

Ronaldo disciplined

MILAN, July 21: Ronaldo will miss Inter Milan's Serie A season opener in September through suspension, the league announced Monday in a decision that represents yet another reversal in the case, reports AP. The punishment stems from statements the Brazilian superstar made about the refereeing of Inter's pivotal 1-0 loss in April to eventual champions Juventus of Turin. Ronaldo was initially dealt a two-match suspension, which was lifted two days later on a technicality. After a review of the latter decision, the league has now decided to reinstate a one-game penalty. In a separate incident earlier last season, Ronaldo, a two-time FIFA world player of the year, was fined by the league for criticizing referees.



World Youth Games Bangladesh's no show

All the Bangladeshi sportsmen made early exits from the World Youth Games held in Moscow from July 11-19, reports UNB.

Athlete M Abdullah Kafi missed the final round in 100 metre sprint, finishing fifth among eight sprinters clocking 11.14 seconds in the semifinal heat.

Kafi was placed fourth with a timing of 11.12 seconds both in the first and second round heats of the event, participated by 40 athletes.

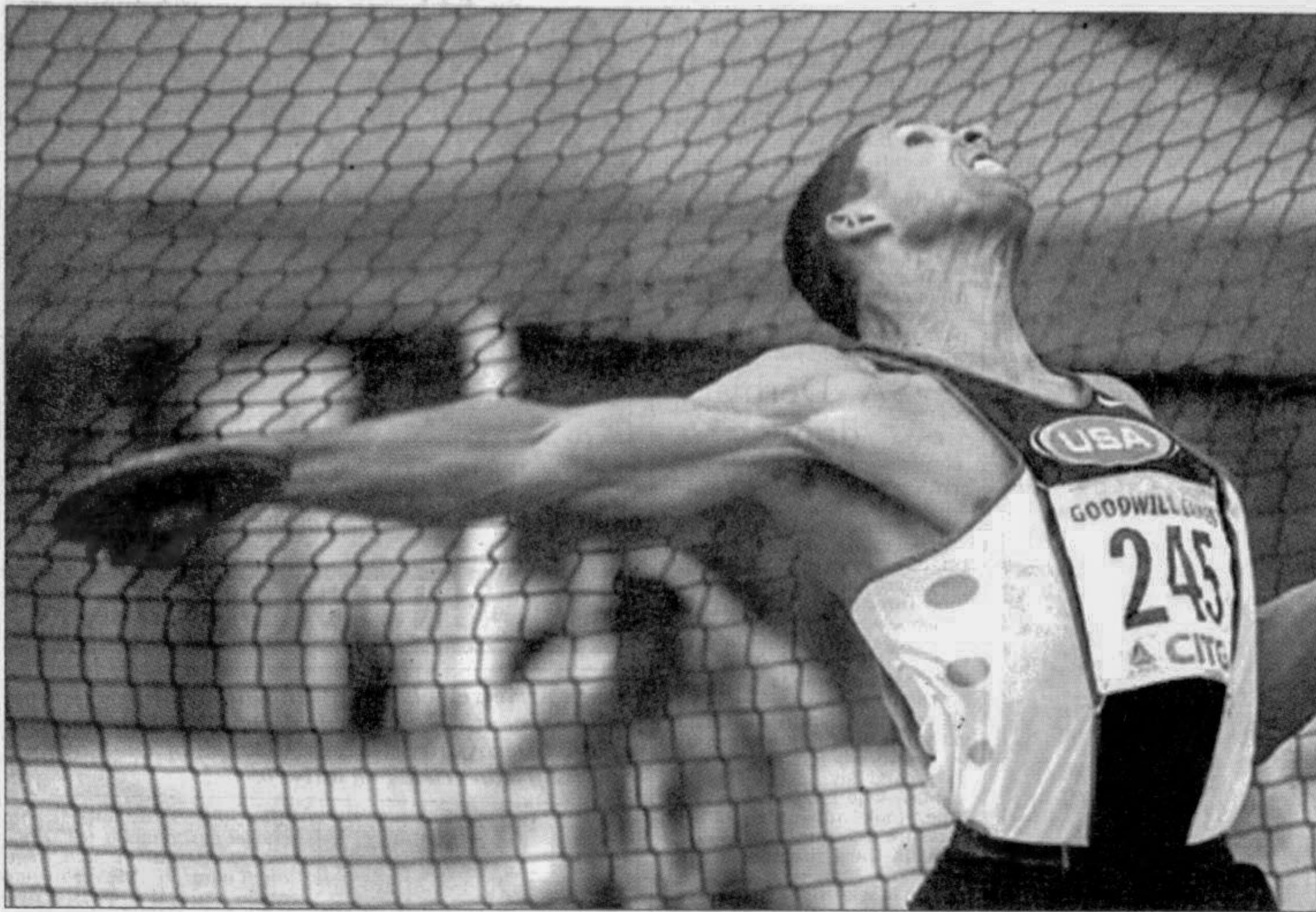
Shah Delwar Hossain also failed to qualify for the final round in 110 metre hurdles. He was placed fourth in the heat among eight competitors with a timing of 14.89 seconds.

