

Desailly a la Cantona!

LONDON, July 24: French World Cup star Marcel Desailly is aiming to have the same galvanizing effect on Chelsea that his fellow countryman Eric Cantona had on Manchester United, reports AFP. The arrival of the Talismanic Cantona in 1992, had an immediate effect, as he helped Alex Ferguson's side end the English giants' 26-year championship drought. "Eric Cantona transformed Manchester United when he joined them, so it would be nice to think I could have the same effect at Chelsea," he said.



Bangladesh cricket coach accuses BCB of non-professionalism

Personally, there is no way that Bangladesh cricket with the present system can operate in the Test match level in less than ten years.

Gordon Greenidge bares his soul

Former West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge was appointed Director of Coaching in November 1996 by the then Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, since renamed Bangladesh Cricket Board. In his first serious test as coach of the national team, Bangladesh achieved beyond its expectations and won the ICC trophy which also enabled it to qualify for the World Cup 1999. However, his team's dismal performance in subsequent tours to Kenya, Sri Lanka, India and very recently Ireland, England and Scotland, has brought his team under obvious criticism. Unexpected though was the public tirade by some BCB executives against the players and the team management, including the wisdom of his appointment, after the latest debacle. After remaining silent for most of his twenty months in charge, the Bangladesh cricket coach could hold on no longer. In an exclusive interview with **AL-AMIN** and **HASAN MASOOD** last Thursday, Gordon finally bared his soul.

when the team loses. Everyone expects the team to be successful but how is this possible when you have mediocre players who want to play in international



sport? It's okay playing in Dhaka. It's okay playing in the ICC against people like the United States, Canada and Argentina. But now you are coming against other teams like India, Sri Lanka, even Kenya, simply because these are the countries who have got professional people more involved with this establishment. And the infrastructure is closely looked at for the development of cricket. All we are doing so far is talking. We have set up various committees but all of these are where they are now and nothing is being acted upon. What is happening? How can people say this and give the general public a false impression of what's happening, but are yet able to scrutinize people who are trying to make a difference to something that they are asking for? But that is what I want to find out.

not go anywhere unless these people take note of the importance what we are trying to achieve. I would like to get this straight. I am being pressurised

do this. Now you tell me whether or not the professionalism of all should be scrutinised. What can you do in a situation where you have no control, you have no say in the matter and yet when you need help... if you go to one person in the board he says, "it is his responsibility, so go and talk to him". When you go and speak to him he goes back to the other person. He says that he has to take leadership from the other person. You don't know who is doing what, who is responsible for what or who you are supposed to report to. Now this has gone on for a long time and I think it is time I say this simply because I have now come under the microscope to be scrutinised. I believe that this is, wrongfully done. If there is a problem, I think the persons who are representing the board should speak to me to find out first what has happened before they publicly broadcast these things. That is the procedure that should be taken. I think there is no professionalism in the board.

DS: You are here for the last 20 months and you don't have a chair to sit in the BCB office...
GG: Yes I don't have any office.

DS: You put forward several concrete proposals which did not come to any effect. But you did not speak out to the press about your dissatisfaction. Why?

GG: Simply because I did not think it was appropriate. And I think you have to give people time to make these changes. You can not hurry these things. I would expect that we should be working together for the betterment of Bangladesh cricket... for cricket within this country. This was what I was set up to do and this has been my intention since I started this job. It's irrelevant whether it's my first appointment or not. But the point is, everything I try to do I try in a professional manner and to gain success. I had not been a loser when I played this wonderful game and do not want that any team that I represent, or any country, is a loser.

and attacked this time. Sometimes, I had to wait for three weeks or more before I got money. I have to go there everyday. They say that the cheque was not being signed because the people who was supposed to sign was not here. How can this be? You tell me every time that the cheques are to be signed by the people who go away? Now you tell me, where is the professionalism? That was just one aspect of this whole thing.

DS: You have said that these people have reacted without

Last cricket joke this millennium

Syed Ashraf Haque, general secretary of the BCB calling Gordon Greenidge a "rookie" in an interview with **The Daily Star** on July 20, 1998.

talking to you and the team management...

