

## Wills Cup fixture ICC's business interest given prominence

**Sports Reporter**  
 The International Cricket Council (ICC) will release the fixture of the forthcoming Wills International Cup from the Eden Gardens in Calcutta today. The knock-out tournament involving nine Test-playing nations, which has been designed by the ICC to raise funds for the global development of the game, will be held at the Dhaka Stadium from October 24 to November.

Although the ICC initially had said that the fixture would be based on the seeding of the 1996 World Cup, sources close to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have confirmed that a new fixture has already been prepared where ICC's business interest has been given maximum preference.

BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and his general secretary Syed Ashraf Haque have already reached the West Bengal capital yesterday to be present in the launching ceremony, jointly arranged by ICC and Wills, the sponsor of the tourney. They are likely to return home tomorrow.

## Irregularities in cricket Pakistan forms inquiry body

**LAHORE, Pakistan, Aug 21:** Pakistan's Lahore High Court named one of its judges on Thursday to investigate frequent allegations of betting and match-fixing against members of the national cricket team, reports Reuters.

An announcement by court Chief Justice Rashid Aziz said justice Qayyum Malik had been appointed as the one-man inquiry commission with the approval of the Pakistani government.

It said the commission would begin its proceedings on August 24 and "complete and submit its report within two months to the federal government with its findings and recommendations."

"The commission will hold its proceedings in camera as and when it deems necessary," it said, asking people wishing to give evidence to register their names with a registrar of the commission by Saturday.

The commission's terms according to the announcement, are:

— Probe into allegations regarding betting and match-fixing against the Pakistan team members.

— Determine and identify problems, including members of the team responsible for betting and match-fixing.

— Recommend such action as may be appropriate under the circumstances.

— Suggest measures as to avoid any future incidence.

## More cameras for KL Games

**DURBAN, Aug 21 (Reuters/Internet):** Cricket authorities are likely to come under pressure to increase the jurisdiction of the third umpire following the planned use of slow motion replays in non-televised matches at next month's Commonwealth Games.

Mike Demaine, a South African television producer who will be in charge of the cricket broadcast from Kuala Lumpur, said from Johannesburg all six venues for the Commonwealth Games limited-overs tournament would be equipped with replay cameras.

The Pan-a-ey system, consisting of four dedicated cameras positioned square of the wicket at each end of the pitch, will be installed at the two grounds from which matches are to be broadcast.

Similar systems, though not delivering pictures of broadcast quality, will assist umpires at the four other grounds.

The head of cricket organisation for the Commonwealth Games, Chinadurai Sivanandan, confirmed as much from Kuala Lumpur: "We want to make sure the competition is fair and not effectively played under two sets of rules."

It is believed to be the first time the third umpire will be used in matches not broadcast on television.

Demaine, who was instrumental in the advent of television umpiring in 1992, is part of a committee appointed by the United Cricket Board to investigate the extension of the third umpire's duties in South African domestic cricket.

He believes the technology will soon exist to enable umpires to give faultless decisions most of the time.

"At the moment you're still relying on the expertise of your cameraman but the technology can be developed and very quickly," Demaine said. "But it costs money and up to now no one has wanted to pick up the tab."



Usha skipper Rafiqul Islam Kamal (C) breaks through Mohammedan Sporting Club defence during yesterday's Jiban Bima Club Cup hockey final at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium. Usha lifted the title with a 2-1 victory. — Star photo

## Mohammedan bow to Usha in final Sadeq is still the best

**Sports Reporter**

Discarded national forward Mohammad Sadeq gave yet another slap on the face of the national selectors when he scored two goals in two minutes to help his side Usha Krira Chakra lift the Jiban Bima Club hockey Cup with a 2-1 win over Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final match played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday afternoon.

In a keenly contested affair, Sadeq, the most in-form player in the 15-team tournament, who has not been considered in the 16-man Commonwealth games squad to be held in Malaysia next month, made the difference between the two powerful sides with his skilful stick-work and struck twice to give the old-towners a 2-0 lead early in the first half.

Usha took the lead from their first short corner in the ninth minute with Sadeq doing

a tremendous job both in pushing and finishing. After pushing the ball from the line, the talented forward quickly rushed to an unmarked place inside the box to receive Nixon's pass and blast the board with a power-packed hit.

Inspired by the early goal, Sadeq then sealed the first half with a magnificent field goal two minutes later, thanks to skipper Rafiqul Islam Kamal who broke the Mohammedan defence through the left flank with a brilliant run before setting the ball for his attacking partner. Credit for the second goal should also go to Usha's Pakistani recruit Asif Ahmed who split the Mohammedan defence to free Kamal.

