

Star Sport

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Column One

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

THAT Cockfighting, fighting between cocks, involves placing specially trained gamecocks in a pit or on a stage to fight each other. The cocks are placed beak to beak and then released, fighting until one is killed, can fight no longer, or refuses to fight. Some more friendly cocks keep on kissing when placed beak to beak. Often the cocks are equipped with silver or steel spurs. How cruel can you get? Betting on the outcome of fights is usual.

Cockfighting was practiced extensively in ancient Persia, Greece, and Rome. Popular in England for centuries until it was prohibited by Parliament in 1849. It is illegal in most of the United States. Cockfighting is still popular today in parts of Asia and Latin America.

The only form of cockfighting I know is to decide who has the raan and who gets the shurua.

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-103

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to *The Daily Star* Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm. Sept 25 '98, and draw shortly afterwards

- How many nations are taking part in the 16th C'wealth Games cricket?

12	16	20
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- Who is skipping Barbados in C'wealth Games cricket?

Wallace	Gibson	Campbell
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- Where were the previous C'wealth Games held?

England	Canada	Australia
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- How many nations are taking part in the 16th Commonwealth Games?

50	60	70
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- In how many disciplines, is Bangladesh participating in the 16th Commonwealth Games?

Two	Seven	Nine
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Name:
 Class: Roll No.
 School Address:
 Phone: (If any)

We need a cricket manager

Nizamuddin Ahmed

It had to happen. Some good news after two apparently justifiable defeats and one clueless murder — that executed by Northern Ireland. Test-playing New Zealand were booked for 58. So, why can't Bangladesh be sent home with 63, eh? At least it takes our name off the register for scoring the lowest ever total in Commonwealth cricket.

Actually, we are a nation of (unrealistic) optimistic zealots. How much did we think we should have scored? What could we say had we been all out against Northern Ireland for fewer than 50 runs? Would we

done it for the second time. The first was after the disastrous tour of Ireland, England and Scotland earlier when he along with some other BCB officials outrageously castigated Coach Gordon Greenidge and the fallen players publicly. And now after the Kuala Lumpur.

According to press reports, Mr. Haider thinks the cricketers be led to Malaysia have no technique, it is not right to expect anything of this team, they are not in a position to play cricket at this level, they lack self-confidence. Phew!

Being an ex-cricketer of some repute, did it take Mr. Haider a whole trip to discover the drawbacks of his team? Being a BCB vice-president he could have even advocated that these 'second class' cricketers should not form part of his travel luggage. He is not even willing to give credit to the bowlers. That performance against South Africa was no mean feat.

But, does Mr. Haider only complain? Not necessarily. He takes credit for Bidyut's innings of 70 to the extent that he had to do a lot of hard work to that end. Manager's do not accompany a team for any other purpose.

Occasionally we have heard our cricket manager cite three aspects of cricket as our weak point — batting, bowling and fielding. That is precisely the point. The manager *shahab* is missing a vital point — that of motivating his players to rise above themselves and do a first class job. It has happened. Not to us, but to many other teams in all sorts of games. Managers in winning countries do not play games with their players.

Think of World Cup winning French manager Aimé Jacquet. Recall him prancing in the arena designated just outside the sideline, recall him huffing and puffing and yelling to his players of the calibre of Blanc, Thuram and Zidane. Could they hear what he was saying? No! But, when the corner of eye catches your manager pulling his hair out, you can jump above the world and even manage to humiliate the best. Zidane and his friends did just that.



TANVEER HAIDER
 not have said that at least sixty runs would have been better? Well, now we have three runs more than that.

Frankly, I don't understand what the fuss is all about. What is wrong in losing to another associate member of the ICC in hot, sultry weather that the Irish have never experienced? What is wrong with being terrified of a paceman who is not even related to Akram or Sri-nath? What's so demeaning in being defeated in a cricket match that is not even labelled 'first class'? Everything, if you ask an optimist like me.

The pessimists, on the other hand, are content because their foreboding omen was destined to materialise.

So we lost a cricket match. We have not been defeated. In say carom, or *bagaduli*. I am not at all bothered about the defeat. I am terrified of the aftermath. Forget about ex-cricketers and ex-selectors and ex-BCB members and ex-cricketer fans and ex-readers of cricket news. They will always grumble and find faults.

