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BCB picks 39 for ACC

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday called another 25 cricketers along with 14 it picked for the Commonwealth Games squad for a camp at the BKSP. The squad for the ACC trophy, which will be held in Nepal from October 3, will be selected from these 39 cricketers. The winners of the ACC trophy will qualify for the next Asia Cup scheduled at the Bangabandhu National Stadium next March along with India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The cricketers, sans those undergoing a month-long training at the Commonwealth Bank Cricket Academy in Adelaide, Australia, have been asked to report to Director of Coaching Gordon Greenidge or C'wealth coach Gazi Ashraf Hossain at the BCB office at 10 am on August 16.

The cricketers who are in Australia will join the camp on their return.

The 39 cricketers called for the primary camp for the ACC trophy are: Azam Iqbal, Shahriar Hossain, Ehsanul Haque, Parvez Ahmed, Sajjad Ahmed, Javed Omar Belim, Hannan Sarkar, Al-Shahriar, Farooque Ahmed, Sanwar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Akram Khan, Aminul Islam, Habibul Bashar, Ridwan Hasan, Nasirul Islam, Hasanuzzaman, Rashidul Haque, Khaled Masood, Atiar Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Naimur Rahman, Fahim Muntasir, Tawhid Hussain, Mafizur Rahman, Mushfigur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Enamul Haque, Tanveer Khan, Sabbir Khan, Hasibul Hossain, Morshed Ali Khan, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Zakir Hossain, Zakir Hasan, Ahsanullah, Tahmid Bashir, Harun-ur Rashid and Mohammad Mortoza.

NatWest Trophy

Lancs to meet Derbyshire in the final

LEICESTER, England, Aug 13: Derbyshire won a place in the final of English cricket's 60 over NatWest Trophy with an unlikely three-run victory over Leicestershire on Wednesday. reports Reuters.

Leicestershire were seemingly cruising as West Indies all-rounder Phil Simmons smashed 90 off 99 balls to leave them needing 56 from 10 overs with seven wickets standing chasing Derby's 298 for seven. But after Simmons swung wildly and was bowled by

player-of-the-match Dominic Cork, the runs dried up. Leicestershire ended up needing 27 off the last three overs, 19 off the last two and made only seven of the 11 re-

quired for victory off the final Simmons, who was dropped on 40, put on 97 in 17 overs with Aftab Habib (56) who was run out when 30 were needed in 25

deliveries. Benjamin Smith scored 60. Derbyshire's 298 was built up by skipper Cork's undefeated

run-a-ball 61 and 40 in 28 balls from Phil DeFreitas, who hit three fours and two sixes. They put on 79 together after

young batsmen Robin Weston, 23, and Ben Spendlove, 18, put on 120 for the fourth wicket. Weston, brother of the

Worcestershire opening batsman Philip and son of the former England Rugby Union stand-off Mike, moved to Derbyshire from Durham at the end of last summer. His 56 came off 108 balls and

Spendlove, who took two catches while acting as sub for England during the first Test against South Africa at Edgbaston, scored 58 off 77 balls.

In next month's final at Lord's, Derbyshire meet Lancashire, who beat Hampshire on Tuesday.

Ajax takes Barca to FIFA over De Boers

AMSTERDAM, Aug 13 (Reuters/ Internet): Ajax Amsterdam on Thursday complained to soccer's governing body FIFA over attempts by Spanish club Barcelona to sign Frank and Ronald de Boer.

Barcelona has expressed a firm interest in both players. who are locked in a contract dispute with Ajax. Last month a Dutch arbitration committee ruled the De Boers should see out their contract with the Amsterdam club, which runs to 2004.

An Ajax spokesman alleged Barcelona had breached FIFA regulations by making a definite salary offer to the De Boers while they were still employed

by Ajax. The letter of complaint went today. Now it is up to FIFA to decide what to do. They could impose a fine on Barcelona."

the spokesman told Reuters. Barcelona is coached by Louis van Gaal, a former Ajax

trainer.

BCB is toying with our cricket destiny

Greenidge rookie, Gazi what?