Forty athletes participated in five heats of the event.

In swimming, Jewel Ahmed and Tanzil Khan finished fourth among eight participants in their respective heats in 100 metre butterfly and 100m breaststroke clocking 1:4.48 and 1:21.45 minutes. Both failed to reach the final round.

In boys' 55-kg judo competition, Abu Bakr Siddik was knocked out in 1.35 minutes by an Israeli opponent in the first round.

Bangladesh also performed poorly in lawn tennis and table tennis competitions, according to a fax message received by the Bangladesh Olympic Association yesterday.



US decathlete Dan O'Brien about to throw his discus at the Goodwill Games in New York on July 20. — AFP photo

Atherton injured

LONDON, July 21: England's preparation for the fourth cricket Test against South Africa at Trent Bridge has been hampered by Mike Atherton injuring his hand playing a league match for Lancashire, reports AP.

Atherton, one of only two English batsmen showing consistent form in the series against South Africa, was struck on the hand by a quick delivery Monday night — just hours before joining the England squad preparing for the Test starting Thursday.

The former England skipper stayed at the crease after sustaining the injury but was in obvious discomfort and the England camp had serious concerns about his ability to play the crucial Test.

Andrew Flintoff, the 20-year-old Lancashire all-rounder selected in England's 13-man squad for the Test, is now likely to be named in the starting side.

South Africa has its share of injury problems going into the Trent Bridge Test with confirmation that Lance Klusener, sent back to South Africa last Friday for treatment of an injured ankle, will be sidelined for three months.

X-rays of Klusener's left ankle revealed tendon damage sustained in the third Test of Old Trafford and the all-rounder was expected to undergo surgery on Tuesday.

South Africa's dilemma was whether to send a replacement for the fifth Test against England at Headingley and the upcoming three-way limited-over series against England and Sri Lanka.

Shaun Pollock, who missed the third Test, and Jacques Kallis have both returned from recent injuries and should be fit for the Trent Bridge game.

O'Brien back with a bang

NEW YORK, July 21: Dan O'Brien made a triumphant comeback in his first decathlon since winning 1996 Olympic gold, flirting with a world record on his way to capturing the Goodwill Games title Monday, reports AFP.

Two days after his 32nd birthday, the American picked up where he left off two years ago, capturing the two-day, 10-event endurance test with 8,755 points.

It was the best decathlon total in the world this year and only 136 points shy of O'Brien's world record, set in 1992 at Tallinn.

"An 8,755 is very respectable," O'Brien said. "I wanted a world record. The emotions were willing but I didn't have it physically, because of the layoff and the lack of competitions this year."

Men's gymnastics world all-around champion Ivan Ivankov of Belarus won the Goodwill all-around crown and American sprinter Marion Jones won the 200m title in more highlights on day two of the two-week, 15-sport event.

