

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.

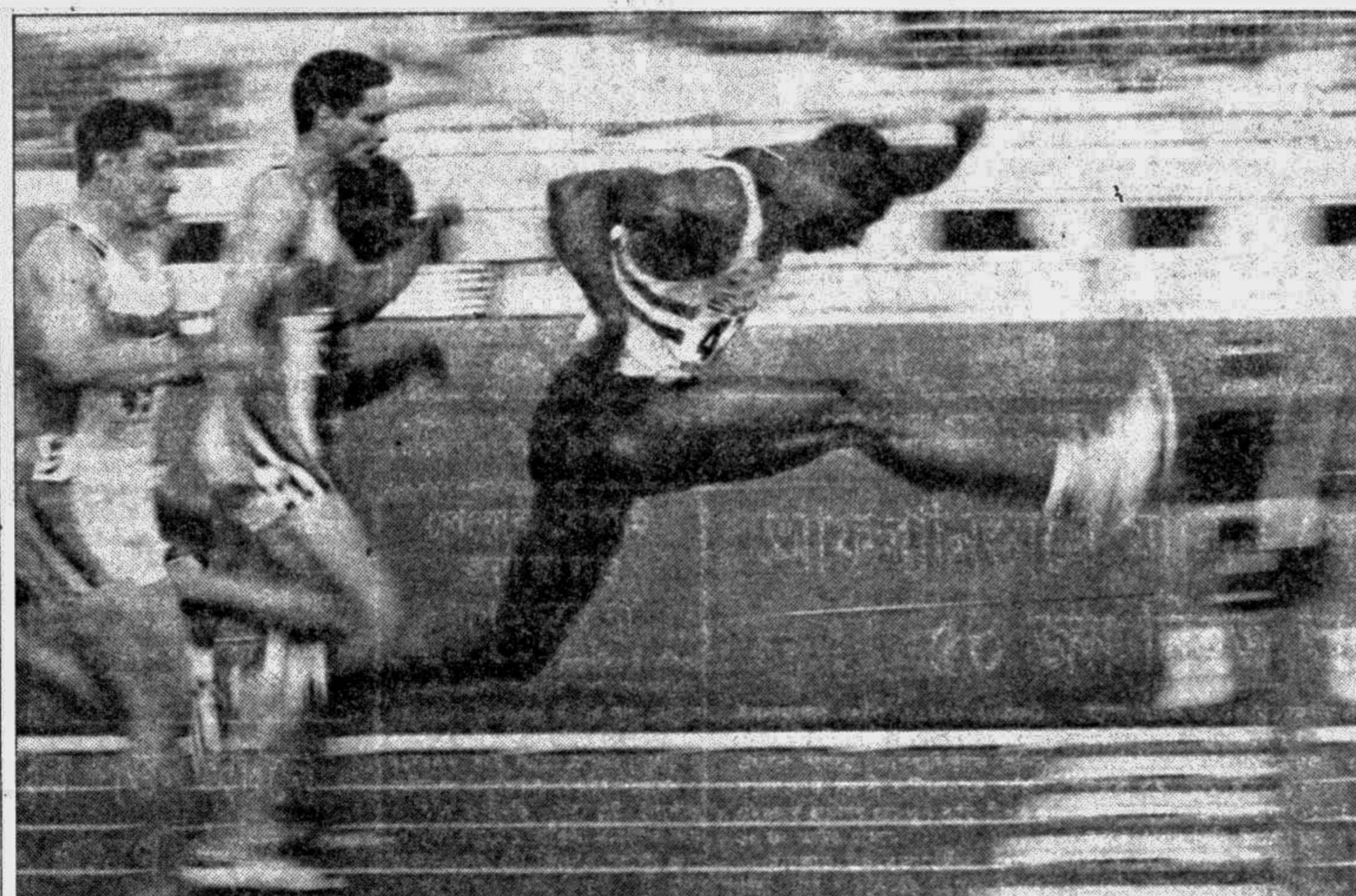
Releasing the fixture of the competition, ICC chief executive David Richards said all matches would be considered as official ODIs. The matches will begin at 1400 hours.

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

Mahboob retains AASF position

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

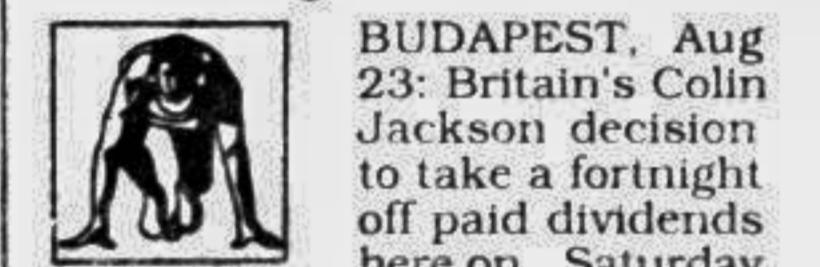
A board member of the International Billiards & Snooker



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 decision 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 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

win.

"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 stateswoman 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.

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Ben, Crawley called up



LONDON, Aug 23: All-rounder Ben Hollioake was today recalled to a 13-man England squad for the Test match against Sri Lanka, which begins Thursday at The Oval, reports AFP.

The younger of the Hollioake brothers was called up along

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.

Hollioake, 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 Cottam 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): 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.

B HOLLOOAKE

with Lancashire's John Crawley but whether he makes the final line-up depends on which tactical option England decide to pursue.

Hollioake, who replaces Andy Flintoff in the squad, will face the tourists on the ground where he plays county cricket for Surrey if all rounder is deemed necessary. England may instead opt for four seamers and one spinner against the dashing Sri Lankan stroke-makers.

Despite his failures in the Trent Bridge and Headingley Tests, Graeme Hick is guaranteed to play, and will bat at

in the first innings.

SQUAD

Alec Stewart (Capt), Mike Atherton, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain, John Crawley, Mark Ramprakash, Graeme Hick, Ben Hollioake, Dominic Cork, Ian Salisbury, Darren Gough, Angus Fraser, Allan Mullally.

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Aug 23: Portugal's Manuela Machado set a new European Championships record and clocked her best time ever in winning the marathon Sunday in 2 hours 27 minutes 10 seconds, reports AP.

The Standing Committee members unanimously dis-

proved the action of the government and directed the Ministry of Sports to give its explanation 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.

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 Aamir Sohal captain for the Sahara Cup being held at Toronto next month. He also stated that services of Javed Iqbal have been acquired as coach-cum-player for Pakistan team. The committee took exception to Maindard'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 Mahmood, was directly charged by the Senate Standing Committee for taking steps to ball 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 back seat in the face of one-man inquiry commission constituted by the government.

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

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 Ashraful Huq, who on his return from Calcutta met news-men 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 disband 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 Madugalle," said Ashraful. 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.

Ashraful also disclosed that the president of the ICC, Jagmohan Dalmiya and chief executive David Richards will arrive in Dhaka on September 12. During his brief stay the ICC supremo 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 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 Aamir Sohal captain for the Sahara Cup being held at Toronto next month. He also stated that services of Javed Iqbal have been acquired as coach-cum-player for Pakistan team. The committee took exception to Maindard's appointment as coach-cum-player while stating that it appeared "ridiculous".

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proved the action of the government and directed the Ministry of Sports to give its explanation 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, Ejaz Yousuf.

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 Glamorgan by 114 runs with a day to spare.

Scot 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