Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Football Federation yesterday roped in former Iraqi international footballer Samir Shakir as its national coach. An initial contract for three months was signed by the World Cup veteran at the Na-tional Sports Council (NSC) in presence of the State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harunur Rashid MP and other senior BFF and NSC officials

were present during the signing.
Samir played for Abahani Krira Chakra in the local Premier league in the mid-eighties and also coached Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club.

According the deal, Samir will receive 1000 US dollar per month as his salary. In addition he will also get 500 USD for his boarding, food and trans-

Samir, who played for Iraq in the 1986 World Cup, will take over the charge of the national



team in view of the upcoming SAF Games and SAF football championship.

The SAF football tournament was scheduled to be held in Goa, India, from October 14 to 25. But the tournament has been deferred by the All-India Football Federation, the host of the seven-nation meet, for an indefinite period. A new date will be announced soon.

CAF Games was not held in Nepal last November as per schedule. A new programme has not been announced either.

The Ali Museum

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, Oct 8: Muhammad Ali brought the torch he used to light the Olympic flame at the Atlanta Games, and offered it Wednesday to be exhibited at a museum proposed to honor him, reports

From school children to politicians, people flocked around the three-time heavyweight champion whose life journey would be on display at the Muhammad Ali Centre.

Ali's wife, Lonnie, said their goal for the centre is to inspire people, especially children, to reach their potential and to show tolerance and respect for others, no matter their skin color or beliefs. "This centre will not be

about his fame. Muhammad does not want that. It is about values rather than fame," his wife said.

Ali, afflicted with Parkinson's syndrome, made no formal comments during the news conference near the downtown

site for the proposed building. The Ali Centre would include a museum, a research centre, an auditorium and a garden. It would be built downtown near the Ohio River, where Ali is re-

puted to have thrown his 1960 Olympic gold medal to protest racial injustice. Organisers want to raise 80 million dollars for the longanticipated project - 60 million dollars to design and build the centre, plus 20 million dol-

lars for an endowment to pay for its operation. Organisers hope to open the centre on Jan. 17, 2001, Ali's 59th birthday. The Ali's plan to move back

to Louisville from Berrien Springs, Mich., to help oversee development and operation of the centre, Lonnie Ali said. "It's not just Ali's victories in

the ring that will be captured at this centre," mayor Jerry Abramson said.

"But it will be as much about the causes for which the champ fought outside the ring - equal rights, tolerance, peace in the world, respect for other human beings - that will be expounded upon and taught at this centre."

Gov. Paul Patton pledged support to raise money — both public and private — to build the museum. Patton said the centre should be build "on a scale that is commensurate with Muhammad Ali's impact on the world."

Larry Townsend, who heads the Ali Centre board, said afterwards that construction wouldn't begin until all the money is raised.

Santos beat

Rosario Central SANTOS, Brazil, Oct 8: Brazil's Santos started off strong in this first game of the Conmebol Cup home and away final, beating Rosario Central 1-0 Wednesday night, reports

The game was decided early when Claudiomiro headed it past Rosario Central goalie Bujiubasich for a goal in the 28th minute.

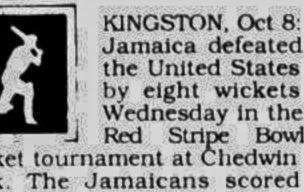
After that Santos were a hard team to stop, but Rosario Central closed the defence and held them off.

Santos who are currently leading in the Brazilian national championships wanted a win at home to give them an advantage when they meet Rosario Central, this time in Argentina, on Oct. 21 in the game that will decide the Conmebol Cup.



Sprinter Matt Shirvington signing autographs for fans in Sydney during a welcome home parade for the Australian Commonwealth Games delegation yesterday. - AFP photo

Jamaica thrash USA



by eight wickets Wednesday in the Red Stripe Bowl cricket tournament at Chedwin Park. The Jamaicans scored 108 for the loss of two wickets to beat the American's 107 in just 20 overs reports AP.