GG: That is quite correct. I would have thought that the formal thing to do was, when we returned, instead of the players going off to their respective homes, the board could have asked the players to stay in Dhaka for a day. Then the people like the manager, the selectors and the president could talk to the players and find out exactly what went wrong on the tour. Don't you think that would have been the better way? So, they have not come to the players and they have gone home. They must feel very bad or I think they should feel bad for their performance. But they are going to feel perhaps even worse knowing that the people who are supposed to receive them from the board have turned their back on them because they have not performed well and they have not even come to find out if they were okay or whatever happened. We go on tour, you got to shift, you got to change around, you have to give break to players who don't want to play at that particular time because they were not fit enough. We have players but no doctor or physio. We go on a long tour. And you get teams going on a tour—a shorter tour, but they are able to

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(Part Two in tomorrow's **Daily Star** sport)



EXUDING ELEGANCE: Russia's Alaina Kabayeva showing off her mesmerising skills in rhythmic gymnastic at the Goodwill Games in New York on July 23. — AFP photo

Qatar bound team named

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday announced a 22-member national team who will play two friendly matches in Qatar, reports UNB.

Bangladesh will meet Qatar Olympic team on July 29 and Qatar national side on July 31.

The players are: Aminul Haq, Biplob Bhattacharya, Hasan Al Mamun, Masud Rana, Gobinda Chandra Sarkar, Jewel Rana (Captain), Prodip Kumar Poddar, Fajani Kanta Barman, Nazrul Islam, Motiur Rahman Munna, Iqbal Hossain Iqbal, Mustafa Anwar Parvez, Alfaz Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman, Saifur Rahman Moni, Monwar Hossain, Maksudul Amin Rana, Intiaz Ahmed Nakib, Mohammed Arman and Zakir Hossain Sahin.

Stand-by: Masud Hyder and Saurav Majumder.
Officials: Monirul Haq Choudhury MP (team leader), Shahriar Rumi (deputy team leader), Khurshid Alam Babul (Manager), Abu Yusuf (coach) and Dr Nazmul Haq (doctor).

Ctg soccer on

CHITTAGONG, July 24: Chittagong Jila Krira Parishad (CJKP) Mayor Cup football tournament saw a goalless draw on the opening match today at the MA Aziz Stadium here, reports BSS.

Port Authority Sports Association and Bakalla Ekadash failed to show their normal performances because of the muddy field.

Earlier, city mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated the tournament as the chief guest.

A total of twenty teams are participating in the tournament.

American, Aussie cagers hunt for gold

NEW YORK, July 24 (AP): A group of college kids is proving the critics wrong in the Goodwill Games.

Seemingly too inexperienced to match up against veteran international opponents, the US basketball team dominated its third straight game after a disheartening opener, and now finds itself in the gold-medal game.

The best basketball talent obviously has gone on to the NBA," coach Clem Haskins said after the United States defeated Lithuania 89-76 Thursday night in the semifinals. "We could have guys like Kevin Garnett on this team, but these guys are very coachable and I wouldn't trade them for anyone else. But we have a tough task ahead against a team with three NBA-quality players."

The Americans will play Friday night against Australia, which beat defending champion Puerto Rico 86-74. Shane Heal, on the Minnesota Timberwolves roster two seasons ago; Chris Antsey of the Dallas Mavericks; and Andrew Gaze, a Seton Hall star in 1989 who had short NBA tryouts, are three of Australia's top players.

NBA stars from the United States never were scheduled to play in this tournament, even before the current labour dispute. So this US team is a young college squad.

It started the Goodwill tournament by taking a 19-point lead over Puerto Rico, then losing by eight. Undaunted, the Americans came back to defeat Brazil and China to reach the medal round.

"I was down a little bit on Monday after we lost Sunday night, but the guys bounced back and have played extremely well," Haskins said. Referring to the team's 10-for-17 3-point shooting Thursday night, he added, "We're starting to shoot the ball extremely well."

A 3-pointer by Wally Szczerbiak of Miami-Ohio, who led a balanced US offense with 20 points, gave the Americans a 19-point lead over Lithuania with 14 1/2 minutes left.

That was about the time the US folded against Puerto Rico. But this time, the Americans held steady, and seven points in a 2 1/2-minute span by Keith Carter of Mississippi made it 76-51 with 9:09 to go.

"At that point, we knew what we had to do to bury this team," Carter said. "On Sunday, we didn't do that."

