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## Full points for MSC

Mizanur Rahman Don enabled holders Mohammedan Sporting Club cross a big hurdle in the Premier Division Football League scoring the all important goal against Brothers Union Club at Mirpur Stadium today (Wednesday), reports UNB.

Promising striker Don scored the match winner in the 53rd minute utilising a Arman pass came his way through Al-faz.

With the day's victory, the black and whites bagged 37 points from 16 matches, one point ahead of star-studded Muktioddha, who have 36 from 15 ties.

The Gopibagh outfit remained at the fourth place behind Abahani, bagging 23 points from 16 encounters.

**Yellow card:** Joy (Mohammedan) and Gobindha (Brothers).

In the First Division League, BRTC played to a one-all draw with Shantinagar Club at the Army Stadium today.

Sangram scored for BRTC in the 70th minute while Siraj of Shantinagar restored the parity in the last minute.

## Nat'l U-21 snooker from Feb 23

Sports Reporter

The 14th national snooker championship and the third Ashok Leyland national Under-21 meet will simultaneously begin at the Dhaka Club from February 23.

Interested players have been asked to send their entries through their respective affiliated clubs by January 31. Besides, players, who are not member of any affiliated club, can also take part in the meet.

But all the players must be registered with the Bangladesh Billiard and Snooker Federation (BBSF), the organisers of the meet said.

## Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha, Nawabganj Sporting Club and Uttara Sporting Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches at different city venues yesterday. Eskaton posted a comfortable six-wicket victory over Nirman Ekadash at the Dhanmondi Club ground, Nawabganj beat Spread Eagles by 33 runs at the Mirpur Outer Stadium while Uttara registered a five-wicket victory at the Mahakhali T&T ground.

## Arsenal in last four

LONDON, Jan 7: West Ham paid dearly for a missed penalty by former Arsenal striker John Hartson on Tuesday, losing 2-1 to the north London side in the English League Cup quarterfinals, reports Reuters.

Hartson, who has scored 23 goals since moving to West Ham last February, stepped up for the spot kick after England goalkeeper David Seaman brought down Paul Kitson with 18 minutes gone.

But on a wet and muddy pitch he miskicked the shot and the lofty Arsenal keeper fell upon it.

Six minutes later it was the north Londoners who went ahead. England striker Lawright, who has scored only once since October, accepted a neat pass from Dutch teammate Dennis Bergkamp and struck the ball in the back of the net.

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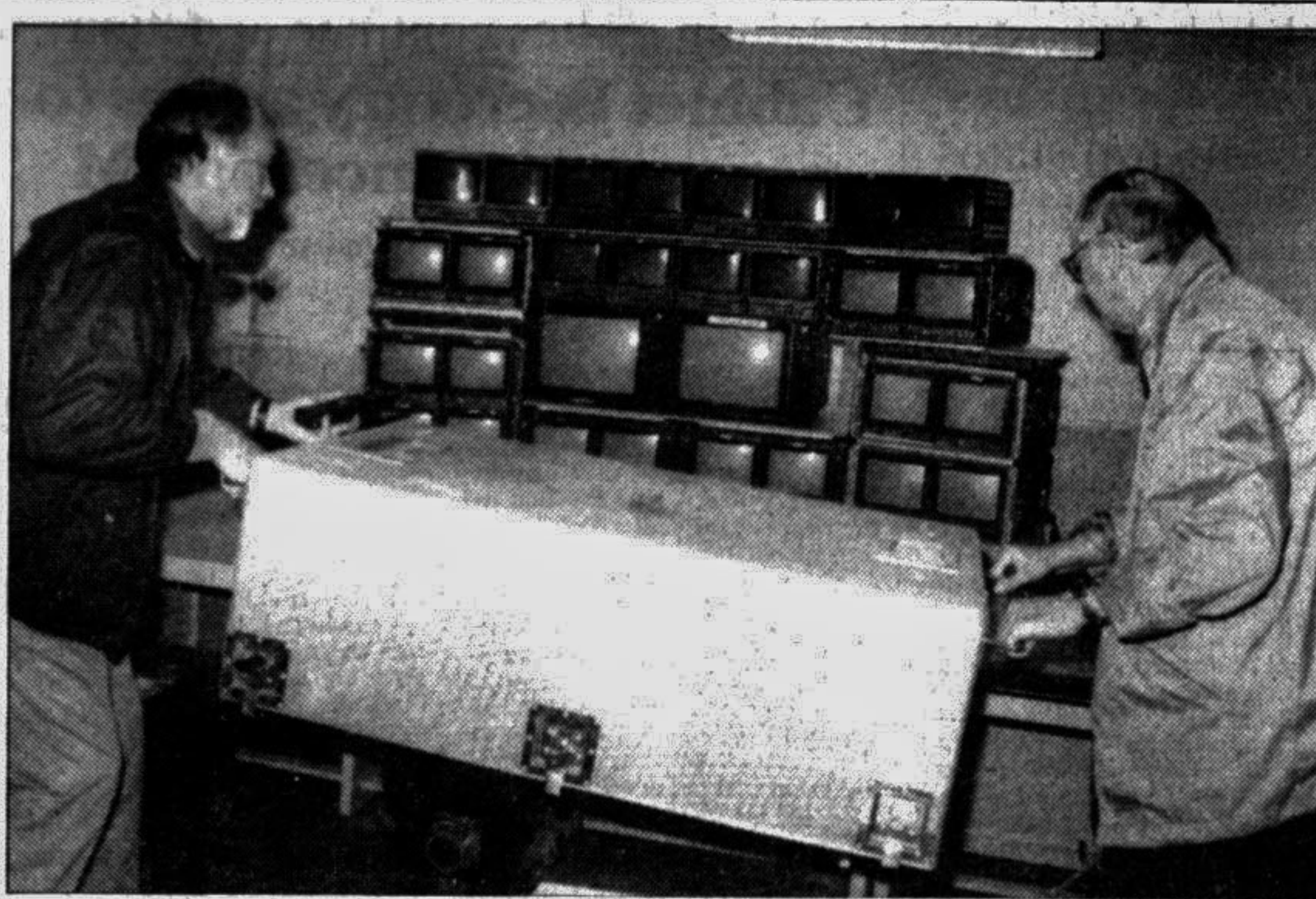
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Keith Mackenzie (R), the director of WorldTel, and his senior producer John Bodner (L) are fixing different equipments at the control room of the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The WorldTel production team will provide live coverage of the Coca Cola Independence Cup which starts at the Dhaka Stadium from Saturday.

