

Asian Youth soccer Do or die at Doha

Sports Reporter
 Bangladesh will take on South Korea in their penultimate group B clash of the 8th Asian Youth under-16 football championship at the Al-Sadd Stadium in Doha, Qatar, tonight.
 The match, a very important one for Bangladesh to keep their semi-final hopes alive, will kick off at 11:15 pm BST.
 Bangladesh made a promising start in the ten-team final round with a 1-1 draw against defending champions Oman at the same venue on September 3. But were beaten 0-2 by Bahrain on Saturday.
 Bangladesh will play their last group match against Japan on September 10.

PM's flood relief fund Chattala Cup at Ctg

Sports Reporter
 Premier Division league champions Muktijoddha Sangsad will take on Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting in the inaugural match as the four-team "Chattala Cup", organised jointly by the Bangladesh Football Federation and the Chittagong District Sports Association to raise funds for the flood victims, begins at the Chittagong Abdul Aziz Stadium tomorrow. The match will kick off at 5:30 pm.
 Four teams, Muktijoddha Sangsad of Dhaka and three Chittagong-based teams, Mohammedan Sporting, Abahani Krira Chakra and Regensea Club will take part in the robin league, from which the two top finishers will qualify for the September 15 final.
 The gate money of the tournament will be donated to the Prime Minister's Relief fund.

