

## ICC intends to double its associates

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: The International Cricket Conference (ICC) plans to expand the ICC Trophy by doubling the number of its associate members from the present 25.

Stating this, ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya said launching of a "cricket week" with strong media and Internet backing and schemes to raise the standard of the game in associate member countries, are among the steps being taken to promote it worldwide.

"The ICC in its 90-year history has remained a closed body. As many new members as possible have to be brought in if the game is to emerge a global sport like football," Dalmiya said.

He defended the holding of the Wills International Cup (the ICC knockout tournament), involving nine Test-playing countries, in Dhaka from October 24, saying it was part of his organisation's efforts to spread cricket to various parts of the world.

Bangladesh, an associate member, has already been granted one-day international status and has applied for recognition as a Test-playing country.

Releasing the fixture of the competition, ICC chief executive David Richards said all matches would be considered as official ODIs. The matches will begin at 1400 hours.

The tournament begins with a pre-quarterfinal match between New Zealand and Zimbabwe while the other countries are drawn in the quarters.

## Mahboob retains ABSF position

Syed Mahboob, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Billiards & Snooker Federation was re-elected Secretary of the Asian Billiards & Snooker Federation (ABSF) for a third term of two years. The election was held in Karachi during the 15th annual general meeting of the ABSF on August 21, says a press release.

A board member of the International Billiards & Snooker Federation, Mahboob had earlier been elected secretary in 1994 and 1996.



In the annual general meeting, participated by delegates from 11 countries, Ali Asghar Valika of Pakistan was re-elected president while WY Chin retained his position as executive vice president.

**CJKP Mayor Cup**  
**MSC face AKC in final**  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club moved into the final of CJKP Mayor Cup football tournament beating Regency Sports Club by a solitary goal at M A Aziz Stadium today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans meet arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra in the final of the tournament on August 26.

The first half of the match was goalless. National striker Alfaz who took Mohammedans to semis scoring the lone winning goal in the quarterfinal against City Corporation, today again scored the all important goal.

**TEAMS**  
**MOHAMMEDANS:** Labiu, Shafiq, Nazrul, Pradip, Lajuk, Liton, Zakir, Joy, Asif, Nakib and Alfaz.

**REGENCY:** Nizam, Apu, Jewel Rana, Roki, Titu, Glas, Arman, Munna, Raju, Don and Tipu.

Referee: Golam Mostafa.