But O'Brien's victorious return stole the show. He began the day 45 points behind United States champion Chris Huffins, but won the 110-meter hurdles in 13.67 seconds to grab the lead.

"All the events were very stressful," O'Brien said. "I didn't know what to expect. All you can do is reach for your experience. I didn't want to see I didn't have it. I was sharp. I was focused. It's back."

Huffins outscored O'Brien in the discus to edge ahead by two points. But O'Brien matched a personal decathlon best with a

5.20m pole vault to regain the lead for good.

"The pole vault is the event that could take me over 9,000," he said.

O'Brien beat Huffins in the javelin and jogged home last in the 1,500m in 5:08.77 to finish ahead of Huffins by 179 points. Huffins' 8,694 in winning the US crown last month had been the world's top total this year.

"It's pretty simple," Huffins said. "Until somebody dethrones the king, he is still the king."

O'Brien's total was only his sixth best but he ranked the effort behind only his world record and Olympic gold efforts in satisfaction.

"What's sweet is just finishing," O'Brien said. "I didn't know what my fitness level was. I didn't know if I would be sharp. Just having a chance at a world record entering the 1,500 was encouraging for me."

After losing major shoe and equipment sponsors and battling ankle and hamstring pain, O'Brien was unsure when or where he would compete again, but he made it clear he plans an Olympic title defence in 2000 at Sydney.

"It helps my confidence going into Sydney," O'Brien said. "Next year I want to compete a lot more."

He was unhappy officials would not reverse the direction of races to avoid a head-wind during races, saying, "We had run the other way, with the wind. I think I would have had the world record for sure. It's unfortunate, especially for 100m people, not to turn the races around."

Today's Goodwill highlight should be the 100m showdown

between world-record holder Donovan Bailey of Canada, world 100m champion Maurice Greene of the United States and world 200m champ Ato Boldon of Trinidad. Also scheduled is double Olympic champion Michael Johnson in the 400m.

Jones won her second title in as many days, taking the 200m in 21.80 seconds.

"It's good because this is a new thing for synchronized swimming, a man and woman acting as a man and woman."

In basketball, Lithuania squandered a 17-point lead in the final 12 minutes of regulation but recovered in overtime to beat Argentina 81-77. Dainius Adomaitis and Gintaras Einiskis each scored 15. Hugo Snocchini had 23 in a losing cause.

Sergei Panov scored 20 points to spark Russia past Australia 81-73 despite 29 from Aussie guard Andrew Gaze.

MEDALS TABLE

Nation	G	S	B	T
United States	10	14	11	35
Russia	11	3	2	16
Jamaica	1	2	3	6
Kenya	2	1	1	4
Ukraine	0	2	2	4
Romania	0	2	1	3
Australia	0	1	2	3
Cuba	1	0	0	2
Japan	0	0	2	2
Belarus	1	0	0	1
Mozambique	1	0	0	1
Trinidad And Tobago	1	0	0	1
Germany	0	1	0	1
Mexico	0	1	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Czech Republic	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	1	1
Iceland	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Ecuador	0	0	1	1

ACB concern

SYDNEY, July 21: Representatives of the Australian Cricket Board will go to Pakistan shortly to seek assurances about security in Peshawar, where the last Australian tourists were pelted with projectiles including rocks and a padlock, reports AFP.

Australia will embark on a three-Test tour of Pakistan from late September, with Peshawar scheduled to stage the second Test.

ACB operations manager Richard Watson and team manager Steve Bernard will travel to Pakistan in the next fortnight to meet with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Majid Khan and finalise a tour itinerary.

Australian players were pelted by rocks and other projectiles in a one-day game against South Africa in 1994 and a match between Zimbabwe and Pakistan in 1996 was shortened because of a hostile crowd.

Watson said the safety issue, particularly at Peshawar, would be one of the subjects to be discussed with Khan given the volatility of the venue.