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## Anatoly go ahead

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Jan 7: FIDE champion Anatoly Karpov, playing black, decisively outmanoeuvred his Indian challenger Viswanathan Anand on Tuesday to win game four of the World Chess Championship in 49 moves, reports Reuters.

The Russian now leads the six-game contest with two wins to Anand's one and can retain his title by drawing the two remaining games.

## Div I v'ball

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 7: Brothers Union Club defeated Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) by three sets to nil in the First Division volleyball league at the local stadium today.

Touch Video Club will take on Khelaghar Kalyan Samity at the same venue tomorrow.

## Akram out in the cold?

KARACHI, Jan 7 (The Dawn): Former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram was not considered for selection in the 15-man team for the South Africa and Zimbabwe tours by the selectors, official sources said.

The chief executive of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Majid Khan, said from Lahore that Wasim Akram had informed him that he was injured. "Since he is injured, he was not considered for selection," he said. The three-member selection committee met in Lahore to select a 15-man team for the tour that includes five Tests and at least nine one-day internationals.

The fate of Waqar Younis, whose selection also hangs in the balance, was also yet to be settled.

Majid stated that Akram had not informed him in how many days he would regain his



fitness but emphasised that once he was injured, he was not considered.

When Wasim Akram was contacted late Tuesday evening, he said he had informed the board that he had a little muscular pain. "But I had also assured them that I would be fit in a week's time," he stressed.

## Surrey recruit Saqlain

ISLAMABAD, Jan 7: Saqlain Mushtaq is set to sign a new season's contract with Surrey.

The county has offered him fifty thousand pounds deal for the 1998 season, it was learnt here on Monday, reports The Dawn newspaper of Pakistan.

The off-spinner said the deal 'is to be finalised within a few days'.

To a question Saqlain said, the pitches prepared in Pakistan do not support spinners neither do they assist the fast bowling. "These pitches do not take turn, either they are assisting the batsmen most of the time or they are under prepared."

The spinner said that the authorities concerned should take stock of the situation and prepare better wickets so that cricketers could groom and sharpen their skills.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

**Premier Division Football League:** Abahani KC vs Muktioddha Sangsadda KC (Mirpur Stadium, 2:15 pm)  
**First Division Football League:** Dhanmondi Club vs Wari Club (Army Stadium, 2:15 pm)  
**First Division Cricket League:** Gopibagh FA vs Bangladesh Railway (City Club)

Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union at the Mirpur Stadium. Mohammedans won the match 1-0.