The win gave Jamaica a first-place tie in Zone Two on three points with defending champions the Leeward Islands. The Leewards beat the United States by 242 runs Tues-

Aggressive strokeplay from openers Robert Samuels and Raymond Ferguson powered Jamaica to victory. Samuels struck 47 while Ferguson made 28 in an opening stand worth 62

Christopher Gayle, who struck the winning runs, was

unbeaten on 22. The United States again found the going tough after Jamaican captain James Adams won the toss and sent them in to bat. They never recovered from losing their first three wickets for 14 runs and were dismissed for a meager total in 43.1 overs. West Indies fastbowler

Franklyn Rose, who started the Louis b Ferguson. rout, was the pick of the Jamaican bowlers, capturing up three wickets for 17 runs in 6.1

Of the American batsmen, only middle-order batsmen David Hoilette and captain Richard Staple looked at home against the Jamaican attack.

Hoilette, a former Jamaica player, topscored with 31 and was the last man out. Staple, also a one-time Jamaica player, played steadily for a patient 24 before he was run out in the 28th over. Of the other batsmen, only Desmond Richards with 14 reached double figures.

The tournament continues Thursday with the Leewards playing Barbados.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard for the Jamaica United States match Wednesday in the Red Stripe Bowl cricket tournament at Chedwin park. UNITED STATES

Wallace c Powell b Rose Alexander run out Headley b Rose Staple run out Richards lbw Adams Wildman b Gayle Hoilette b Rose Amin c Gayle b Ferguson Nazir Ibw Williams Zinto not out Extras:

Total: (allout in 43.1 overs) 107 Fall of wkts: 1-4; 2-8; 3-14; 4-44, 5-56; 6-65; 7-73; 8-87; 9-101. OMR Bowler 17 Rose Powell Williams 21 Adams Perry Gayle 13 Ferguson Samuels

JAMAICA Samuels c Louis b Nazir 27 Ferguson c Staple b Nazir Gayle not out Hinds not out Extras: Total: (for 2 wickets in 19.5 overs) Fall of wkts 1-60; 2-85. Bowler

26

Amin Result: Jamaica won by 8 wickets. Points: Jamaica 2, USA 0. Player-of-the-match: Chris

Louis

Nazir

Zinto

Staple

UEFA plan gains ground



ROME, Oct 8 Reuters/ Internet): Leading Italian clubs on Wednesday gave a thumbs up to UEFA's plans for a revised Champions'

League, as unveiled on Tuesday at a UEFA executive meeting in

to enlarge the competition to 32 teams, leading Italian Serie A clubs Inter Milan, AC Milan, Lazio and Fiorentina all expressed their satisfaction, underlining the fact that the new regulations foresee four Italian entrants.

Former Italian International Giacinto Facchetti, now

Mattsson to join Huddersfield

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8: Swedish defender Jesper Mattsson is close to joining English division on club Huddersfield from Halmstad BK, the Swedish news agency TT said on Wednesday. reports Reuters.

Reigning Swedish champions Halmstad have agreed to let the defender, who has been training with Huddersfield this week, move at the end of the league season in early November, TT said.

"Huddersfield has accepted that Jesper plays for Halmstad until the season has ended," Mattsson's agent Kent Carlzon

Halmstad recently sold midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg to Arsenal for 3.0 million pounds (5. 08 million dollars).

a consultant for Inter Milan, told Italian news agency. ANSA: "UEFA have shown that they have understood that the clubs want the cup competitions restructured and it seems that they have gone a long way towards realising (the restructuring) even before 2001"

AC Milan acting president Responding to UEFA's plans Adriano Galliani was equally enthusiastic. "We've taken a big step forward. UEFA has finally taken on board market considerations," he said.

Referring to the threat from the Milan-based company Media Partners to set up a rival breakaway European Super League, Galliani said: "Now we have to work out the finances. At the moment UEFA pays out only 50 percent of its takings to the clubs while Media Partners

had promised us 80-85 percent." Rome club Lazio also gave a positive response to the new plan. "The reforms respect a fundamental sporting principle, namely that clubs have to earn admission on merit. Lazio technical director Julio

Velasco said. "For us at Lazio, the fact that there are four places available to Italian teams...is very impor-

Fiorentina director Giancarlo Antognoni, a former Italian international, also welcomed the new plans but added: "By increasing the number of teams, you consequently increase revenue, publicity and prestige.