What worries me, and to some extent I find annoying, is Bangladesh manager Tanveer Haider's rash remarks after the Irish shame that the cricketers he led to the Commonwealth Games are 'second class'. He has

the coach to Malaysia. Perhaps the best outcome of the Commonwealth debacle has been his very bold and timely decision to disassociate from national cricket. He is the first Bangladeshi to behave like a true gentleman. We have had train accidents, disaster in the power sector, law and order chaos, mess in the universities; but no minister, not even a junior officer thought him responsible to resign. Gazi Ashraf will go down (no pun intended) in history as having done a very honourable thing although his failure as an administrator may balance the *palla*.



GAZI ASHRAF HOSSAIN
 Gazi Ashraf is a soft-spoken person. Too soft, some would say. He is perhaps not the right type to imbue, inject, and infuse vitality into a side that lacks everything, according to the admission of some BCB officials. We need someone who can get out hundred percent from a chap who is not capable of even giving ten percent. We need a manager who can make first class players from second class material. After all, a manager worth his salt does not only bask in the achievements of his players. He takes responsibility when HIS players fail. He is a good manager who realises HIS players failed because HE FAILED.

Only seven months remain to the World Cup in England. What is our aim when we face the might of the game, not Northern Ireland! We want to prove that we can give a fight, that we tried, that in ten years time we could be a force to reckon with. We want to scare everyone out there just a wee little bit. But, can we do that without someone who can light fire in cricketer's ashes? Someone who can make them look a man-eating tiger in the eyes.

We need a manager, not a critic. Of the latter breed we have plenty, including me.

Gazi Ashraf has been a long-time manager and Oh! My God!

Akram didn't retire

TORONTO, Sept 18: Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram says he is not retiring from international cricket, only staying away from the national side till his besmirched name is cleared of match-fixing allegations.

"I have not retired, but I will play only after my name is cleared. Only after the investigations are completed and I'm exonerated of all the charges," the celebrated all-rounder told PTI from London yesterday.

"It may take two months or two years. But I will not play cricket till my name is cleared," the former Pakistan skipper said.

"I received a letter from Khalid Mahmood, chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) only recently, which said I should be prepared to join the national team for Sahara Cup in Toronto. Such late intimation makes no sense," Akram said.

Akram, who was implicated along with Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed in an interim report of a PCB panel probing allegations of match-fixing and bribery, will consult a retired judge of Pakistan Supreme Court to get his name cleared after returning to the country on September 25.

"I owe it to my fans, friends, my wife and above all my son," the former Pakistan captain, who first relinquished the job after the allegations were levelled against him for the first time, said.