Although, the lanky Karachi-based stick wielder, who last played for Pakistan in their Test series against India early this year, did not get much help from his team-mates but he showed his class with his stick.

With yesterday's two goals, Sadeq scored highest ten in the tournament with two successive hat tricks in the first round. Sadeq was also the highest goalscorer in the Office league last month with ten goals. But will all these come to any good?

After the lemon break, Mohammedan looked serious in their business as they put their act together and launched a series of offensives. This helped them to earn five short corners in the second session.

After failing to convert the first four short corners, it was defender Ishtiaque Ahmed Shipu who could finally pull one back from their last penalty corner in the 46th minute.

After closing the margin, the popular Mottiheel outfit kept their mighty counterparts un-

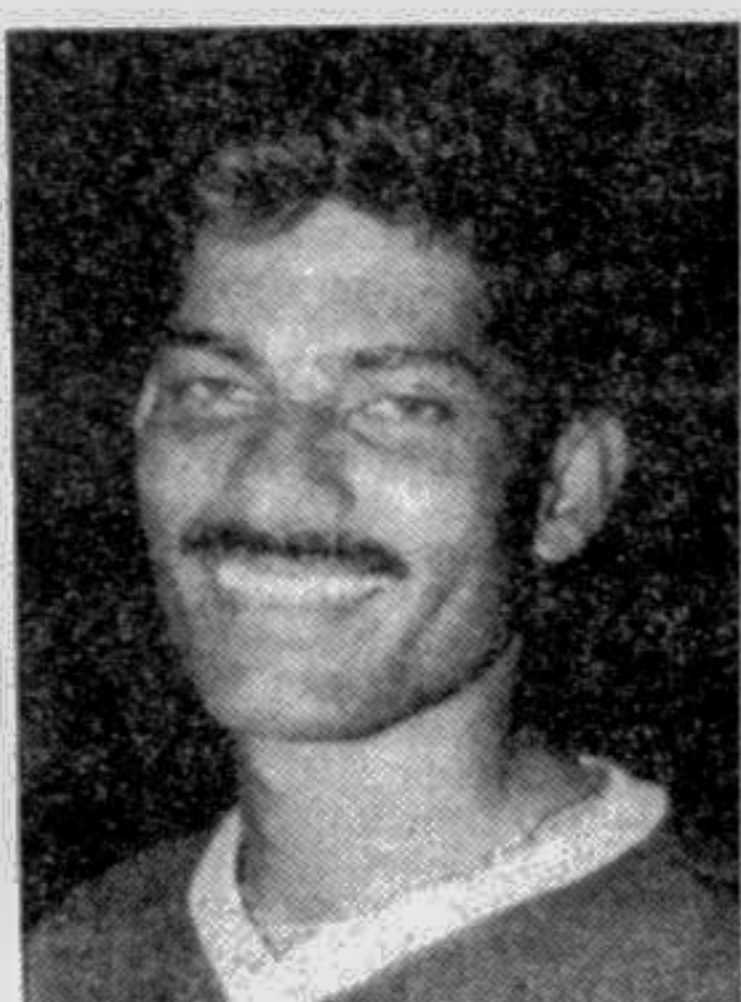
der acute pressure with ceaseless assaults. But all their creative work went into vain because of poor marksmanship.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, BCB witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed prizes. Bangladesh Hockey Federation president Air Vice-Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed was also

present. Apart from the championship and runners up trophies, Abahani Krira Chakra, who earlier in the day, posted a 4-0 win over Ajax Sporting Club in the play-off for the third place, received the most disciplined team's award. For his ten goal in five matches, Mohammad Sadeq received the highest scorer's trophy while Abahani defender Rabiuddin was named the best player of the 15-day long meet.



**SADEQ .. highest scorer**  
 Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday afternoon.



**RABIUDDIN ... player-of-tournament**

## Reporter gets on Del Piero's nerve

**ROME, Aug 21:** Italy and Juventus striker Alessandro del Piero, irritated by a reporter's question about doping, walked out of a news conference on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Del Piero took only three questions after testifying before an anti-doping panel of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), which oversees sport across the country.

When asked if he knew the content of everything he ingested he replied: "Yes, certainly."

When a reporter asked "Do you feel doped?" Del Piero winced and walked out of the room.

The striker, arguably the best Italian player in Serie A last season, said he had repeated to the CONI board the same statements he made to a turin magistrate probing allegations of drug-taking in Italian soccer.

The investigation was triggered by comments AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman made in a magazine interview earlier this month.

Zeman said drug-taking was rife in Serie A and urged soccer authorities to re-examine their lists of banned substances.