Duke's Elton Brand scored 15 points, Carter had 12, Andre Miller of Utah 11 and Jumaine Jones of Georgia 10 for the United States.

Dantus Adomaitis led Lithuania with 21 points. Szczerbiak had three 3-pointers and 13 points in the first half for the United States, carrying it to a 51-35 lead. Lithuania, which will play Puerto Rico in the bronze-medal game Friday night, got no closer than the final margin in the second half.

Asked how the team recovered mentally from losing a big lead against Puerto Rico, Szczerbiak credited Haskins. "He took the positives from the game," Szczerbiak said. "Obviously, we did something right to lead by 19, so we took that and built on it."

Lithuania assistant Donnie Nelson said the Americans jelled quickly after the Puerto Rico loss. "I think the key for them is athleticism," Nelson said. "Now that they've had some time to play together, they're going to be hard to beat."

Heal led Australia with 21 points, and Tony Ronaldson had 20, including two 3-pointers during a 14-0 burst at the start of the second half that extended a three-point lead to 58-41.

Gaze, who led Seton Hall to the US collegiate championship game in 1989, scored 15 points and Antsey had 14.

The Goodwill Games are no longer a tune-up," Gaze said. "We were out there to win a medal. The Goodwill Games are earning a fair amount of prestige, and to come away with a medal is important."

It's not the Olympics or the World Championships, but it means a lot to us and the Australian public. No matter where we play, we represent Australia because we wear the green and gold."

Jose Ortiz, formerly of the Utah Stars, led Puerto Rico with 23 points.

Trent Wells of Keizer, Oregon, thought he had a silver medal in the men's parallel bars but wound up with no medal at all. Judges twice changed scores after reviewing routines and dropped Wells from a tie for second to fourth, behind Xu Huang of China, Ivan Ivankov of Belarus and Aleksei Bondarenko of Russia.

Ivankov then won the high bar, holding off Russia's Alexei Nemov.

ished with three silver and two bronze.

In rhythmic gymnastics, Alina Kabayeva of Russia won the all-around gold, leading each of the four disciplines.

Diving began, with world champion Irina Lashko of Russia winning the 1-meter springboard over China's Go Jingjing. The Chinese pair-off Tian Liang and Sun Shuwei won the men's synchronized platform gold, posting the day's only perfect scores.

Beach volleyball's grand old man, 41-year-old Sinjin Smith, injured his left calf as he and US teammate Ricci Luyties lost 15-5 to Canada's John Child and Mark Heese. Smith returned to the match after a 5-minute timeout and said he would play Friday against the top US team, Karch Kiraly and Adam Johnson, which lost to Brazil's Guilherme Marques and Para Ferreira 15-3. Brazil scored the first three points and then ran off seven in a row for a 10-1 lead.

In other matches on the Central Park sand, Martin Conde and Esteban Martinez of Argentina took 1 hour, 19 minutes and 135 serves to defeat defending champions Jan Kvalheim and Bjorn Masseide of Norway 16-14, and Julien Prosser and Leo Zahner of Australia beat Martin and Paul Laciga of Switzerland 15-13.