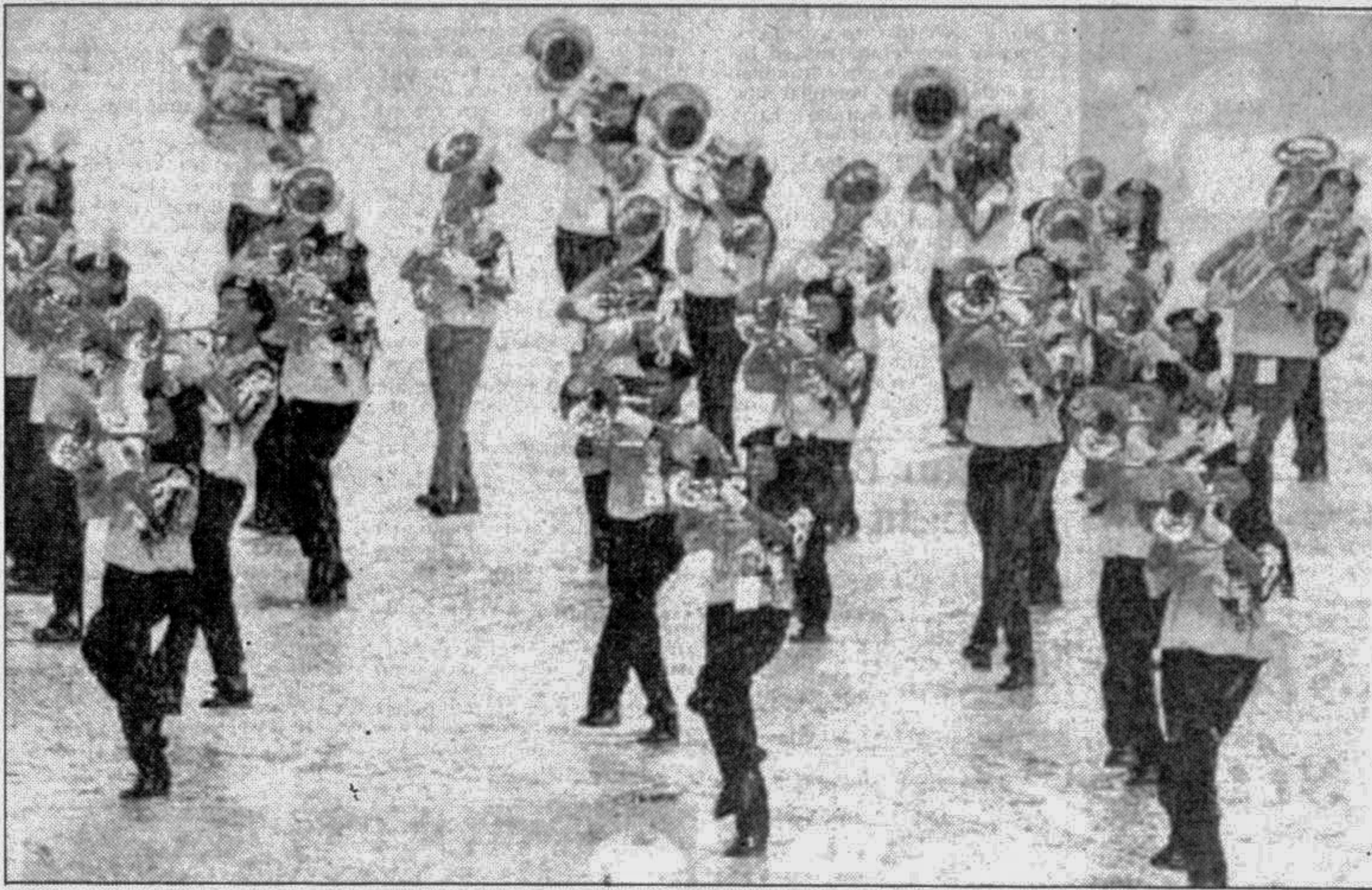
KL cautions newsmen

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7: The foreign media were warned Monday not to cloud their coverage of the Commonwealth Games with details of the country's political upheaval, reports AP.
 Hundreds of journalists arriving here to cover the 16th Commonwealth Games, which begin Friday. But they likely will also focus on ousted deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, who is also the former finance minister.
 Anwar was sacked last week on allegations of sexual misconduct and leaking state secrets.
 Minister of Information Mohamed Rahmani said he was not pleased by the reports of some foreign media.
 "Their reports are politically inclined and aimed solely at toppling the government leadership," the national news agency Bernama reported Mohamed as saying.
 "They had big ambitions to topple the Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and bring up the Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Actually they have failed," he said.

The minister also warned local and foreign journalists to wear the press accreditation cards issued by the Information Department when covering official events.
 Mohamed complained that some foreign journalists were not wearing them when covering official functions. What he declined to mention was that it can take up to a year to get a press card issued by his ministry.
 Mohamed said that were about 50 local journalists working with foreign news agencies.

C'wealth Games Tickets yet to start selling

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7: Hundreds of people wanting to buy tickets for the Commonwealth Games have found the ticket booth closed, a newspaper said Sunday, reports AP.
 The official ticket agent, Ticket Express Sdn Bhd, was to begin selling tickets last Tuesday, the Sunday Star reported.
 But a Ticket Express spokesman told the paper that the company was facing a shortage of telephones lines and power supply at the booth, the paper said.
 The Games' opening ceremony is scheduled Friday, though some events such as field hockey start Wednesday.
 "We need adequate telephone lines before we can install the computers to keep track of ticket sales, and they are not ready yet," the paper quoted the spokesman as saying.
 A Ticket Express official, Tengku Jamaluddin Tengku Bakar, said ticket booths at the various stadiums were likely to open Monday.
 Meanwhile the national news agency Bernama said it had received complaints from the public that food sold at the Games' main sports complex was exorbitantly priced.



A band plays in downpour at the full-dress rehearsal of the 16th Commonwealth Games' opening ceremony in Kuala Lumpur. —Internet photo

Rain or shine, it will go on

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Reuters/Internet): Commonwealth Games officials decided on Monday to press ahead with the event's glittering opening ceremony even if there is a repeat of tropical rain that disrupted the gala's dress rehearsal.
 A Games official said consideration was given to putting off the opening ceremony if there should be another downpour on Friday night, but organisers believed lessons they learned from Sunday night's deluge would allow them to go ahead whatever the conditions.
 Malaysian Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said after the drenched rehearsal that organisers were prepared to delay the much anticipated ceremony, which is expected to draw more than 100,000 people.
 "Luckily for us the athletics events will only start on September 16. This means we will have four days to hold the performance," he told reporters.
 But a review on Monday convinced officials that measures such as drilling holes in the ground to drain away water quickly would solve the problem.
 "We look like being lucky anyway," a Games spokesman told the news agency. "The long range weather forecast is for some rain in the afternoon but clear for the evening."

As the countdown continued to the opening of the first Commonwealth Games in Asia's tropical heat, athletes worried not about too much water but not enough liquid.
 "Everyone is drinking water like crazy," the spokesman said.
 Canadian swimmer Nicole Davey said competitors were doing everything possible to acclimatise as quickly as possible.