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## Youth cricketers leave for SA today

A 17-member Bangladesh youth cricket team, led by Al-Shahriar Rokom, leaves for South Africa today to take part in the World Youth Cup beginning on January 11, reports BSS.

Mohammad Jalal Younus, an executive committee member of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), and Moshuddin Ahmed are accompanying the team as manager and coach respectively.

Bangladesh qualified for the finals of the championship as the Asian champions.

The 19-day final round involves nine Test playing nations and seven associate member countries.

The participating countries are: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, England, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Namibia, Papua New Guinea and hosts South Africa.

Split into four groups, the teams will play in round robin league and then the group champions and runners-up will play in the Super League for the title.

Bangladesh, who have been placed in Sobers Group with Namibia, New Zealand and England, will take on Namibia in their first match on January 12.

The Bangladesh team manager told the news agency that his team is quite capable of facing their group opponents.

"Our boys will put their effort hundred per cent," he said.

The members of the team are: Al-Shahriar Rokom (captain), Sabir Khan Shafin (vice-captain), Abdul Hannan Sarkar, Ehsanul Mushfiqur Rahman, Mehrez Hossain, Sajal Chowdhury, Golam Mortuza, AKM Ahsanullah, Manjurul Islam, Rashidul Fahim Montasir Rahman, Tanvirul Islam Khan, Towhid Hossain, Rubayat Saiful Islam.

Saying that the West Indies Cricket Board's solution of replacing managers, coaches and captains, has not brought any improvement, he suggests that eyes should turn in the direction of new blood.

"Although we have been losing Tests for a number of years, the selectors have basically stood by the

same group of players. It is time to look beyond the surface."

He added that official reports compiled by team officials have been ignored and need to be taken more seriously. "Coaches, managers and captains," he declares, "have been used as scapegoats."

He laments the attitude, the lack of commitment he saw displayed by some of the players in Pakistan.

"They didn't seem to understand what it means to the people of the West Indies to have a team that is playing proper cricket," writes Holding, "and they were not prepared to put in the effort." So what is to be done? According to Holding, wholesale changes are necessary but they have to be "phased in."

The selectors must take a good look at the squad which toured Pakistan. They could take five or six out, keeping the nucleus to provide experience while drafting in youngsters in the right positions," he recommends.

But we think we spent the money honestly and effectively. Charlton vowed England will commit "nothing near the figures that were spent... in 2002."

Iran still in a fix

TEHRAN, Jan 7: Iran said Tuesday it was weighing its options between three high profile international coaches to lead its national team at the 1998 World Cup finals in France, reports AFP.

German coach Udo Lattek, Portuguese Eduardo Vinagada and Argentine Carlos Bilardo have all indicated interest in the job, said Mohsen Safaei, Farahani, the head of the Iran Football Federation.

He told the official Iranian news agency IRNA that a committee was reviewing its options and would make a final decision by January 15.

Farahani said the Brazilian coach Valdeir Vieira, who was given the job last month, had been "unable to propose an acceptable programme to prove his ability to lead the Iranian team."

Vieira, who led the Iran side to a World Cup play-off triumph over Australia on away goals on November 29, was retained after Iran failed to hire a top international coach.

Both Bilardo, who coached Argentina to the 1986 title, and Vinagada had previously turned down the job.

There is every intention of going back to one single coach, and we are not contemplating in any way the co-hosting option," he said.

Beckenbauer created a stir at Football Expo 98, soccer's first global trade fair, when he was quoted Tuesday as telling reporters that Germany would be amenable to sharing the 2006

tournament.

Charlton, the spiritual leader of England's bid, said Wednesday that was news to him.

Beckenbauer, questioned Wednesday for clarification after the German federation said co-hosting was out of the question, said he worries that competing European bids could leave the continent empty-handed — and Germany and England with empty pockets.

He said that with neither country willing to back down, he hopes FIFA will sit down with both and tell one to drop out.

As for co-hosting, he said: "We don't have an objection. The English federation have been our friends for a long period."

FIFA decided in May 1996 to award the 2002 finals to Japan and Korea after a fierce, divisive campaign between the two.

Since then, preparations have been marked by disagreements on most major issues, and although the two sides say the atmosphere has improved recently, there still is evidence of hurt pride.

"It is very regrettable as we were working to host the World Cup alone," said Japan World Cup spokesman Akira Odajima.

South Korea has refused to say how much it spent for its bid; Japan says it spent nearly 67 million dollars. Both committed billions of dollars to build new stadiums.

"We had some criticism from mass media for spending too much money," Odajima said.

But we think we spent the money honestly and effectively. Charlton vowed England will commit "nothing near the figures that were spent... in 2002."

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