MEDALS TABLE

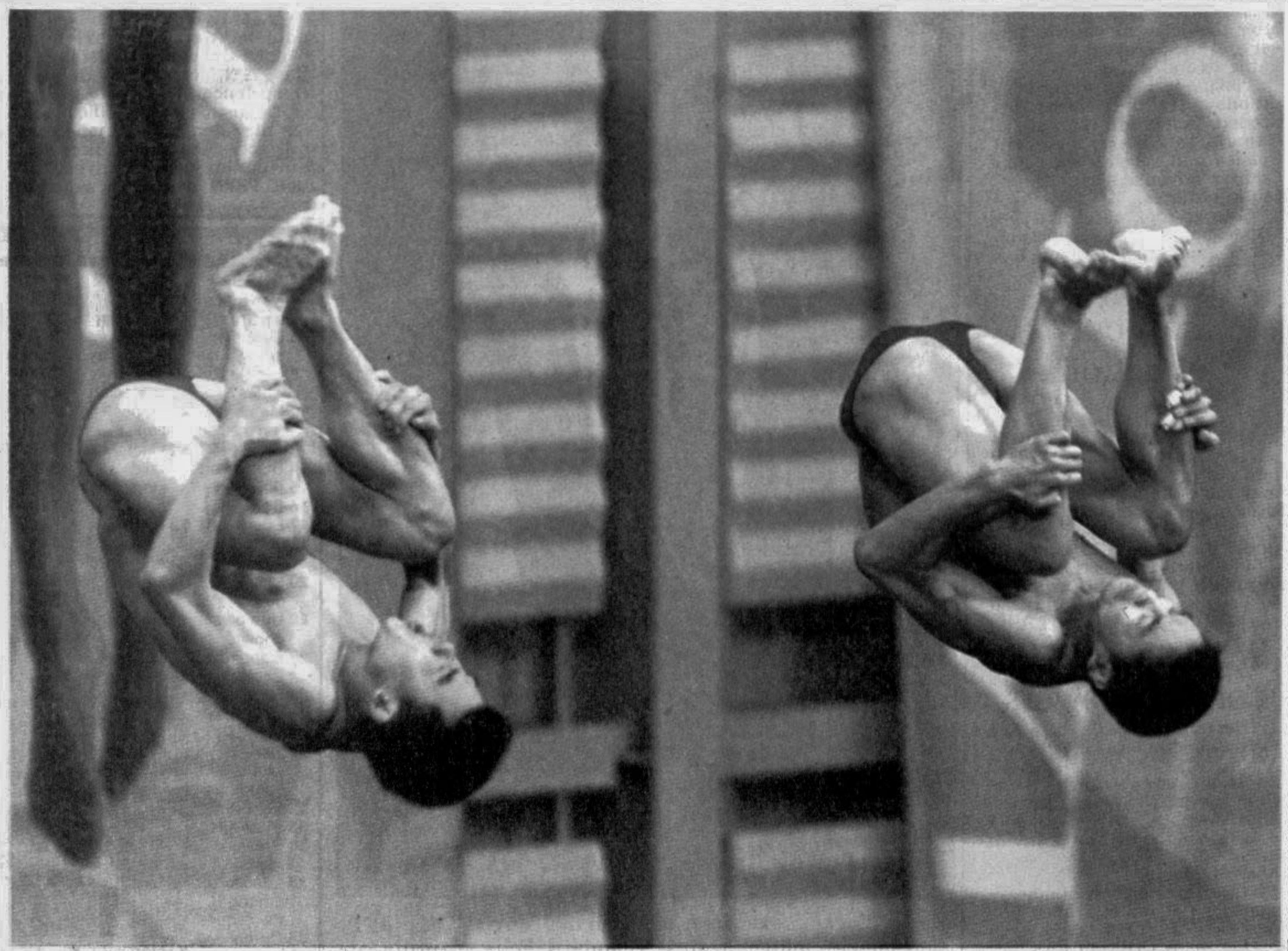
Country	G	S	B	T
United States	21	22	21	64
Russia	19	11	8	38
Kenya	5	4	4	13
Jamaica	2	2	5	9
Romania	1	3	5	9
Cuba	2	3	3	8
Ukraine	0	4	2	6
Belarus	2	2	1	5
China	2	1	1	4
Australia	1	1	2	4
Trinidad and Tobago	1	1	0	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Mexico	0	2	0	2
Morocco	0	1	0	1
Japan	0	0	2	2
Algeria	1	0	0	1
Britain	1	0	0	1
Mozambique	1	0	0	1
Nigeria	1	0	0	1
France	0	1	0	1
Germany	0	1	0	1
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Ecuador	0	0	1	1
Greece	0	0	1	1
Iceland	0	0	1	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1

Suspension on 4 Sino natants

LAUSANNE, July 24: The governing body of world swimming Friday handed four Chinese swimmers two-year suspensions after they tested positive for banned substances in the World Swimming Championships in January, reports AP.

The FINA doping panel, in a brief statement, said the suspensions went into force immediately. A temporary suspension period, which was in force from January 14 until April 25, will be deducted from the two-year total, FINA said.

At the Worlds in Perth, Australia, the three Chinese women—Luna Wang, Cai Huijue and Zhang Yi—and male teammate Wang Wei tested positive for triamterene, a banned diuretic which can be used to mask the use of anabolic steroids.



UPSIDE DOWN: Sun Shuwei (L) and Tian Liang of China's synchro diving team performing at the Goodwill Games in New York on July 23. The pair won the gold. —AFP photo