Australian swimmers, favoured to carry off the most gold and other medals at the 16th Commonwealth Games by the time they end on September 21, were also on their guard against stomach trouble that often accompanies hot weather.
 Team nutritionist Louise Burke has put the nation's glamour swimmers on a low dosage medication of antibiotics as a precaution.
 "We have to watch for dehydration and travellers' trots," she told.
 A total of 37 of the 69 nations have checked into the Games village on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur with barely a sign of Malaysia's economic and political turmoil disrupting preparations.
 The prophets of doom, both within the country and abroad, who had been casting a pall over the Games with talks of haze and drought, may have to eat humble pie as all preparations point towards a great Games," the Star newspaper said in a front page article.



"We drink, drink, drink water. We sometimes put salt in our water bottles. It helps us retain water," he said.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who is manoeuvring his way through upheaval in his ruling party after firing his finance minister and deputy Anwar Ibrahim last week, plans to find the time on Wednesday to attend a final dress rehearsal for Friday's hour-long opening ceremony.
 "Only pace bowler Ashley Cowan made any impact, hitting an unbeaten 40 and putting on 52 for the last wicket in an unbroken stand with England off-spinner Peter Such.
 Victory gave eighth-placed Notts hope of qualifying for the first division of the new limited overs National League next season by finishing in the top half of the 18-team table.
 There was a rare league win for Surrey, who beat Kent by 41 runs at the Oval. Surrey made 183 for eight, then bowled out the visitors for 142. England one-day all-rounder Adam Holoake taking four for 18.
 Surrey have won only two of their 16 league matches and are certain to finish bottom of the table.
 Middlesex were skittled for 62 by Leicestershire pace pair James Ormond (4-12) and Jon Dakin (3-18), whose side won by 160 runs. It is the lowest score of the season in the competition.

Lancs poised for another crown

LONDON, Sept 7 (Reuters/Internet): Wasim Akram's Lancashire could land their second English county one-day title in 24 hours on Monday.
 The Pakistani all-rounder captained Lancashire to the 60 overs NatWest Trophy on Sunday when they trounced Derbyshire by nine wickets in the Lord's final, and they could follow that by clinching the 40 overs Sunday League crown.
 Lancashire need to win one of their two remaining league matches to be certain of the title, and they play fifth-placed Hampshire at Old Trafford on Monday.
 Nearest rivals Essex, who had led the table for much of the season, suffered a second successive defeat on Sunday which left them four points behind Lancashire with only one game -- worth four points to the winners -- still to play.
 Essex lost to Nottinghamshire by 51 runs in a critical game at Chelmsford.
 Needing 193 to win, Essex managed only 141 for nine after all the recognised batsmen failed.
 Only pace bowler Ashley Cowan made any impact, hitting an unbeaten 40 and putting on 52 for the last wicket in an unbroken stand with England off-spinner Peter Such.
 Victory gave eighth-placed Notts hope of qualifying for the first division of the new limited overs National League next season by finishing in the top half of the 18-team table.
 There was a rare league win for Surrey, who beat Kent by 41 runs at the Oval. Surrey made 183 for eight, then bowled out the visitors for 142. England one-day all-rounder Adam Holoake taking four for 18.
 Surrey have won only two of their 16 league matches and are certain to finish bottom of the table.
 Middlesex were skittled for 62 by Leicestershire pace pair James Ormond (4-12) and Jon Dakin (3-18), whose side won by 160 runs. It is the lowest score of the season in the competition.

Vogts finally steps down



BERTI VOGTS
 wanted Vogts to go. Shortly after Germany's World Cup exit, RTL had asked their viewers if they wanted Vogts to stay in charge. Just over 50 per cent said they did.

BONN, Sept 7 (Reuters/Internet): Bert Vogts has stepped down as Germany's soccer coach, the German Soccer Federation (DFB) said on Monday.
 Vogts had been under fire since Germany's shock World Cup quarter-final defeat by Croatia in France.
 A DFB spokesman said Vogts, 51, made his decision after a telephone conversation with DFB president Egidius Braun.
 His successor will be appointed as soon as possible, the DFB said in a statement.
 Germany, playing their first matches since their World Cup exit, failed to shine in two friendlies last week in Malta. A narrow midweek win over lightweight Malta followed by a tame 1-1 draw with Romania on Saturday went down badly with the critics.
 Vogts, who played 96 times for his country, was appointed national coach in 1990 after West Germany won the World Cup for the third time. His biggest achievement came in 1996 when Germany won the European championship in England.