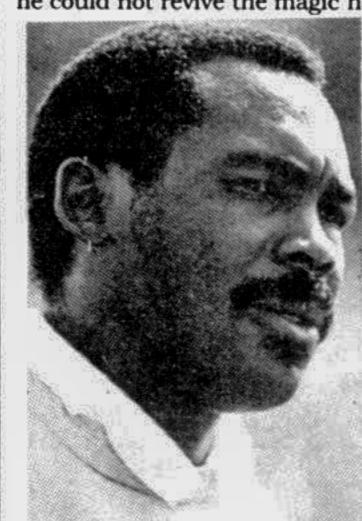
Syed Ashfaqul Haque

Sports-lovers will have to wait a few weeks, may be an identical one year and eight months, to learn from the spooky authorities of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as they have just appointed yet another 'rookie' as coach of the national team.

Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu, who is the paid manager of the national team, has been invited to step into the big shoes of Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge, the Director of Coaching for the past 20 months, in what the BCB chooses to call a 'special circumstance'.

And what could the special circumstance be?

Has the celebrated Caribbean coach of Bangladesh taken ill or gone on vacation so that his managerial partner had to take over the mantle of national cricket? Has Greenidge, who had an instant, inspiring success in his first stint as the coach of the national team been sacked because he could not revive the magic he



GORDON GREENIDGE generated in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy in Malaysia last year?

No! These are not the reasons for the unusual and inconceivable handing over of the responsibility. Needless to mention, the

story is different altogether. It's the sad same saga of a bunch of unscrupulous organisers in the Board, who are out to find a scapegoat to save their thick skin from the wrath of crores of cricket-crazy, frustrated fans. After a series of shameful performances by the cricket team in the international circuit, dons of the Board were badly in need of a 'goat' who could be sacrifice publicly to stymie the growing frustration of cricket aficionados. And, to do that, whom else, besides Greenidge,

Thanks to the pluck of the gritty former West Indies opener, Greenidge, following a public tirade by a few influential cogs in BCB's strangled wheel, opted to spill the beans lately through the Daily Star

could be the ideal offering?

Sport which enabled cricket enthusiasts to learn about every delivery being bowled on the BCB wicket. And there were a number of unfair decisions.

Sensing imminent public commotion, the gang who plotted the hate-campaign appar-ently took back their horns but eventually stabbed cricket in the back by replacing Greenidge for the important tournament.

BCB, now being dominated by a band of non-cricketers and opportunists, in an expression of hypocrisy and sheer vulgarity, went to the disgraceful extent of passing contrasting judgements for the same crime of poor results. Greenidge got the interim axe but his 'partner in crime' Gazi Ashraf has been given a pat on the back.

Much to the horror and disbelief of the keen followers of the game, Gazi. the blue-eyed boy of Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, has been inducted as the coach of the Commonwealth Games-bound Bangladesh team. Gazi, widely criticised for his awful and very questionable tendency of playing the role of a manger, coach and captain simultaneously, is himself accused of breaking down the chain of command in the team. His undesirable intrusion into the jobs of coach and captain is reported to have had negative effect on both the team performance and development on numerous occasions.

But Saber seems to enjoy and encourage the controversial and deleterious role of 'goody' Gazi, who is being paid nearly Taka 50,000 per month in the name of 'disturbance allowance'. While confirming Greenidge's exclusion from the Kuala Lumpur flight, the young president made a mockery of his cricketing wisdom by saying that Gazi should be able to handle this job as the role of a manager and a coach is similar. Smugly unaware of the internationally recognised roles of a coach and a manager, Saber not only projected Gazi as an outrageous choice to Greenidge but he also revealed our ominous journey to nothingness under

his leadership. Critics were caught off the guard first when Syed Ashraful Haque, the BCB general secretary and an internationally-reputed organiser, termed Greenidge a 'rookie' coach and stressed the need of an evaluation on the performances of the coach and manager along with the cricketers.