"I only hope that the quality of the game does not diminish. Increasing the number of competitors in a tournament does not always mean that you get good soccer and excitement, just look at this summer's World Cup finals." All four clubs acknowledged

that the mid-summer qualifiers envisaged under the UEFA blueprint would necessitate a radical reshaping of club training schedules

But none foresaw any difficulties. "We played a preliminary round of the Champions League in August this season and we organised ourselves in order to be ready. All you have to do is plan ahead," Facchetti

Grun's stunning revelation

BRUSSELS, Oct 8: Belgium's former national captain Gaorges Grun who played at Italian side Parma from 1990 to 1994, told Belgian newspaper Le Soir that the club offered injections and pills to players to improve performance, reports

He also said the amino-acid creatine was used by many Italian league players and admitted he used it in his last sea-

Grun, who was a member of the Parma side that won the 1993 Cup Winners Cup. said: We were free to refuse them. Personally I didn't accept anything. I felt good and I didn't think they would be any good to

"I had a reputation when I moved to Parma and they had confidence in me. Of course I sometimes took vitamins but always had a certain hygiene in life which meant I didn't revert to doping products.



France's World Cup winning coach Aime Jacquet (R), who is at present the technical director of the country's soccer federation, and federation president Claude Simonet waiting before the start of the anti-drug meeting at University of Paris yesterday. - AFP photo

RAWALPINDI. Oct 8: Left-

hander Darren Lehmann hit a stylish century as Australia were 328-7 on the opening day of the four-day match against a Rawalpindi side here today, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old from South Australia, who missed a century by two runs in the first Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi, made amends with a polished knock of 103. Lehmann hit 10 fours and

two sixes in his 155-ball innings that lasted 202 minutes. He shared a fifth wicket stand of 107 with Ricky Ponting who made 88. Earlier Australian captain

Mark Waugh won the toss and elected to bat. He continued his poor form with 13, dismissed by paceman Jaffer Nazir. Michael Slater who hit 108

in the first Test against Pakistan could only make four. Justin Langer shaped well during his 42 but fell pray to left-arm spinner Shakil Ahmed who took 3-97.

Aussies' key batsman Mark Waugh was caught off Test paceman Azhar Mahmood with just a single.

Ponting hit 14 boundaries in his 157-minute knock, making claims for a Test place. Langer was preferred over Ponting in the first Test.

The tourists rested vice-captain Steve Waugh. Leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and paceman Glenn McGrath. MacGill starred in Australia's innings and 99-run win in the first Test at Rawalpindi this week.

Pakistan paceman Waqar Younis was in the line-up for the match but he failed to make it due to fitness problems.

At close Gavin Robertson was on 33 and Michael Kasprowicz was on five. Pacers Azhar Mahmood and Jaffer Nazir took two wickets apiece.

Aussies welcome back heroes

SYDNEY, Oct 8: Thousands of Australians welcome back the country's triumphant Commonwealth Games team today in a large parade through the streets of Sydney, reports AFP.

Some of the starts of Australia's record haul of 198 medals in the Kuala Lumpur last month - swimmers Michael Klim, Grant Hackett and Ian Thorpe, Field hockey striker Alyson Annan and sprinter Nova Peris-Kneebone - sat in open-top cars to bask in the crowd's adulation.

Today was the last of a nationwide series of parades to congratulate the team, which dominated the Kuala Lumpur Games, bringing home 80 gold medals The parade, continuing a

tradition of welcoming home successful sporting teams. wound its way through the streets of central Sydney from Hyde Park to Circular Quay. Thousands of supporters

cheered and waved flags as the athletes passed by. Sydney, like the rest of Aus-

tralia, is gearing up for its greatest sporting occasion when it hosts the Olympic Games in September, 2000.