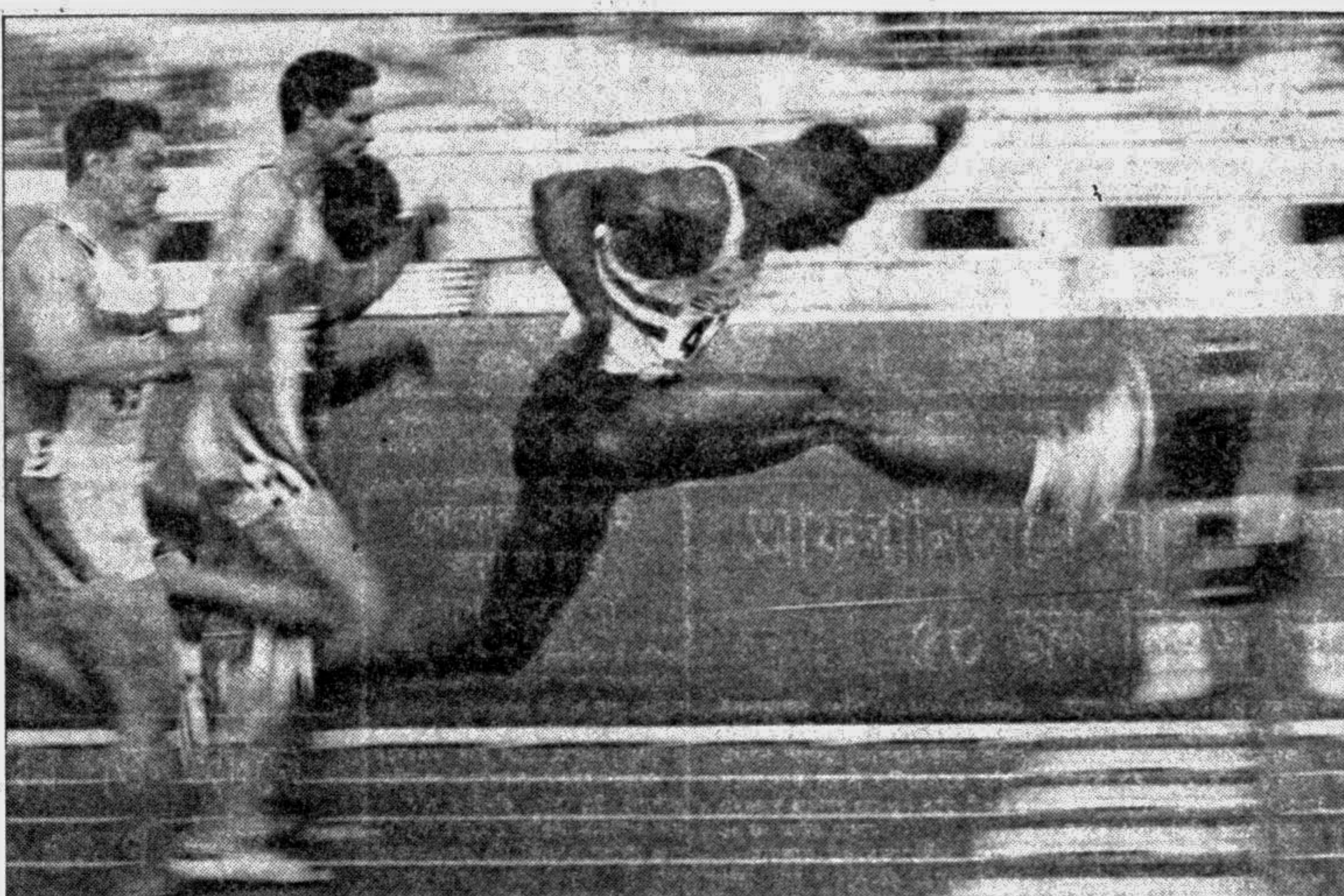
**Yorkshire get Blewett**

LONDON, Aug 23: Yorkshire have signed Australian batsman Greg Blewett as their overseas player for next season, the club announced on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The 26-year-old replaces fellow South Australian Darren Lehmann, who will be on World Cup duty.

Lehmann recommended the county sign up Blewett and Yorkshire expects he will be available for the whole of the season.

Lehmann remains Yorkshire's first choice in the long term, though, and has signed for the club for a further two years after 1999.



World 110m hurdles champion Collin Jackson of Britain makes a final dash to the line during the European Championships in Budapest on August 22. — AFP photo

## High-voltage performances by Jackson & Drechsler



BUDAPEST, Aug 23: Britain's Collin Jackson decided to take a fortnight off paid dividends here on Saturday as he won the European 110 metres hurdles title for the third successive time in his best time since 1994, reports AFP.

Another veteran, Heike Drechsler of Germany, also came back to her competitive best, winning the women's long jump to become only the third athlete to win four European titles in the same event.

The 31-year-old Jackson, the world record holder, posted the third fastest time in the world this season of 13.02 both in the semifinal and the final to break the championship record.

His gold, added to those of Denise Lewis in the heptathlon and 100 metres hero Darren Campbell leading the 4x100 relay team to the title, put them on top of the medals table.

Jackson was never in danger of surrendering his title despite clattering the last hurdle and came home ahead of his potentially greatest future rivals in Europe, Falk Balzer of Germany and Dutchman Robin Korving.

"I missed Monaco and Zurich because I realise this is probably my last Europeans and I didn't want to go out a defeated champion," the Welshman said.

"I was a little disappointed not to go under 13 seconds but knocking the eighth hurdle cost me in both the semifinal and final."

"All the golds we've been winning actually made me feel there was more pressure on me but I pulled myself together. After all, I am the older statesman of the team."

Drechsler, now 33 and who began her career by becoming the youngest ever world champion at the age of 16, also called on her vast experience, posting her winning jump in the second round.

The German athlete, who has come back after three years of injury woe culminating in two Achilles tendon operations last year, was pushed all the way but her mark of 7.16 metres was too much for 1995 world champion Fiona May.

The English-born naturalised Italian set a new national record of 7.11 metres.

"This win was the hardest one for me as the injuries of the past few years had taken a lot out of me but it's also the most emotional one," the former East German star said.

"I don't normally cry on the podium but as I have got older I have become much more open."

France recovered from a poor championships to take three medals in a matter of 10 minutes as their 100 metres heroine Christine Arron came from 10 metres down on the final leg of the 4x100 relay to

pass Russia's Irina Privalova and Germany's Andrea Philipp to give her country the gold.

"I really didn't expect to make up the ground but at the same time I didn't think I would have such a deficit to make up the 24-year-old said."

I just didn't panic and turned on the turbo."

The men's 5,000 metres saw the end of German Dieter Bauermann's reign as Isaac Viciosa of Spain won, with his compatriot Manuel Pancorbo taking silver and Mark Carroll of Ireland, who led at the bell and fought out a stunning duel with Pancorbo down the final straight, third.

"As I was a 1,500 metres runner, the pace suited me and I knew I could go for it in the final two laps. This has been quite a season, a European record at 3,000 and now this title with my friend Manuel Viciosa said."