In one sense his observation was quite right. There is no doubt that Greenidge, who lorded over the highest level of the game for nearly two decades, made his coaching debut with Bangladesh. But it was Ashraful who had to produce his best efforts to woo the star of the yore in taking the job. And soon after the ICC triumph,

the BCB bosses jumped into a mind-boggling race to snatch all the credits for hiring the famous man from Barbados.

Now, in a strange twist of fate, they are turning their tail Did not Ashraful and the Board know then that Greenidge was a rookie in coaching? Should Ashraful get away with his ridiculous comment after all these months?

Moreover, what credentials make Gazi any different from Greenidge in the blurred vision of the BCB think-tank? Can even a child make comparisons

between their playing careers?
Without hesitation Greenidge can be said to be one of the all-time greats of the game in the world perspective. And Gazi?

In his playing days, Gazi was a leading cricketer and skippered Bangladesh team that never showed any significant success in the international arena. Although he was a thinking cricketer, he never acquired any coaching lesson



GAZI ASHRAF LIPU

and even did not coach any local club. After his retirement, he turned into a garment businessman and was pursuing the trade till becoming the national team manager. Besides, when the Board has

nearly a dozen trained and some established coaches at its disposal, what prompted Saber and Co. to pick Gazi? If it was 'badly' needed and absolutely essential to leave out Greenidge they could have easily drafted in one of the recognised coaches instead of Gazi.

If Gordon is found to be an inexperienced person, and that too lately, by the BCB general secretary, despite being one of the greatest sons the cricket world has ever produced, it is certain that worse comments are awaiting Gazi, who is nowhere near the West Indian as far as cricket expertise and knowledge is concerned. And, probably, the vexed cricketlovers are holding back the worst for the cricket adminis-

immediately

Salas on target

penalties.

LA CORUNA, Spain, Aug 13: Italy's Lazio defeated Real Madrid 6-5 in a penalty shootout Wednesday to wrap up a summer tournament game that saw Chilean World Cup star Marcelo Salas score in his debut for the Italian club, reports

The match went to penalties after the two sides were tied 2-2 after 90 minutes of play.

Salas, whose transfer from Argentina's River Plate was sealed this week, scored on a pass in the 41st minute by fellow new signing Ivan de La Pena, formerly of Spain's FC Barcelona.

Madrid, who finished the game with nine players after two expulsions, took the lead with a goal by Spanish international Fernando Morientes in the 15th minute. Seconds later Real's defender Roberto Rojas was sent off for a foul on De La

Pavel Nedved drew Lazio level in the 35th minute while Salas put the side ahead six minutes later.

Madrid were left with nine men seconds before the break when Jaime Sanchez was expelled for a sliding back tackle on Salas.

But in the 49th, Brazilian Savio made it 2-2 in a goalmouth scramble.

Mancini hits a jackpot

ROME, Aug 13 (Reuters/Internet): Lazio striker Roberto Mancini won 20 million lire (\$11,300) on a slot machine in the Spanish city of La Coruna, Gazzetta dello Sport said on Thursday.

The newspaper said Mancini gambled just \$3 on the electronic poker game in Lazio's team hotel on Tuesday night.

Mohammedan in Jiban Bima semis

Hasan Rony strikes thrice

Sports Reporter



Defender Hasan Rony scored a hat trick as Mohammedan Sporting Club stormed into the Jiban Bima Club Cup semi-fi

Ivan de la Pena (L), Lazio's Spanish international being denied space by Real Madrid trio Fernando Redondo (C), Raul

Gonzalez (No 7) and Fernando Morientes during a practice match at La Coruna, Spain on August 12. Lazio won on

nals with a comprehensive 6-1 win over Azad Sporting Club in their final group A match at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. The score at halftime was 3-1.

In an one-sided affair, Rony, the tall defender, converted three penalty corners in 11 minutes while his defence partner Ishtiaque Ahmed Shipu, veteran Zahid Biswas and Shariful Alam Shyamol struck once each for the black and whites. On the other hand forward Habul pulled one back for Azad who fielded an under-16 squad of BKSP under its ban-

Shipu put the Motijheel outfit ahead as early as in the fourth minute when Mohammedans earned their first short corner of the match. Shipu, capitalising on a brilliant stop by skipper Zahirul Islam Mitul, did not go for the hit at the first time. Instead, the lanky defender allowed the Azad defenders to come forward which created a gap for him to blast the board with a power packed hit.