The Czech coach named Del Piero and former Juventus captain Gianluca Vialli in the interview but did not accuse them of anything directly.

Del Piero immediately said he would sue Zeman for defamation of character. Juventus and Vialli followed suit.

The probe, which has sent shock waves through Italian soccer, has focused on the use and alleged abuse of creatine, which some clubs administer to help players recover from injury.

## Dutch soccer

**AMSTERDAM, Aug 21:** Heerenveen striker Jeffrey Talan gave his side a 1-0 victory over Twente Enschede in the opening match on the 1998/99 Dutch league season on Thursday, reports Reuters.

He shot home the winner from just outside the box two minutes before halftime.

Twente's Erik Ten Hag had the dubious honour to be the first player of the season to be sent off after a foul on Boundewijn Pahlplatz.

Five minutes before the end Heerenveen had an excellent chance to score a second when Pahlplatz was fouled in the box by Jan van Halst, but Radu Gusatu missed the penalty.

## Ronaldo feels just fine

**MILAN, Aug 21:** Brazilian striker Ronaldo said on Thursday he was still baffled by the illness that wrecked his World Cup final and kept soccer's conspiracy theorists busy for weeks, reports Reuters.

Wearing an open neckshirt, a white baseball cap and his habitual gold earring, Ronaldo looked refreshed after six weeks in Brazil, Mexico and the United States.

"I've just had the best and longest holiday of my life," he grinned.

The world player-of-the-year recalled the hours leading up to fateful Paris final against France on July 12.

"Before the game I went to eat, then I went back to my room and was a bit tired so I slept," a relaxed Ronaldo told a news conference at Inter Milan's downtown headquarters.

"When I got up I felt pain in my body. I felt bad."

Brazilian team doctors rushed Ronaldo to hospital after he apparently had something like a convulsive fit of between 40 seconds and a minute.

"The (hospital) doctors said I had a problem and I couldn't play I was very angry about that because I wanted to play at all costs and I asked them if I could do tests."

"I did all the tests, I got to the stadium just in time and I played. I was the one who said I wanted to play."

"The doctors told me I couldn't but after all the tests I decided to play. I thought only

## Sol Campbell not for sale

**LONDON, Aug 21:** Tottenham Hotspur manager Christian Gross said on Thursday his club had turned down a 10 million-pound (16.28 million dollars) bid for England defender Sol Campbell from Premier league rivals Blackburn Rovers, reports Reuters.

"Blackburn were in contact some weeks ago. But there is not a price we would accept for Sol. He will not be leaving. Not for the moment," said Gross.

Central defender Campbell, 23, rose to prominence with several outstanding displays for England during the World Cup.

Gross also confirmed he was interested in buying Manchester United's Norwegian striker Ole-Gunnar Solskjaer. Solskjaer could be available after United signed Aston Villa's Dwight Yorke.

Meanwhile, Rovers paid Derby County 5.35 million pounds (8.71 million dollars) for Scottish World Cup star Christian Dailly to ensure they had adequate defensive cover during their UEFA Cup campaign.

Thursday was the deadline for clubs to register players for the first three rounds of the competition.

Rovers manager Roy Hodgson had earlier stated he needed a replacement for Colin Hendry, who left for Scottish club Rangers in a surprise 3.5 million pounds (5.70 million dollars) move earlier this month.

of winning the World Cup." Ronaldo played badly in the match which Brazil lost 3-0 to miss out on a fifth World Cup title.

His meek performance, the fact he was originally left off the team sheet before being reinstated, triggered a frenzy of speculation over what exactly had happened to him.

Some said Ronaldo suffered a leg injury after a panic attack. Others said he had an epileptic fit and nearly died. Still others said the world footballer of the year had been forced to play by his sponsors and coach Mario Zagallo.

threatening to overshadow the start of the new season on September 13 could be a good thing.

The investigation is looking into the use and alleged abuse of drugs — whether legal or illegal. It may persuade authorities to review their lists of banned substances and tighten doping procedures.

"I've heard very little about it because I was on holiday and I didn't want to hear anything about football but I think what emerges could be good for football," Ronaldo said.

He said he had never taken boosters of the amino acid cre



The most famous No 9 ready to roll: Ronaldo displays his no 9 Inter Milan jersey to mediamen during a news conference at the club's headquarters in Milan on August 20. The world-player-of-the-year returned to Italy on Thursday following a long vacation. — AP/UNB photo

He told Brazilian television last month he had taken prescribed sedatives before the final.

Ronaldo dismissed the theories on Thursday but acknowledged he still did not know why he had fallen ill.

"I did all the tests that were possible to do but they didn't reveal any problems. I don't know what it could have been," he said. "The important thing is that I'm feeling well now."