If there is to be a shock at these championships, it may well come in the men's 800 metres, as for the second successive day, world record holder Wilson Kipketer of Denmark was beaten.

This time he acknowledged that all was not well.

"I am not happy nor satisfied," said Kipketer, who has only won once in four races since returning after suffering malaria.

number three or number six depending on whether Nasser Hussain has recovered sufficiently from the groin injury sustained while fielding in the triangular tournament final defeat by world champions last Thursday.

Hussain saw a specialist on Saturday and is likely to undergo a scan on Monday.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney said Hussain will play only if he is "100 per cent fit."

Crawley, out of the picture since last winter's tour to West Indies, was named as cover for Hussain.

Hollisoke, picked for the Old Trafford Test against South Africa but omitted from the final side, has had his batting overseen by England selector and former captain Graham Gooch, while bowling coach Bob Gcott has been working to iron out any flaws in his action.

The 20-year-old, left out against Australia at the The Oval last summer after making his debut at Trent Bridge in the previous match, has shown a marked improvement in recent games.

Flintoff played in the Test series-clinching victories over South Africa at Trent Bridge and Headingley but did not make a significant contribution in either match and bagged a 'pair' in the fifth Test, although unlucky to be given out

**Spanish Super Cup Mallorca's**

BARCELONA, Aug 23 (AFP/AP): Real Mallorca won their first major title in their 82-year history and took revenge on giants Barcelona on Saturday as they won 1-0 away to claim the Spanish Super Cup.

Dani, settled the game in front of 40,000 spectators at the Nou Camp after Mallorca had won the first leg 2-1.

German Heike Drechsler in action during the women's long jump on August 22.

— AP/UNB photo

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## Wills teams start arriving from October 17

# Final preparations afoot

Sports Reporter



New Zealand will be the first team to arrive in the capital to feature in the Wills International Cup cricket tournament, scheduled to start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from October 24.

The Kiwis, slated to meet Zimbabwe in the opening match, will arrive in the city on October 17. Test babes Zimbabwe will fly into Dhaka on October 20. All the nine Test-playing nations are to participate in the 10-day long knock-out contest.

Details of the tournament were disclosed by the general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Syed Ashraf Hui, who on his return from Calcutta met newsmen at the BCB office last evening.

The BCB general secretary, who along with his president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, went to the Indian city Saturday

to attend the official launching ceremony of the unique event on, also said that the Board is expecting a payoff of more than Taka one and a half crore from the tournament, organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to raise fund for its world-wide development programme.

World champions Sri Lanka, who will take on the winners of the New Zealand and Zimbabwe match in the second quarter-final on October 26, will arrive in Dhaka five days before their fixture.

Former world champions West Indies and the disciplined South Africa will arrive on October 22. India will disembark on October 25 while their perennial foes Pakistan and Australia, who will play their last Test at Karachi from October 22-26, will fly in on October 27.

Of the nine participating nations, only England are yet to confirm their arrival schedule.

Although Bangladesh will not be part of the 400,000-dollar tournament, the ICC Trophy champions will play a couple of One-Day Internationals against the losing sides of the first and third match of the ten-day meet.

Bangladesh will play its first ODI on October 26 and the second on October 29. Both the matches will be held outside Dhaka.

"We have prepared four venues for those matches. They are Rajshahi, Sylhet, Chittagong and Mymensingh. But things will be settled after the recommendation from Ranjan Madhugale," said Ashraf. The former Sri Lankan Test cap, who will be one of the match referees of the knock-out tournament, will visit Bangladesh, sometimes next month to assess the ground conditions of those venues before making a final recommendation to the games ruling body.

Ashraf also disclosed that the president of the ICC Jogmohan Dalmiya and chief executive David Richards will arrive in Dhaka on September 12. During his brief stay the ICC supreme will oversee the preparations of the event. Mr. Dalmiya will also address a press conference prior to his departure on September 13. Former Pakistan skipper Asif Iqbal, the event manager, will arrive in the capital on September 11.

## PCB comes under fire



ISLAMABAD, Aug 23 (The Dawn/Internet): The stop-gap arrangement for appointment of captain and coach of the Pakistan cricket team and support to undisciplined cricketers by the Pakistan Cricket Board was severely criticised by members of the Senate Standing Committee on Sports headed by Senator Justice Javed Iqbal, which met at the Parliament House here on Saturday.

The committee members maintained that such short-sighted arrangements hampered the overall performance of the team. The committee was informed by the chief executive PCB, Majid Khan, that PCB Council appointed Amir Sohail captain for the Sahara Cup being held at Toronto next month. He also stated that services of Javed Miandad have been acquired as coach-cum-player for Pakistan team. The committee took exception to Miandad's appointment as coach-cum-player while stating that it appeared "ridiculous".