Things could have been 2-0 two minutes later when Rajib

glish county selection beat

on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

four until Jonty Rhodes (90) put

the tourists back in contention.

colleague Nick Knight put on

139 for the first wicket as the

"home" side, all wearing their

and dropped on 18 by Daryll

brace of lives when he was

caught by wicketkeeper Mark

Boucher off another no ball

from Mornantau Hayward on

11 and then dropped at fine leg

by Pat Symcox off Hayward

Symcox off his own bowling for

45 from 77 balls while Brown

hit 10 fours and three sixes in

his 79 from 71 deliveries before

he was caught at deep mid-

on 70 from just 61 balls with six

fours and a six although he was

also given a life by the profli-

gate tourists when Steve Elwor-

thy dropped him off Pollock on

wickets in his opening spell and

Ed Giddins another as South

Africa crashed, but Rhodes and

Pollock added 127 for the sixth

wicket to leave the match

Martin Bicknell took three

Hollioake finished unbeaten

Knight was finally caught by

Knight, too, was given a

Cullinan at slip.

again.

wicket.

Earlier, Brown and England

turies as their En

was brilliantly fed by Raju. But Rajib failed to keep his cool and hit the ball wide off the near Azad, after surviving the

close call, made a brilliant come back with a counter attack and levelled the match with Habul deflecting a Yameen hit home with a magnificent wrist work in the 16th minute. Undaunted by the setback, Mohammedans then took the

initiative back from the tiny BKSP boys and regained the lead after 12 minutes. This time it was the dark Zahid Biswas who blasted the board capitalising on a goal mouth rebound. Rony then sealed the first

half with his first goal of the match from a penalty corner in the 30th minute. Inspired by the success in

his very first short corner of the day, Rony then converted the next two penalty corners for Mohammedans to complete his hat trick in the 40th minute. thanks to Mitul for setting up all the three penalty corners. Shyamol closed the Mo-

hammedan account with a cracking field goal in the 55th minute.

With yesterday's win, Mohammedan emerged group A champions with a maximum six points and will now take on either Ajax Sporting Club or Mariner Youngs Club in the second semi-final on August

MARINER HOPE FOR **SEMI-FINAL** Earlier, in the day's first

— AFP photo

match, Mariner Youngs Club kept their semi-final hopes alive when the came from behind to post a 3-1 win over Sonali Bank Trailing the first half 0-1

after Bank forward Shamim successfully converted a penalty corner in the 16th minute, the Fakirerpool outfit staged a magnificent rally in the second half and scored three goals in 22 minutes to remain in contention for the semi-final from group D.

Skipper Biaka Lusai levelled the match with a field goal in the 40th minute while Javed put Mariner in the lead with another field goal six minutes

Biaka sealed the bankers' fate with yet another field goal

in the 62nd minute. The winners will meet Ajax Sporting Club in their final group D match on August 17. A draw will throw Mariner out of the race as Ajax have a better

TODAY'S MATCHES

Wari Club v Bachelors' SC

scoring rate from their previous

two matches.

Elworthy not out

Hayward run out

Bicknell

Alleyne

(2:45 pm) Usha SC v Farashganj SC

Counties XI beat S Africa



NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 13: World Cup cricket champions Sri Lanka suffered a setback major

Thursday when dashing opener Sanath Jayasuriya was ruled out of Friday's triangular series opener against South Africa at Trent Bridge, reports AP. Jayasuriya, one of the key figures in Sri Lanka's 1996

World Cup success, has a badly bruised right hand after being repeatedly hit during the oneday match against Kent on a dangerous pitch. The game was subsequently abandoned. The explosive left-hander who has set new benchmarks

for one-day cricket with fellow opener Romesh Kaluwitharana, complained of pain while batting in the nets. "He is in extreme pain and it is very unlikely he will play.

said a dejected skipper Ranatunga. "It's tough luck." Russel Arnold, another talented left hander, will take Jayasuriya's place in a strong line-up that is expected to include at least seven players from the side that beat Aus-

Lahore in March 1996. Jayasuriya will undergo further X-rays but team physiotherapist Alex Kountouri expects Sri Lanka's most valuable player to be fit for the match against England at Lord's on

tralia in the World Cup final at

The triangular series will serve as the final dress rehearsal for Sri Lanka before England hosts the International Cricket Council's World Cup in 1999.