Injury Hoddle's worry

LONDON, Oct 8: Inspira tional defender Tony Adams is one of six England players rated doubtful for Saturday's European Championship qualifier with Bulgaria at Wembley, reports AFP.

The Arsenal veteran was forced to sit out Wednesday's training session along with forwards Teddy Sheringham, lan Wright and Darren Anderton, defender Martin Keown and midfielder Ray Parlour.

Adams is suffering from back and ankle problems and England coach Hoddle admitted: "As things stand at this moment in time I wouldn't put my hat on any of them being fit for Saturday. The good thing is that they

are all improving and things will unfold in the next couple of This sport of thing has hap-

pened to Tony in the past. The two injuries seem to be connected a bit. He controls it well for Arsenal and we need give him time now." Hoddle, who is already with-

out suspended midfielders Paul Ince and David Bekham, added: "Martin Keown has got a back problem as well, he landed awkwardly on Sunday, he has been suffering spasms and it needs time to settle down.

"Darren Anderton has got a slight muscle strain at the top of his thigh and at the moment would say that he and Ray Parlour (ankle) are the most alarming for the weekend."

Eng FA reports against BSkyB

LONDON, Oct 8: English soc-cer's governing body, the Football Association, has opposed the takeover of Manchester United by BSkyB in its submission to the Office of Fair Trading, reports AP.

The FA submission reportedly said the proposed 623-million-pound (1 billion dollar) takeover by Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster is "not welcomed" because it is not in the overall interests of the

The Office of Fair Trading, a government body investigating the takeover, has extended its review deadline by 15 days after receiving 350 complaints. The OFT Thursday said the deadline for submissions had

been extended until November 2

after an "unusually high" num-

ber of complaints had been received about the proposed deal. The OFT will then make its recommendation to the government's trade and industry department on whether or not to refer the deal to a Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Lehmann hits bundred Don't take heed of sledging



reports AFP.

'terrific banter'.

once again.

terrific banter.

lenge we face."

provocation from the Aus-

tralians during the forthcom-

ing Ashes series down under,

views have often landed him in

trouble with the authorities.

said he was reluctant to accuse

the Australians of sledging but

he was warned his players

about the danger of rising to

on probation after his com-

ments about Sri Lankan spin-

ner Muttiah Muralitharan in

the summer and he acknowl-

edges the Australians will be

tempting him to step out of line

England and Wales Cricket

Board (ECB) employers to take a

diplomatic line on controver-

sial issues and will give a wide

berth to the expected baiting

from the Australian team and

ing about the England team, so I

guess we'll just rise above it,"

said Lloyd. "Hate to use the word

'sledging' so I rather term the

exchanges the two sides have as

some terrific friendship with

Australians over the years and I

not to cause controversy and we

know the enormity of the chal-

"We're there to win the Ashes

Speaking at the launch of a

hope that continues this winter

"Believe it or not, I've made

We cannot stop them talk-

He has been warned by his

Lloyd was effectively placed

Lloyd, whose outspoken

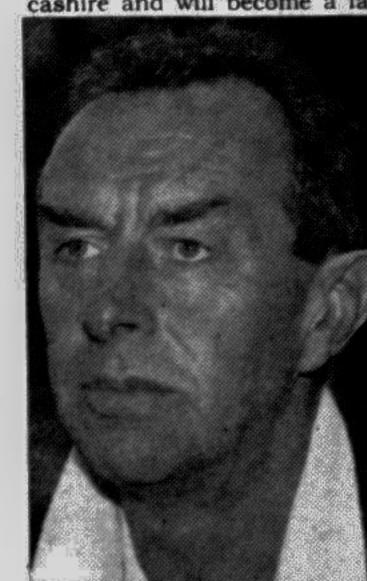
new cricket coaching initiative. Lloyd admitted his side faced a LONDON, Oct 8: mighty task against the unoffi-cial world champions on their England coach David Lloyd said own soil. Lloyd also revealed, England