Earlier, a survey by private television channel RTL released on Monday showed, 72 per cent of 26,000 fans polled said they

"Not that way, Bert," said soccer magazine Kicker, criticising Vogts for opting for a flat-footed defence instead of the traditional German system with a libero and two stoppers.
 The usually circumspect Vogts gambled by recalling controversial midfielder Stefan Effenberg, who had not played for Germany since being sent home from the 1994 World Cup finals after making an obscene gesture to German fans.
 Effenberg took care of the playmaking duties with authority against Malta but looked completely lost against Romania.
 "I know I didn't play well," Effenberg said. "I have to analyse why it went wrong. I still need time to adapt."

match, that between Sadharan Bima KS and Jatrabari KC, on the inaugural day, three matches, two at the Mirpur Stadium and one at the Army Stadium, will be played from day two onwards.
 Teams: Sadharan Bima KS, PWD SC, Gandaria Famous SC, The Muslim Institute, City Club, Little Friends Club, Jurain Janata Club, Basabo Tarun Sangha, Prantik Krira Chakra, Mahakhali Ekadash, Avijatrik Malibagh, Adamjee SCC, BG Press, T&T Club and Jatrabari KC.

Second Division football league Better late than never

Sports Reporter
 The much-awaited Second Division football league, which last year was not held because of ground problems, will get underway at the Mirpur Stadium from next Friday.
 Sixteen teams including T&T Club and Jatrabari Krira Chakra, who were promoted, and Sadharan Bima Krira Sangha and PWD Sports Club, who were relegated from First Division in 1996, will take part in the single league which is scheduled to end on October 23.
 Although the Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee, organisers of the league, have scheduled only one

BKF picks 29 for camp

Bangladesh Kabadi Federation (BKF) has initially selected 29 players for long-term training to form a national squad for the ensuing Asian Games to be held in Bangkok in December, reports UNB.
 The players are: Tariqul Islam, Abdur Rouf, Meer Zulhass, Badsha Miah, Zaur Rahman, Shahinor Rahman, Zahidul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Saheb Ali, Al Mamun, Raisul Islam, Moniruzzaman (Rifles), Faruque Talukder, Mohammad Gayum, Abdur Rouf, Ashraf Alam, Younus Ali, Kamrul Islam, Abdul Awal (Police), Selim Reza, Alamgir, Nurul Islam (Ansars), Hafizur Rahman, Abbas Ali, SM Siddique (Fire Service), Omed Ali (Khulna), Mitu (Narail), Rabiul Alam Robin (Rajshahi) and Kamruzzaman (Dinajpur).
 Besides, a three-day open trial will begin on September 14 at the Outer Stadium kabadi court from 4 pm to 5:30 pm to pick-up talented outside players for the training.
 The players, interested to participate in the selection trial, have been asked to send their entry in a letter head of their organisations/districts to the training committee secretary by September 13 at the Kabadi Federation office.
 The federation also selected Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and Amir Hossain Patwary as technical officials of Bangladesh for the Asian Games.
 Meanwhile the federation also decided to donate Tk 25,000 to Krirangan Relief Fund for the flood victims of Bangladesh, according to a press release.

Date	Match	Time	Venue
Sept 11	Sadharan Bima KS v Jatrabari KC	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
Sept 12	PWD SC v T&T Club	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
	Gandaria Famous v BG Press	4:30 pm	(Army Stadium)
	Muslim Institute v Adamjee SCC	3 pm	(Army Stadium)
Sept 13	City Club v Avijatrik Malibagh	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
	Little Friends Club v Mahakhali XI	4:30 pm	(Army Stadium)
	Jurain Janata v Prantik KC	3 pm	(Army Stadium)
Sept 14	Basabo TS v Eskaton SS	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
	Sadharan Bima KS v T&T Club	4:30 pm	(Army Stadium)
	PWD SC v BG Press	3 pm	(Army Stadium)
Sept 15	Gandaria Famous v Adamjee SCC	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
	Muslim Institute v Avijatrik Malibagh	4:30 pm	(Army Stadium)
	City Club v Mahakhali XI	3 pm	(Army Stadium)
Sept 16	Little Friends Club v Prantik KC	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
	Jurain Janata v Eskaton SS	4:30 pm	(Army Stadium)
	Basabo TS v Jatrabari KC	3 pm	(Army Stadium)
Sept 17	PWD SC v Adamjee SCC	2:30 pm	(Mirpur Stadium)
	Sadharan Bima KS v BG Press	4:30 pm	(Army Stadium)
	Gandaria Famous v Avijatrik Malibagh	3 pm	(Army Stadium)