"That's one reason we decided to come here," Ranatunga said. "We've heard the white balls move around a great deal here compared with other countries, so this tournament is part of the acclimatisation process." "We have been very successful in the subcontinent, but I would like to see how we perform here," Ranatunga added.

This is Sri Lanka's first international in England since winning the World Cup. Sri Lanka have only played 12 limited-over matches in England since 1975, winning just two matches — both in World Cup tournaments - against India in 1979 and against New Zealand in 1983.

Ranatunga, Sri Lanka's longest serving international player, said the pressure was on England to win the triangular series after their new found success in the recent Test series against South Africa. "Normally the pressure is on

the World Cup winner to win any tournament it participates in. But I think this one will be different," Ranatunga said. England won their first major Test series in 12 years Monday, winning the fifth and final

Test to clinch a 2-1 series win

over South Africa.

"The home expectancy will be high and the crowd will want them to win everything from now onwards," Ranatunga said. Sri Lanka have won all five of their county one-day games leading up to the triangular, but Ranatunga sees South Africa as the main threat in this short

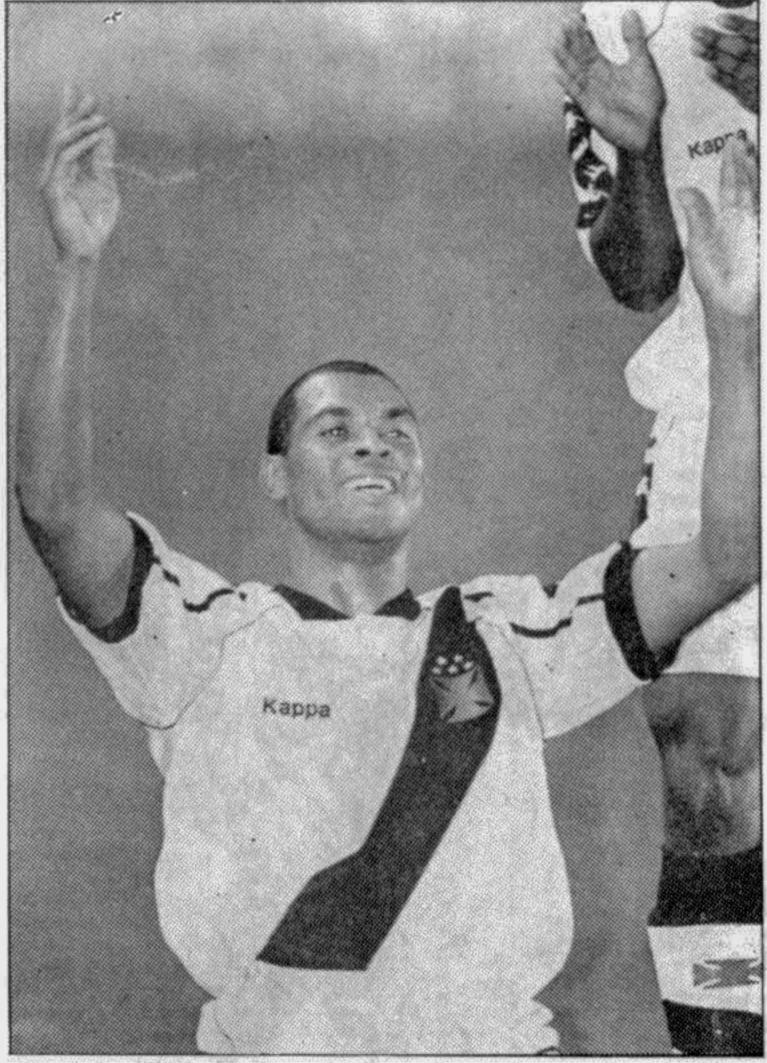
series. "South Africa are undoubtedly a far superior side compared with England. They bowl well and field brilliantly. For England, the only advantage they have is playing at home. Ranatunga said.