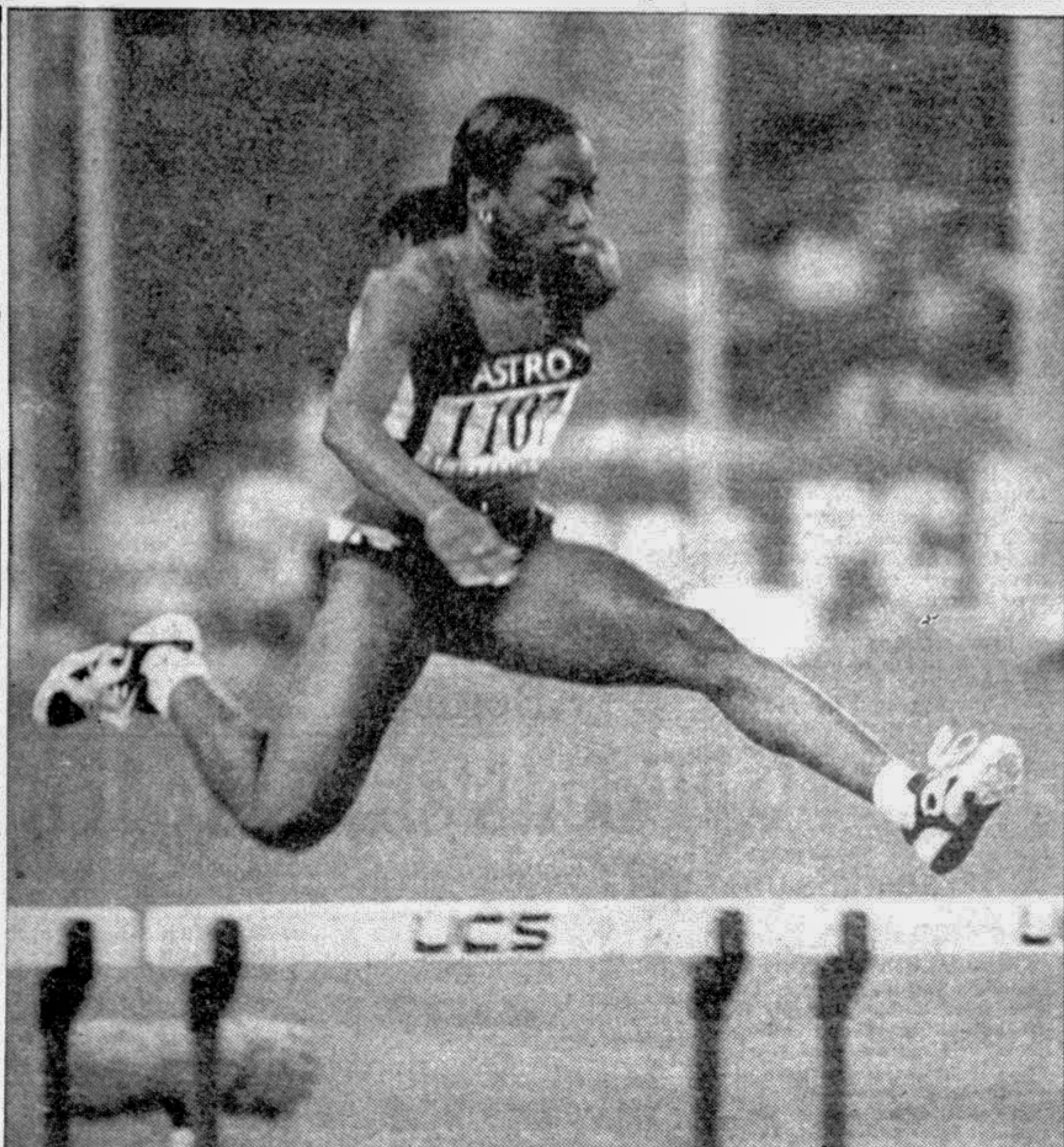
Fourth tie today Sachin going to Toronto

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: Indian batting sensation Sachin Tendulkar will rush to Toronto to join the rest of his team, but won't arrive before the last of five one-day matches against Pakistan, United News of India reported Friday, says AP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India decided Thursday to send Tendulkar to Canada following his failed effort to boost India's chances at the Commonwealth Games. But the news agency said Tendulkar didn't hear of his new assignment until Friday.

Teammate Ajay Jadeja, who played alongside Tendulkar at the Commonwealth tournament in Malaysia, got the word earlier and left for Canada Thursday night, UNI reported. Jadeja was expected to play in Match Four, which is to be played tomorrow, with India trailing 1-2.

BCCI president Raj Singh Duggar said the earliest flight Tendulkar could take would be at midnight on Friday. Indian selectors had been criticised for splitting up their stars. The selectors were under pressure from the Indian Olympic Association to send top players to the Commonwealth Games. But they also had to contend with Pakistan picking its strongest squad for the Sahara Cup in Canada.



Barbadian Andrea Blackett springs over last hurdle on her way to grabbing the gold in 400 metres at the Commonwealth Games yesterday. She clocked 53.91 seconds, a new Commonwealth record. — AFP photo

Australia, S Africa vie for glory today



KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18 (Reuters): Everything points to Australia grabbing the gold medal in cricket's debut at the Commonwealth Games and adding to the pile they have already won.

They face South Africa in a final on Saturday that looks one-sided, so well have the Australians performed on the tropical wickets of Kuala Lumpur, which help spin or seam or swing, and sometimes all three.

With excellent batting, glazing pace, wicket spin and impeccable fielding, the Australians have won all their matches in the tournament comfortably.

South Africa have bumbled down a rickety road to the final and are going to have to play supremely well to have a hope against the rampant Australians.

With some of their top stars not in the tournament, they have had their backs to the wall in almost every match at Games where the Australians have swept all before them in winning 50 gold medals in a variety of sports.

The Africans have been blessed with plenty of luck.

Australia have just been consistently outstanding. "We have bowled superbly and haven't dropped a catch in the whole tournament," captain Steve Waugh said after the semifinal.

South Africa lost five wickets before overcoming inexperienced Bangladesh and beat Northern Ireland, making a rare appearance at this level, by only four wickets.