The decision of the cricket board to include cricketers allegedly involved in match-fixing was critically remonstrated by the committee members. They maintained that by recalling these players to play for the country amounted to rewarding them for being "undisciplined and corrupt".

It was learnt that chairman PCB, Khalid Mehmood, was directly charged by the Senate Standing Committee for taking steps to bail out those cricketers. The committee urged the board that the elements detrimental to the image and prestige of the nation should be discouraged at all costs.

The standing committee was to mainly discuss the match-fixing and betting allegations on certain Pakistani cricketers. However, the issue took a back seat in the face of one-man inquiry commission constituted by the government.

The Standing Committee members unanimously disapproved the action of the government and directed the Ministry of Sports to give its opinion on the issue within a week.

While taking up the issue of match fixing allegations against certain players of Pakistan team on Saturday, the committee was informed that the government had constituted an inquiry commission headed by a Judge of the Lahore High Court to probe the matter.

Terminating the action taken by the government as "breach of privilege" of the Senate Standing Committee, an official press release expressed it as "sabotaging" the inquiry process. It was stated that the Senate Standing Committee was considering the issue in detail through a three-member sub-committee headed by Senator Javed Iqbal himself, exclusively constituted for the purpose.

It was stated that the sub-committee was awaiting the submission of report of another committee headed by a Judge of the Shariat Court, Ejaz Yousof. The report to be completed in late July was delayed. However an "interim" report was submitted about two weeks back.

In view of the interim report the sub-committee made its recommendation that till the credentials of the involved cricketers were not cleared, they should not be made part of national team. The report is learnt to have named three players guilty of match-fixing and another six players are on the probe list.

A high level ministerial source disclosed to Dawn that action of the government to

form an inquiry commission was actually a delayed response to the appeal made by the PCB chief executive Majid Khan. It was learnt that he had written a letter to President Rafique Tarar, who is also the patron-in-chief of cricket, in January to take some action against these involved in match-fixing and betting.

The committee members have also urged Majid Khan not to resign as PCB chief executive in the backdrop of campaign to 'rescue cricket'.

**County cricket scores**

LONDON, Aug 23: Leicestershire completed victory over Middlesex by eight wickets to keep up with the top two in the English county championship on Saturday, reports Reuters.

They overcame resistance from the Middlesex lower order to bowl them out for 245 and leave themselves a target of only 101 to win.

They trail leaders Surrey by 39 points and second-placed Lancashire by 18 but have a match in hand with four to play.

Yorkshire moved into fifth place, beating champions Glamorgan by 114 runs with a day to spare.

Scott Gavin Hamilton was the outstanding individual performer, taking 10 wickets in the match and scoring a half-century in each innings.

He took five for 43 as Glamorgan were dismissed for 222 in their second innings.

Glamorgan are now resigned to losing their title.

## A birthday party without Bradman



ADELAIDE, Australia, Aug 23 (AP, AFP): Indian star Sachin Tendulkar will join a birthday party of 1,300 here Thursday but the target of the attention will be missing.

Sir Donald Bradman, the world's most famous cricketer, turns 90 on Thursday with his home state of South Australia planning a week of celebrations.

But Bradman, a recluse for the past 20 years, will celebrate his birthday in private. Tendulkar, the one player who has reminded Bradman of himself, is expected to receive a private audience with the man known as The Don, who dominated cricket in his 52-Test career with a peerless average of 99.94.

The State Library of SA, which houses the Bradman Collection of memorabilia, is hosting the celebrations. A spokesman said Bradman had taken a keen interest in the plans despite his decision to stay away.

Tributes include the unveiling of a new gift from Bradman to the Bradman Collection, the Warwick vase album, a handmade album presented to Sir Donald to celebrate his last visit to England in the famous 1948 Invincibles tour.

A gala birthday dinner to be held in Bradman's city of residence on his birthday is expected to attract some 1,300 guests.

Former Australian captain and now South Australian state manager of cricket Greg Chappell, who will be involved in the celebrations, said Bradman was the greatest player and the

greatest batsman ever to have played cricket.

"As soon as I got to understand about cricket, I think I was aware of the name," Chappell said today.

"It's around the world and not just in the major cricket-playing countries, anywhere where cricket's been mentioned

the name of Bradman has come up."

"He's unique in Australian history. He's unique in cricketing history and he's unique in sporting history. He's dominated the game in a way not many people have been able to do."

The Don scored 6,996 runs in 52 Tests from 1928-48 at an average of 99.94 — one which no one else has approached.

South African Graeme Pollock is the next highest with a Test scoring average of 60.97.

SIR DONALD BRADMAN

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