> expert on the upcoming Ashes tour in a bid to reduce the threat of spin twins Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill. Warne has been England's principal tormentor in recent years and the England man-agement have decided to take

will employ an Australian spin

steps to reduce his threat by hiring coach Peter Philpott. Philpott, now in his 50s, was a leg-spinner who played Test cricket for Australia in the

He has worked with Lloyd before at English county, Lancashire and will become a fa-



DAVID LLOYD

miliar face in the nets during the series, as the England bats-

men attempt to come to terms with the intricacies of top-class leg-spin. Lloyd is sure that Philpott's presence on the tour will be an advantage. "If having Peter there helps just one per cent we'll be delighted," he said. "His

only brief will be to teach the players how to combat leg-With tormentors-in-chief from the last Ashes series bowlers Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne — both on the

road back to fitness, he acknowledges England deserve to start as underdogs. "It's going to be a very tough challenge against a side I regard

team in the world," said Lloyd. "They're incredibly well equipped in every department. But for the players it's a life-time's ambition just to be selected, so they'll be giving it

Atherton is fully fit and recovered from his injury and is raring to re-acquaint himself with Australian rivals.

Lloyd is banking on Atherton taking his revenge this winter. "He was in a slump then but

were relieved. He showed us all what he could do," said Lloyd.

"Against South Africa he his battles with Allan Donald

Call for ICC to act over bribery



Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive Malcolm Speed said he wanted to see the International Cricket Council (ICC) deal with the matter itself or appoint an independent

The ICC needs to be empowered and then provided with the resources, whether they be internal resources or external re-

What I'd like to see ulticur in the future so that players are put on notice that if there is any bribery or match-fixing there is a mechanism to deal with it.

Speed was speaking on his return to Australia on Thursday after visiting Pakistan to accompany Australia captain Mark Taylor and batsman

The Australians repeated their allegations of bribery to

Democratic Russia!

MOSCOW, Oct 8 (Reuters/Internet): Russia's international squad has held a secret ballot to choose the team captain. In a democratic process that would have been unthinkable

in Soviet times, veteran sweeper Viktor Onopko, who plays his club football in Spain for Oviedo, won the honour. He will lead the side at

ing camp at Novogorsk, outside Moscow, gave the deputy capfielder Alexander Mostovoi.

Pakistani cricket. But the Australian camp was angry at the way the hearing was conducted, with Australian manager Steve Bernard describ-

Members of the Pakistan media were present at the "secret" meeting and one of the accused Pakistani players, former captain Salim Malik, attended the hearing, accompanied by his lawyer, without the Australians prior knowledge.

ing it as an "ambush".

"We feel we've been deceived," Bernard told Australian reporters in Pakistan. "We are glad it's over but we were extremely disappointed

with the ambush that took place. "Because of our concern for player security we were given an undertaking that the secret would be kept and it wouldn't be

Malik of offering them a bribe Pakistan eventually won by one

FA to study Berkovic video

Israel radio quoted him as

The midfielder wrote in the

saying he would not be taking

court action against his Welsh

Israeli tabloid Ma'ariv that he

team mate.

can make his own choice.



LONDON, Oct 8 (Reuters/ Internet): The English F.A. are investigating a West Ham

training session in which striker John Hartson kicked Israeli team mate Eval Berkovic in the head.

Sky Television on Wednesday broadcast part of a video of the incident that happened 11 days ago and showed Hartson connecting with a left-footed kick at the player's head." We're going to see if we can obtain a copy of the video, view it and then ask West Ham for their own observations." said Football Association (F.A.) spokesman Steve Dou-

The London premier league club suggested there was no need for an official inquiry. "I really cannot see why the F.A is getting involved in this at all. West Ham director of football

thing that happens in training ground incidents. Berkovic has said in an Israeli newspaper column that he is considering his future at the

club after the incident and ac-

cused West Ham of failing to re-

43 — Mahal

44 Kojak's

46 Fireplace

53 Anatomi

55 Letter-

56 Pedesta

57 — out a

60 Cowboy

61 Favorite

1 Rumble

DOWN

occupan

58 Erte's style

nickname

59 Long skirt 10 Doc's due

Solution time: 24 min.