They did beat a good Barbados side in an epic battle with just 10 balls to spare in a gruelling run chase, but they were helped by dropped catches.

In Wednesday's semifinal against an under-strength Sri Lanka, they were within a fraction of an inch of defeat before a valiant, unbroken 35-run ninth-wicket stand between Nicky Boje and Alan Dawson hauled them into the final.

They will meet the Australians at the palm-fringed PKNS ground, where Malaysian King Tuanku Ja'Ar Abdul Rahman has been turning up regularly to watch his favourite game and where Sri Lanka were

ready to celebrate victory with the South Africans 96 for nine before the heroics from Boje and Dawson.

The ball turned viciously at the PKNS ground and another spinner's wicket is expected for the final.

Australia are without the world's most celebrated spin bowler, Shane Warne, who would have loved Kuala Lumpur, is still recovering from a career-threatening injury.

But they do have Brad Young, who took a rare hat-trick in the humiliating nine-wicket semifinal defeat of New Zealand.

Australia are not taking anything for granted.

"I don't know their team much," Waugh said. "You always play a tough game."

South African captain Shaun Pollock must hope his lucky streak continues and that his batsmen show some of the grit his tailenders displayed against Sri Lanka.

Pollock admits his batsmen have not delivered so far and they will have to if they are going to win the gold medal.

"These wickets are no conducive to high-scoring games. They tend to make it difficult and probably make it closer than it really should be," he said.

"We are there. We've got a chance."

Davinder's blunder thunders Sporting Sonali Bank rob vital point

Sports Reporter

Title aspirants Bangladesh Sporting Club suffered a set back despite having managed to come from behind to earn a 1-1 draw with Sonali Bank in one of the two Green Delta First Division hockey league matches played at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

After a barren first-half, the match turned into an exciting affair in the second-half with both teams, fielding four Indians each, playing positively.

Bangladesh Sporting, who won their previous four matches in a row and had been sharing the top spot jointly with Wari Club far, drew first blood when they earned a penalty stroke in the 53rd minute following a rough charge on Indian Iqbal Singh by a Bank defender. But his compatriot Davinder squandered the chance by pushing the ball over the cross piece much to the amusement of a good holiday crowd.

Inspired by Davinder's miss,

which ultimately cost the old-timers two points, the Bankers made a brilliant rally and took the lead in the 59th minute with Tito blasting the ball from a Shamim pass.

After conceding the goal, Bangladesh Sporting pushed forward *en masse* and earned yet another penalty stroke when Iqbal was again brought down inside the danger area in the 66th minute. Davinder this time made no mistake in sending the ball home with a brilliantly placed push.

Bangladesh Sporting, with the draw, raised their tally to 13 points from five matches and now lead Wari by a point. Wari Club, who will play against Bangladesh Railway in their

fifth match today, may regain top spot.

On the other hand, Sonali Bank have eight points on completion of their fifth match.

Cannt. Can
 Earlier, in the day's first match, promotees Cantonian Sporting Club posted their second successive win handing Victoria Sporting Club a 1-2 defeat.

Danesh Kamal scored both the goals for the winners through short corners in the 22nd and 34th minutes to enable his side a 2-0 lead during the lemon break. Rajib pulled one back for Victoria in the 46th minute.

Cantonian now have six points from five matches while Victoria have only one point to their credit after as many outings.

Dalian emerge victorious

BEIJING, Sept 18: Dalian has clinched the Chinese football league title with four games still in hand, Xinhua reported today, says AFP.