"We just want to clarify a few matters about that particular venue," Watson said.

"Players that have played there before have raised some concerns. We want to make sure those concerns are put aside and that everything will be okay."

"We've been assured that it's not the case these days. I don't think there are any concerns with the pitch, it's just making sure of security and that our players are safe. That's a major issue with us."

Watson said: "There is certainly no intent to go and look at grounds and do all that. We know that the grounds are good and the hotels are excellent, we don't have a problem with that."

Beginning of the end

NEW YORK, July 21 (Reuters): For Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the coming days will be a celebration, a time to reflect, a time to remember, a time to compete.

They also will be tinged with melancholy as Tuesday and Wednesday at the Goodwill Games will bring the last heptathlon in the illustrious career of the three-time Olympic gold medalist, who many consider the greatest female athlete ever.

"Throughout my life it has been challenges, 1986 was the beginning and now the opportunity to do another heptathlon on American soil was something I wanted to see in I could do," said world record holder Joyner-Kersey.

After the Goodwill Games, Joyner-Kersey will end her career by long jumping in a special IAAF Grand Prix meet that will pay tribute to her Saturday in Evansville, Illinois, near her hometown of east Et. Loui, Missouri.

Named by her grandmother for Jacqueline Kennedy because she knew Jackie would become "a first lady of something," the 36-year-old Joyner-Kersey has lived up to that vision.

Four times she has set world records in the heptathlon, the first time in 1986, twice in 1988 and '92. She won Olympic gold in the event, claiming a silver medal in 1984. She also has an Olympic gold in the long jump in 1988 and bronze medals in 1992 and '96.

That last bronze medal, which she won despite hamstring problems, may have been her greatest moment, she said Monday.

Then, reflecting for a minute, she reached back to an-



JOYNER-KERSEE

other decade.

"In 1986, being the first to score over 7,000 points," she said, recalling a special milestone.

"That was the beginning, not only for me, but I was able to bring recognition to the heptathlon as an event, there were many people who did not know what it was."

Conversely, the lack of recognition she received for a world-record performance of 7,291 points that won her Olympic gold in Seoul may have hurt the most.

"In my moment of triumph, in my moment of joy in 1988. With all the drug issues (surrounding Ben Johnson) and everything, my performance was swept under the rug," she said.

Joyner-Kersey has not competed in a heptathlon since the 1996 Olympics, and she's little rusty in some of her events, ac-

ording to her husband and coach, Bob Kersee, but the urge to compete has driven her to try one more multi-event test.

"Whether she is winning or losing, she is still the same person," said Kersee, "she out there to compete, to give her best."

"That is one thing the sport is going to miss. Too much about track and field is about winning, and not about the athletes."

Joyner-Kersey is especially proud of the strides women have made in sport.

"Women have been doing great things out there," Joyner-Kersey said. "But for some reason we were not respected."

"Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, Florence Griffith Joyner, Valerie Bris Willmar Rudolph, as women all we ever wanted to be respected."

"I don't want to take the credit alone," said Joyner-Kersey. "But now it's okay for young girls to go out and compete."

That, above the world records and the gold medals, may be Jackie Joyner-Kersey's greatest contribution to sport.

Bonnie's first child

WAUKESHA, Wisconsin, July 21: Olympic speedskating champion Bonnie Blair is now a mother, reports AP.

The five-time Olympic gold medalist gave birth Sunday night to a boy at Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

The baby, named Grant, is the first for Blair and her husband David Cruikshank. The baby weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce (3.6 kgs).

Rain interrupts Asian Athletics

FUKUOKA, Japan, July 21: Heavy rain with thunder halted the third day of the Asian Athletics Championships today with just the 100 metres hurdles in the women's heptathlon completed, reports AFP.

The women's discus and the heptathlon high jump were under way when the organizers stopped the competition.

Neelam Singh of India was leading with a 56.34-metre throw after two throws in the discus, followed by China's Yu Xin with a mark of 56.33 and Xio Yanling with 53.32.