Asked why he had looked so tired when he flew into Brazil after the World Cup, the 21-year-old laughed and said: "I was carrying a 30 kg bag and I'd just woken up."

He said his illness had affected the match result, Brazil's heaviest defeat in their prodigious World Cup history.

The fact is France played better than us," he said.

He said the doping probe which has rocked Italian soccer this month and which is

at the centre of the Italian investigations.

Creatine occurs naturally in the body and plays a key role in muscle contraction. Its use is legal and some sides use it to aid players returning from injury. Other clubs in Italy refuse to use it and some coaches say it should be banned.

In the teams I've played for I've never heard of (creatine), Ronaldo said. "In other teams I don't know."

Ronaldo was due to join his Inter Milan teammates for a training session this morning.

He could play his first match of the season for Inter in the second leg of a European Cup qualifier against Skonto Riga in Latvia next Wednesday.

Alternatively, coach Luigi Simoni, whose side won the first leg 4-0, may choose to save the Brazilian for what is sure to be another gruelling Italian league season.

## England a bit worried

**LONDON, Aug 21:** Nasser Hussain will be high on the agenda of selectors' discussions this weekend as England begin to analyse their Emirates triangular tournament defeat against Sri Lanka at Lord's, reports AP.

The Essex batsman was absent for the final 15 overs of Sri Lanka's innings with a groin injury as the world champions coasted to their five wickets victory with 17 balls remaining, having already restricted England to 256 for eight.

Sri Lanka's performance and the commanding manner in which they reached the highest score of the tournament to claim the 15,000 pound (24 million dollars) winners' cheque will have been noted by England as they seek the elusive formula for World Cup success next summer.

But in the meantime, chairman of selectors David Graveney must turn his thoughts to this weekend's announcement of the squad to face Sri Lanka in the one-off Test at the Oval starting next Thursday, with Hussain's injury top of the agenda when he meets Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting.

"Nasser has done a groin," revealed captain Alec Stewart. "I don't know how bad it is, I can't say whether he's in doubt for the Test match or what but he couldn't play tomorrow, for example."

"I don't know if he slipped in the field or what, but we lost our best fielder, which wasn't ideal. He's played well throughout the summer. We would miss him but hopefully he will be fit. The match is still a week away."

Hussain played a major part in England's series-clinching victory at Headingley over South Africa, scoring a crucial second-innings 94, and has gone some way towards solving England's problematic number three position.

But if his groin injury prevents his participation in next week's Test, it could open the way for Lancashire's John Crawley to return having been overlooked since scoring six runs in two innings during England's memorable victory in Trinidad in February.

Crawley is also a strong contender to replace Graeme Hick, one of England's most consistent performers in the triangular tournament but scorer of just nine runs in three innings during the last two Tests against South Africa.

The other main items for discussion are whether to persevere with Andrew Flintoff at number seven or recall Ben Hollis, who has been undergoing specialist coaching from Graham Gooch and Bob Cottam in the last few weeks.

Leg-spinner Ian Salisbury, a disappointment in both his Tests this summer, could also find his place under threat at his home ground with either Phil Tufnell or Robert Croft competing for his spot.

England must also consider ways of combating extraordinary off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, whose unique wrist action enables him to exert turn not normally possible by finger spinners — as he demonstrated by claiming five for 34, the best return in a one-day international at Lord's, during Thursday's final.

Another matter for concern will be England's consistent ca-

capacity for collapse both in Test and one-day cricket — they lost eight wickets for 114 runs in 144 balls against Sri Lanka after Michael Atherton and Nick Knight enjoyed a productive 132 runs opening partnership spanning 26 overs.

## Nat'l v'ball finals today

Finals of the 20th men's and 14th women's national volleyball championship will be held today at the Mirpur Shaheed Suhrawardy National Indoor Stadium, reports UNB.

Defending champions Ansars & VDP will take on BJMC at 2:30 pm in the women's final.

In the men's final, defending champions Bangladesh Army will face Bangladesh Navy at 4 pm. The third place deciding match will also be held today at 12 noon.

Bangladesh Navy beat Khulna DSA 15-6, 15-2, 15-8 in the first semi of men's group while Bangladesh Army reached the final defeating Bangladesh Rifles 15-3, 15-4, 15-2 in the second semi yesterday.

Pabna DSA managed the third position of women's group beating Rajbari DSA 10-15, 15-6, 15-13, 15-13.

## Hill quits

**SYDNEY, Aug 21:** Soccer Australia chairman David Hill, who brought Terry Venables to Australia as national coach, will stand down, he said Thursday, reports AP.



Players and officials of Usha Krira Chakra.

— Star photo