Saturday's answer

cal duct

man's rival

ACROSS

1 Dust

4 Towel

word

11 Bin

13 Fuss

14 Rose's

love

15 Domini

preceder

16 Symbol of

17 Labyrinth

18 Scalawag

20 Mongkut's

22 Pin

24 Board-

28 Pay

kingdom

number?

meeting

attention

collectively

props

32 Scouts,

33 Ticklish

34 Virus

36 A 1ew

37 Definite

invitees

39 Undertook

41 Account-

ant's book

Muppet

maybe

creator?

7 Fair share, 50 Coffee

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

reminder 23 Beak

Color of

Money"

runner's

27 Exceeded

28 Get better

magazine

Sympathy'

45 Croupier's

thick of

35 Roscoe

40 Upper

47 Retain

49 Source

51 Lord

50 "Taxi" role

48 Noun

29 Parisi-

2 Cartoonist 25 "The

5 Mid-month 26 Base-

4 "Hee --"

date

6 Ferber

novel

7 One-time

U.N. VIP

8 Lawyers'

9 Columnist

U.N. VIP

21 Museum

12 One-time 31 Gist

19 "A mouse!" 38 "- and

"I don't know what we are go-

Peter Storrie told BBC radio. ing to get into in the game if the F.A. is going to watch every-



JOHN HARTSON

lay on the ground for 10 minutes after the kick with blood gushing from his head. He said Hartson had phoned him to apologise. "I think it's a

bit late for that now," Berkovic said was his reply. Hartson is attending a

son with 13 bookings, one red card and three bans. In October, the F.A. charged him with misconduct for a verbal attack on a referee in which he accused him of being a

French clinic for treatment for

an ankle injury but his agent

criticised Berkovic in the Sun

Hartson has been in trouble on

and off the pitch before for his

hot temper, finishing last sea-

Former Arsenal player

"homer" (biased towards the home side) and branded the official a "disgrace". On Monday, he was fined by a Welsh court for using a hanging basket of flowers as a foot-

Hagi adamant

BUCHAREST, Oct 8: Veteran midfielder Gheorghe Hagi on Wednesday rejected an appeal from the Romanian football federation to make himself available for qualifying matches for the 2000 European Championships, reports AFP.

from international football, which he made after the World Cup finals earlier this year. "I made a serious decision to

reverse his decision to retire

Hagi, 34, said he would not

quit - and I'm not going back on that decision," Hagi said.

42 Hold one's CRYPTOQUIP

VOGFX

GOKAIOYK VPGKT. KNO Saturday's Cryptoquip: AN OUTLANDISH OP-TOMETRIST WAS HEARD TO MUTTER, "POWER TO THE PUPILS!"

Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals L The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it

Byron's daughter 52 — populi will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short 54 Kinsey words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to subject locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

the undisputed number one

their all." Lloyd reported that Michael

Fast bowler McGrath gave the Lancashire opener a torrid time during the last series, and

showed true spirit and survived when the cares of captaincy

was absolutely brilliant, and were pure Test match cricket. "I'm hoping we'll see more of the same this winter."

MELBOURNE, Oct Mark Waugh when they testithe government-appointed 8 (Reuters/ Interfied before the inquiry. judge investigating charges of match-rigging and betting in



panel to look into it.

sources, to carry out inquiries if they need to be carried out," Speed said. mately is that there is provision there for an independent inquiry into incidents that oc-3

Moscow's Luzhniki stadium when they face world champions France in a European championship qualifier on Saturday. A ballot at the team's trainmade known that our boys had

tain's duties to another Spainbased player, Celta Vigo mid-Coach Anatoly Byshovets, appointed over the summer, said this week he would alter-

been to Lahore." The bribery issue arose on Australia's 1994 tour of Pakistan when Waugh, Shane Warne and Tim May accused

nate captains until he gets more to throw the Karachi test which familiar with his squad and

newspaper.