The organizers announced that the women's discus, pole vault, triple jump, men's discus throw and high jump scheduled for today would postpone until Wednesday morning.

The fate of other track races would be decided later, the organizers said.

Lisa steps into record book

LONDON, July 21: Australia's Lisa Keighley recorded the first century by a woman in a limited-over international, scoring an unbeaten 113 against England at Lord's on Tuesday, reports AP.

The opener shared a 171-run opening stand with Belinda Clark (89) and an 85-run partnership with Julie Broadbent (42) not out to lift Australia to 256 for one after 50 overs.

Australia have a 4-0 lead in the limited-over international series and goes into the upcoming inaugural Ashes Test series between the two countries as favourite.

Postponement

The function, which was to be held today to accolade Bangladesh Olympic Association member Kazi Anisur Rahman with the IOC Sports for All Trophy 1997, has been postponed under unavoidable reasons, says a BOA press release.

Fresh date will be announced very soon.

Saber selects sixteen

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), sans a Selection Committee, yesterday named sixteen cricketers, who will undergo a month-long training at the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy in Adelaide, Australia, from August 3. The list also includes Nazmul Abedin Fahim as coach-cum-coordinator.

The Board, apparently dejected by the performance of the national team in the just-concluded tour of the Ireland, England and Scotland, is taking up the programme as an opportunity to discover fresh talent in time for the World Cup next May.

The selected players, mostly aged below twenty, have been asked to report to the BCB office this evening at 6 pm. They are expected to leave the capital on August 1.

Surprisingly, the selection was signed by BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a practice unusual in the annals of modern-day cricket. This was perhaps because the Board was yet to form a Selection Committee, almost two months after dissolving the Makhani-led five-man squad.

The list reflects Mr. Chowdhury's pledge to the Daily Star last week that he would send "down under" as many young cricketers as possible. Included are six cricketers --- Al-

Sports Reporter
Shahriar, Fahim Muntasir Rahman, Towhid Hossain, Rashidul Haque, Mohammad Mortuza and Ridwan Hassan --- from the under-20 team which won the Plate at the World Youth Cup defeating West Indies early this year.

Mayor Cup football July 24

CHITTAGONG, July 21: The Mayor Gold Cup football tournament under the auspices of Chittagong Zila Kriya Parishad (CZKP) will begin at the M A Aziz Stadium here on July 24, reports BSS.

Chittagong Port Authority Sports Association will meet Bakalia Ekadosh in the inaugural match of the meet, official sources said.

City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury is expected to inaugurate the tournament.

Twenty First Division clubs including Chittagong Mohammedan SC and Abahani KC will participate in the competition.

A total of Taka three lakh has been earmarked for the tournament which will be donated by the city mayor.

The champions will receive Taka 30,000 while the runners-up will get Tk 20,000.

Five cricketers --- Azam Iqbal, Naimur Rahman, Shafuluddin Ahmed, Hasibul Hossain and Morshed Ali Khan --- from the national team which recently toured Ireland, England and Scotland have been included for the training.

The Australia-bound others are three openers, Sajjad Ahmed, Shahriar Hossain and Parvez Ahmed, middle-order batsman Sanwar Hossain and medium-pacer Zakir Hossain.

The trip has been arranged by the BCB solely to improve the physical ability and basic technique of the players. The Board will bear the cost of travel while the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) will share with BCB the course fee at the academy.