Champs face the music



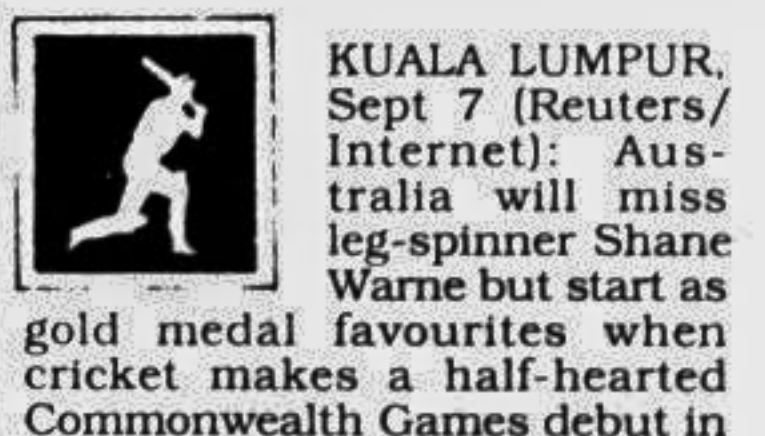
France's coach Roger Lemerre admitted only to being "a little bit disturbed by the result". He would not criticise the standard of play, commitment, qualities and "frame of mind" of his players.
 Lemerre's main concern was the inability of his front men to staph their authority on the game -- a problem which dogged France repeatedly during the World Cup.
 "Our strikers were unable to take the upper hand. It is as simple as that," Lemerre said.
 "We had several opportunities but we failed to convert them into goals."
 Looking ahead to next month's testing qualifier against Russia in Moscow, Lemerre said his team must "show the same qualities and the same style which made us a winning team lately."
 Defenders Laurent Blanc and Marcel Desailly, who were both suspended for the Iceland match, and Emmanuel Petit, who missed Saturday's game because of a minor operation, should return for the Russia game.
 "The ones I'll pick will have to be undisputed first choice players with their clubs, too, whatever their talent," Lemerre said.
 He did not think France would be under added pressure in Moscow because of their poor showing against Iceland.
 "We are always under pressure and even more so since we became world champions," Lemerre said.
 France drew some consolation from the fact that other World Cup sides such as Spain, Croatia and England lost qualifiers over the weekend.
 "They confirmed what we knew, that it is difficult to bounce back after a big event," said Lemerre. "They also warned us that European championship qualifiers are very demanding contests."

team struggling to find themselves.
 Le Figaro said that given their new standing as world champions, France had "obtained the minimum wage" in Reykjavik.
 Despite the press criticism, Lloyds' wish

Lloyd's wish

LONDON, Sept 7: England cricket coach David Lloyd, "severely reprimanded" by English Cricket Board (ECB) last week, insisted today that he was determined to complete his contract and revealed how public support has helped him through the controversy, reports AFP.
 The reprimand came following his comments about the legality of Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's action and a public row with former England batsman Geoffrey Boycott, now a television pundit.
 The warning from the ECB, who branded Lloyd's comments "insensitive," appeared to close the matter.
 But reports in some British newspapers today suggested Lloyd was deeply unhappy by the board's failure to support him.
 Lloyd, appointed coach in 1996 and with a contract to the end of next year's World Cup, is understood to have considered his position but after being "overwhelmed" by public support, decided to stay on.
 "I'm looking forward to going to Bangladesh and Australia with the full support of the ECB," said Lloyd. "My contract runs until the end of next season and it is my wish to see it out."
 "I have been overwhelmed by the support I have had from the members of the public -- complete strangers have been coming up to me in the street and slapping me on the back."