South Africa have been the top one-day side since the 1996 World Cup, winning 44 out of its 57 matches, closely followed by Sri Lanka, 36 out of 58. England have 15 wins from 29 games.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA: Mike Rindel, Gary Kirsten, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Pat Symcox, Mark Boucher, Steve Elworthy, Allan Donald. SRI LANKA (from): Romesh

SL, SA open tri-series today Kaluwitharana, Russel Arnold Marvan Atapattu, Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga (captain). Hashan Tillakaratne or Mahela Jayawardene, Chandika Hathurusingha, Kumara Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralidharan, Pramadoya Wickramasinghe, Suresh Perera.



Donizete acknowledges the crowds applause after scoring the opening goal for Vasco da Gama against Barcelona in the final first leg of the Copa Libertadores at Rio de Janeiro on August 12. Vasco won 2-0. - AFP photo

LEEDS, England, Hollioake ended Rhodes Aug 13: Alistair whirlwind knock from just 72 Brown and Ben balls, including 12 fours, while Hollioake hit Giddins returned to bowl Polrapid half cen-

lock for 59.

Boucher hit a six in the final over to leave South Africa need-South Africa by five runs in a ing six off the last three balls one-day match at Headingley but Hollioake struck again next The Counties Select XI ball and last man Mornantau Hayward was run out to give the amassed 279 runs from their Counties XI victory despite the rain-reduced 43 overs and actual scored finishing level. South Africa looked well and South Africa were undone at truly out of the match at 55 for

the death by the extra five runs added to their target by the duckworth Lewis scoring method when reduced the match to 43 overs per side. SCOREBOARD

individual county Sunday Scoreboard in the one-day League colours, built a huge tomatch between an English First Class Counties XI and South Brown reached 50 from just Africa at Headingley on 48 balls but was bowled by a Wednesday: Shaun Pollock no ball on 11 ENGLISH FIRST CLASS

> Hollioake not out Maynard lbw b Kallis Alleyne not out Extras: (lb-3, w-8, nb-22) Total: (for three wickets in 43 overs) Did not bat: P Prayson, R Irani, A Giles, M Piper, M Bick-

Knight c and b Symcox

Brown c Kirsten b Symcox

COUNTIES XI:

nell, E Giddins. Bowler Pollock Elworthy Hayward 56 Symcox

Cronje SOUTH AFRICA Kirsten b Bicknell Rindel lbw b Giddins Kallis b Giles Cullinan c Piper b Bicknell Cronje c Grayson b Bicknell Rhodes b Hollioake Pollock b Giddins Symcox b Giddins Boucher c Grayson b Hollioake

Extras: (lb-7, w-12, nb-6) Total: (all out in 42.5 overs) 279 Fall of wkts: 1-7; 2-7; 3-32; 4-55; 5-108; 6-235; 7-257; 8-268; Bowler Giddins

Hollioake 6.5 Note: Match reduced to 43 overs per side after rain interruption. South Africa's target revised on the DL method to

Result: First Class Counties XI won by 5 runs D/L method.

Vlaovic to have

groin surgery

VALENCIA, Spain, Aug 13 (Reuters/ Internet): Croatian World Cup striker Goran Vlaovic will undergo groin surgery this week and is likely to miss the first six weeks of the Spanish league season.

The 26-year-old Valencia player picked up the problem towards the end of last season but decided to play on until the World Cup, where he partnered Davor Suker in attack and scored in Croatia's 3-0 quarterfinal victory over Germany last month.

Vlaovic was due to start training this week but he said on Thursday he had opted for surgery instead.

"If I play in this condition I'll always be at 70 per cent so I think it's better to come back in top condition in two months," Vlaovic explained.

The Spanish season starts

on August 30.