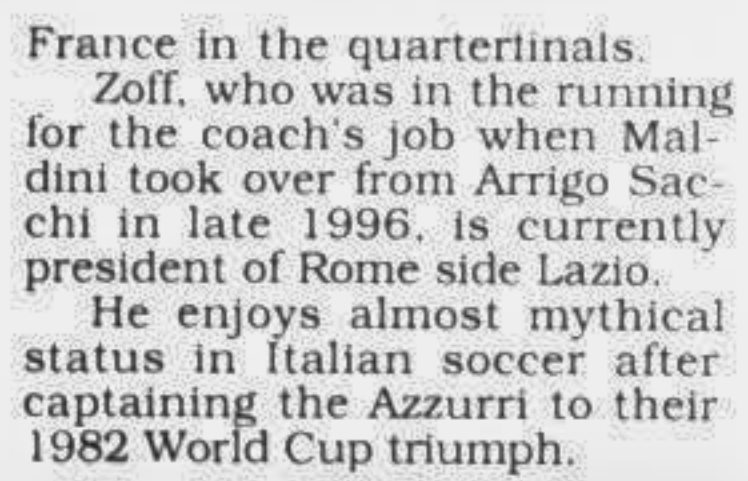
Former Australian Test cricketer Wayne Phillips has been appointed by the ACB as supervisor of the training programme. Former Australian wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh will be the head coach while Richard Dann will look after the physical aspects of the cricketers.

The following is the list: Azam Iqbal, Shahriar Hossain, Sajjad Ahmed, Parvez Ahmed, Naimur Rahman, Al-Shahriar, Sanwar Hossain, Ridwan Hassan, Fahim Muntasir Rahman, Towhid Hossain, Rashidul Haque, M Mortuza, Shafuluddin, Shafuluddin Ahmed, Hasibul Hossain, Morshed Ali Khan and Zakir Hossain.

Cesare makes way for Dino



CESARE MALDINI



DINO ZOFF

ROME, July 21: Cesare Maldini will be sacked as Italian national football coach this week and replaced by former captain and goalkeeper Dino Zoff, ANSA news agency reported on Monday, says Reuters.

France in the quarterfinals. Zoff, who was in the running for the coach's job when Maldini took over from Arrigo Sacchi in late 1996, is currently president of Rome side Lazio.

He enjoys almost mythical status in Italian soccer after captaining the Azzurri to their 1982 World Cup triumph.

Nat'l junior badminton

Sixteen matches were decided in the national junior and sub-junior badminton championship at the wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the boys singles under-14 group, Ifat (Bhola) beat Rajib (Rangpur), Masud (Rajshahi) beat Akbar (Khulna), Babla (Chittagong) defeated Osman (Khulna) and Anwar (Chuadanga) outplayed Russel (Bhola). Other results:

Girls' singles under-16 group: Tuhinon (Bhola) beat Rojmina (Bogra), Wahida (Bogra) beat Tarana (Rangpur), Ankhi (Ansar) defeated Shuuli (Chuadanga) and Shiju (Jessore) beat Juthi (Chuadanga).

Girls' singles under-13 group: Samira (Dinajpur) beat Nasrin (Bogra), Nilufar (Rangpur) defeated Jemy (Jessore), Ishita (Jessore) beat Susmita (Bogra) and Ankhi (Ansar) beat Sharmin (Rangpur).

Boys' doubles under-18 group: Alamgir and Mashafi (Bogra) beat Hannan and Taslim (Feni), Kabir and Mohiuddin (Dhaka) beat Tarekul and Sadekul (Nawabganj), Jased and Yasin (Chittagong) defeated Rubayet and Motiur (Gazipur), Osmani and Alam (Joyrapur) beat Mushtaq and Mizanur (Rajshahi).

Ladies 'Ashes'

LONDON, July 21: Well over a century after England and Australia began playing cricket for the Ashes, the nation's women's teams will do the same next months, reports AP.

The Ashes are said to be the remains of a burned bail contained in a small urn.

Cricketers from both team watched Monday as a bat, autographed by the players, was burned at Lord's, the home of cricket, in a similar ritual to the ceremony in 1882.

The Women's Ashes will be placed inside a hollowed out cricket ball to make a trophy and whoever wins the three Test series starting at Guilford on August 5 will take it home.



Russian synchronized swimmers Olga Brousnikina (L) and Maria Kisseleva performing at the Goodwill Games in Uniondale, New York on July 20. — AFP photo