Aussies aim at the gold



SACHIN ... main attraction
 and Antigua.
 The games officially start on Friday, but the cricket competition begins two days earlier and is scheduled to be played at six

or more untested grounds where the authorities have promised international quality wickets.
 They switched from two decades of largely using artificial turf, much easier to maintain in the tropical heat of Malaysia, to grass wickets only last year.
 Most of India's stars will be in Canada, where they play arch-rival Pakistan in an annual battle of prestige, the Sahara Cup, which clashes with the September 11-21 Commonwealth Games.
 But trump-card Sachin Tendulkar, one of the world's top batsmen, will be in Malaysia to fulfil India's promise of sending formidable teams to both tournaments.
 Tendulkar battered Warner on his home grounds in Australia's tour of India which ended early this year.
 But the chance of them clashing in neutral Malaysian territory evaporated as Warner is still not back in the reckoning after undergoing surgery for a potentially career-ending shoulder injury.
 Despite Tendulkar's presence, India, led by all-rounder Ajay Jadeja, face a tough fight as they are locked in the same group as an Australian side bound to start with confidence having batting twins Steve and Mark Waugh in the line up.
 But the Australians have lost quick bowler Glen McGrath, who missed the Indian tour with an injury, after he broke down in practice with a groin injury that may also rule him out of the Australian tour of Pakistan that follows the Games.
 The 16 teams are split into four round-robin groups and only the top side in each group will qualify for the semifinals.
 New Zealand's strong batting line-up, including Stephen Fleming and Nathan Astle could throw up surprises. They appear much stronger than group rivals Pakistan, packed with virtual unknowns.
 World champions Sri Lanka have also decided to send a team

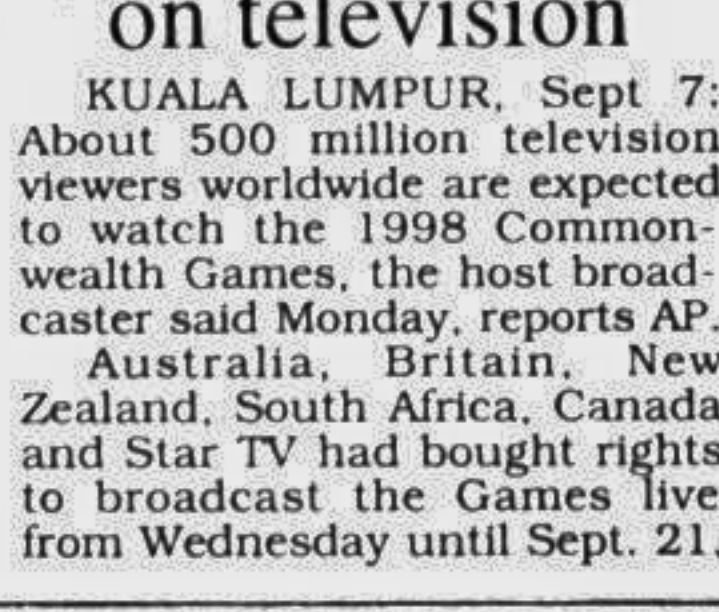
full of new caps and face a tough challenge from a top-grade Zimbabwean line-up.
 South Africa, led by Shaun Pollock and assisted by Jacques Kallis and Adam Bacher, seem to have the easiest groups and should sail easily into the semifinals.
 Bangladesh, Kenya, Canada, Malaysia, Scotland and Northern Ireland make up the likely also-rans. But Kenya, with lingering memories of a World Cup upset over West Indies, would be worth watching.

C'wealth live on television

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7: About 500 million television viewers worldwide are expected to watch the 1998 Commonwealth Games, the host broadcaster said Monday, reports AP.
 Australia, Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Star TV had bought rights to broadcast the Games live from Wednesday until Sept. 21.

Group A: Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Jamaica, Zimbabwe.
 Group B: Australia, Canada, Antigua, India.
 Group C: South Africa, Northern Ireland, Bangladesh, Barbados.
 Group D: Pakistan, Scotland, Kenya and New Zealand.

Lancashire players jubilating with the NatWest Trophy after their triumph over Derbyshire in the final at Lord's on September 6.



Lancashire players jubilating with the NatWest Trophy after their triumph over Derbyshire in the final at Lord's on September 6. —AP/UNB photo