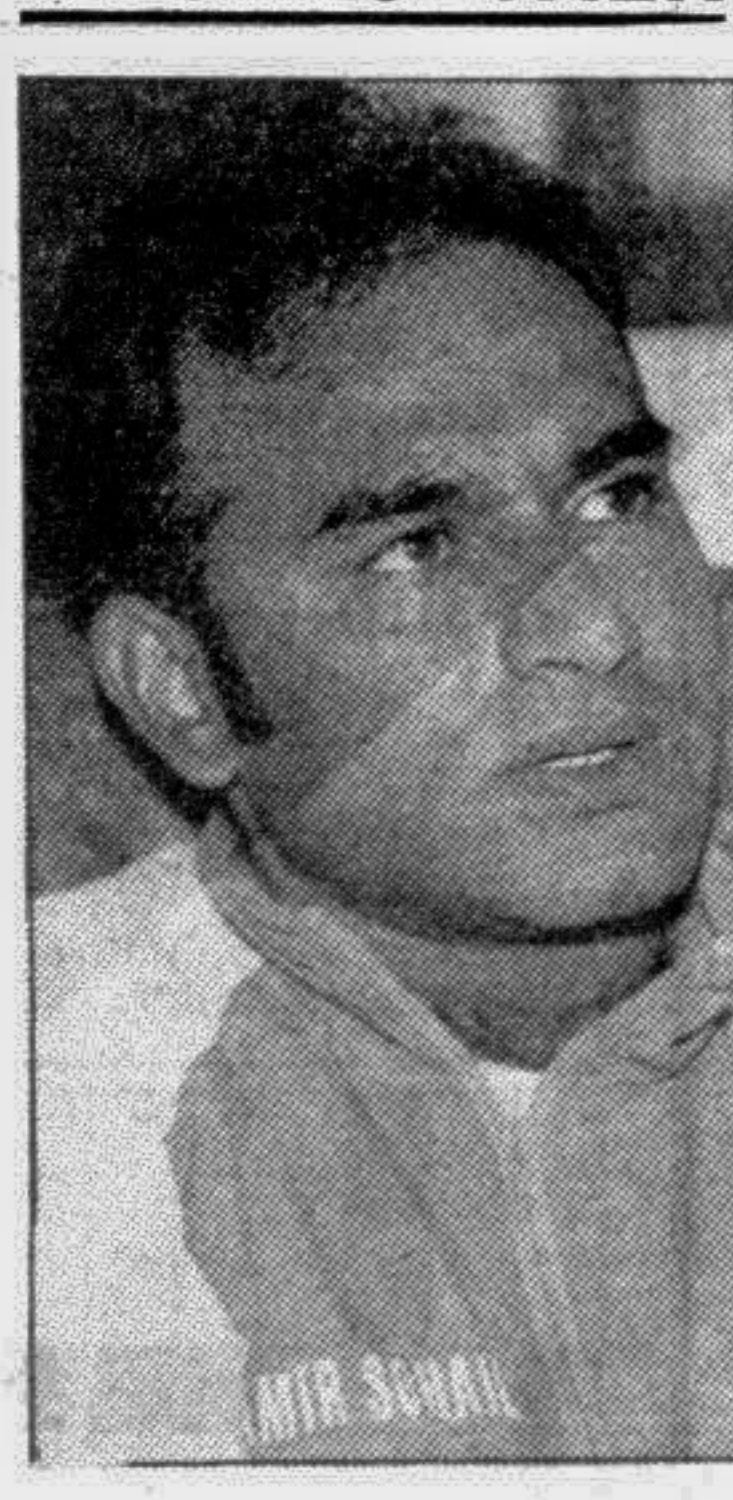
TODAY'S MATCHES
 (Moulana Bhasani Stadium) Dhaka Ansars v Bachelors' Club (2:30 pm)
 Wari Club v B Railway (4:15 pm)



New Zealand's Nathan Astle sets off for a quick single nudging the ball to the outside during the bronze medal match against Sri Lanka in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

POWERED WITH EN-VITS ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Aamir Sohail
 (Pakistan cricket captain) "I was totally surprised." About his feelings after hearing the news of his appointment as the skipper.

BBC vs Sky

LONDON, Sept 18: The BBC is ready to challenge Rupert Murdoch's proposed take over of Manchester United, in an attempt to save Match Of The Day, according to local reports on Thursday, says Xinhua.

The corporation is concerned that BSkyB's buy-out could threaten the future of BBC's flagship football programme.

And management are considering submitting a report to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) listing their objections to the satellite station's moves.

The BBC feels Sky's 623 million dollars takeover of United could prevent it showing highlights of the club's Premiership games at Old Trafford.

Leicester looking good

LONDON, Sept 18: Leaders Leicestershire moved a significant step closer to clinching their second English county championship title in three years on the first day of their final game against second placed Surrey on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Unbeaten all season, they began the day at The Oval with a nine point lead over their nearest rivals knowing outright victory would guarantee them the record 100,000 pounds (£169,100 dollars) prize money and ended it strongly placed on 349 for four.

And the failure of third-placed Lancashire to secure a single batting point against Hampshire at Old Trafford, means that Leicestershire can now lift the champions crown even if they only draw, providing they finish with at least 10 points.

