has reported for prison, reports AP.

Johanne Hernandez, accompanied by his attorney, Frank Perez, arrived at the New Strettt Justice Centre at midnight. He was wearing plain clothes and carrying a notebook and a Bible.

On Sunday, almost two dozen people descended on Hernandez's home in the Dallas suburb of Cedar Hill on his last free night.

"We had dinner and discussions about old times. Kind of like a Last Supper," Hernandez said.

After pleading guilty last week to solicitation of capital murder and an unrelated bribery charge, Hernandez said he's ready to go to prison and accept responsibility for his actions.

"I'm mentally prepared to do it," he said. "I'm the one who did it. I take full responsibility for what I did."

Hernandez, 28, was sentenced to two six-year prison terms that he will serve simultaneously. With good behaviour, the time could be shortened to about two years.

"Act of DMFA" unacceptable

Two deaths at the Dhaka Stadium may not be enough to shake the foundation of Dhaka Metropolitan Football