They require only one more run for a fourth batting point after Benjamin Smith and Aftab Habib compiled an unbroken record fifth-wicket stand of 247. Leicestershire's highest for any wicket against Surrey, after they slumped to 102 for four.

Smith ended the day 137 not out while Habib was unbeaten on 114. It was both men's third century of the season.

Lancashire's outside hopes of snatching their first title triumph for 64 years were quickly dispelled as they were shot out for 185 by Hampshire with England opener Mike Atherton making the top score of 45.

Hampshire, however, struggled to 75-5 in reply.

There was a similar story at Hove as Paul Hitchison took 7-31 as fourth placed Yorkshire skittled Sussex for 129 in just 43 overs, his haul included a spell of five wickets for one run in 13 balls as Sussex lost their last six wickets for three runs.

At the close Yorkshire were 159-7 with James Kirtley taking five for 62.

Kiwis collect bronze



KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18: All-rounder Chris Harris and spinner Daniel Vettori led New Zealand to a 51-run victory over Sri Lanka and the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games today, reports Reuters.

Sri Lanka were all out for 161 in 44.4 overs in reply to New Zealand's 212 for seven in 50 overs as the Kiwis regained some self-respect after a humiliating nine-wicket semifinal defeat by Australia on Thursday.

The New Zealanders did have the satisfaction of winning the first cricket medal ever awarded at the Commonwealth Games as the game made its debut on the tropical wickets of Kuala Lumpur.

that turned very sharply and beat the Sri Lankan as he shaped to cut it.

Vettori struck again in his next over with a flighted, well-pitched ball which Mahela Jayawardena lobbed straight back to him, then got the crucial wicket of vastly experienced Sri Lankan captain Hashan Tilakaratne, trapped leg before wicket.

At the other end, Harris, coming on with his leg spin minutes later, got stroke-maker Indika de Silva lbw to a near-fall loss that just caught the batsman's back pad as he tried to sweep.

Upul Chandana was run out in the next over by a brilliant piece of work by Harris, who dived and flipped the ball into wicketkeeper Adam Parore's gloves with almost one motion with Chandana only inches from safety.

The sudden collapse left the world champions, who brought only Tilakaratne of their top-line players to Malaysia, at 77 for seven.

Hathurusinghe, who hit off-spinner Paul Wiseman for a towering six, launched a fight-back with Perera, and the two had put on 53 runs for the eighth wicket when Hathurusinghe (34) was the fourth lbw victim of the innings.

Parera, who had a miserable time with the ball, kept the struggle going and made 45 before being the last to go.

The Kiwi batsmen had started fairly well against a wayward Sri Lankan pace attack, which bowled 22 dies, but came to an almost dead halt when the Sri Lankan spinners came on.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Commonwealth Games bronze medal play-off between New Zealand and Sri Lanka on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND

Bell c Jayawardena b Perera 2
 Astle run out 56
 Fleming c Arnold b Chandana 16
 McMillan b Arnold 5
 Parore run out 16
 Harris not out 56
 Bailey run out 21
 Tait st De Silva b Samaraweera 6
 Extras (lb-8, w-22, nb-4) 94
 Total: (all out in 44.4 overs) 161
 (Fall of wickets: 1-6: 2-92; 3-100; 4-114; 5-125; 6-195; 7-212)

Bowler: O M R W
 Perera 5 0 39 1
 Gallage 7 0 28 0
 Hathurusinghe 9 0 34 0
 Chandana 9 1 28 1
 Samaraweera 10 1 48 1
 Arnold 10 1 27 1

SRI LANKA

Gunawardena b Vettori 30
 De Silva c Fleming b O'Connor 7
 Arnold lbw b Astle 12
 Jayawardena c and b Vettori 8
 Tilakaratne lbw b Vettori 6
 De Silva lbw b Harris 34
 Chandra run out 1
 Perera b Harris 45
 Samaraweera b Tait 5
 Gallage not out 2
 Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-6) 10
 Total: (all out in 44.4 overs) 161
 (Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-42; 3-60; 4-63; 5-72; 6-75; 7-77; 8-130; 9-157)

Bowler: O M R W
 O'Connor 6 2 37 1
 Tait 7 0 31 1
 Astle 10 0 29 2
 Vettori 10 2 33 3
 Harris 7.4 2 20 2
 Wiseman 4 0 27 0

Result: New Zealand won by 51 runs.