

ICC coaching clinic in Feb

Sports Reporter

The International Cricket Council (ICC) under its development programme will organise a ten-day coaching clinic for under-17 players at the end of February.

The camp, which will be conducted by two reputed coaches under the supervision of ICC's development officer for the Asia former Pakistan Test cricketer Nasimul Ghani, will be held at the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar.

Five cricketers each from six divisions of the country will take part.

According to Mahmud Ul Haque Manu, secretary of BCB coaching and planning committee, South African coach H Ayob is one of the coaches. He, however, failed naming the other.

Meanwhile, all divisions have been asked to submit their choices--two batsmen, two bowlers and a wicket-keeper-by-choice.

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Hair, regarded as Australia's leading umpire said he would stand down from matches against Sri Lanka in the interests of harmony during the limited-overs series which also involve England starting next month.

Sri Lanka were angered by comments in Hair's recently published book about Muralitharan.

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"I don't want anyone leaving this room saying they have no bone in Hair ... because it is just not true," Rogers said.

Hair's book "Decision Maker" rekindled the Muralitharan controversy.

The man, described by Rogers as Australia's leading umpire, said he did not regret the book which details in part the events of the 1995 MCG Test.

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Davis' hattrick

COLLEGE STATION, Texas, Dec 5 (Reuters/AP): American Josh Davis won his third event in the US Open swimming championships on Friday night.

Davis won the 200 metre freestyle in a US record time of 1 minute 45.24 seconds.

Davis' first record came in the 100 individual medley at the FINA Swimming World Cup on Wednesday, then he came back and set the record in the 200 IM at the US open on Thursday.

The triple gold medalist from the 1996 Olympics swam 21 races in four days.

"This is more than I could ever hope for, to get three American records," he said.

Natalie Coughlin, 16, of Terapins Swim Team was the only double winner Friday with victories in the women's 100 backstroke (58.59) and 400 IM (4:36.24).

Frederik Deburghoraeve of Belgium set the world short-course record in the 100 metre breaststroke on Thursday.

The 1996 Olympic champion and world record holder in the long-course 100 breaststroke, Deburghoraeve broke his own short-course world mark by clocking 58.79 seconds.

His previous mark was 59.02 set in February 1996.

The 1996 Olympic gold medalist and the 1998 world champion and world record holder in long and short course, Deburghoraeve just two days earlier had finished second in the same event at the FINA World Cup.

NBL volleyball

Bangladesh Rifles registered their fourth consecutive win in the National Bank Limited Premier Division volleyball league at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday, reports UNB.

Rifles beat Water Development Board in straight sets (15-15, 15-9, 15-10). This was the first defeat for the WDB.

In another match, Azad Sporting Club also beat Wari Club by straight sets (15-12, 15-7, 15-5).

In the First Division league, Jibon Bima Corporation and Brothers Union won their respective matches by 3-0 sets at the same venue today.

Jibon Bima defeated Nabagarani Sangha 15-3, 15-13, 15-10 while Brothers Union beat Fire Service 15-3, 15-2, 15-9.

Earlier, on Friday, Power Development Board beat Bangladesh Bank 15-9, 15-6, 15-3 in the Premier Division league.

In the First Division league, East End Club and Dilkusha Club won their respective matches at the same venue.

East End Club beat Shantibagh Welfare Association 15-13, 15-5, 15-17 while Dilkusha Club defeated Nabajatak 15-6, 15-13, 15-8.

Sunday's Premier Division matches: Titas Club vs Bangladesh Bank (2:30 pm), Power Development Board vs Sonali Bank (4 pm).

Sunday's First Division matches: East End Club vs East End Boys (4 pm), Dilkusha Club vs Brothers Union (2:30 pm).

In the name of Cuba

BANGKOK, Dec 5: Their fighters are not here but the soul of Cuba's famed fighters will be present in a host of coaches when the boxing gets underway at the Asian Games on Monday, reports Reuters.

The Philippines, Pakistan, Laos, India, Indonesia and hosts Thailand all have Cuban head coaches for their boxing teams.

There are also a sprinkling of other Cubans as trainers and cornermen in other teams.

Rafael Ramirez, coach of Pakistan since 1993, says the presence of the Cubans throughout Asia has led to a sharp rise in the standard of Asian boxing and made the contests more even than in the past.

"We are spreading our Cuban methods and it is paying off," Ramirez said.

The measures include identifying boxers of the future when there are barely in their teens and uncompromising training regimes that go on non stop.

"We are very professional about boxing back in Cuba even though we only compete in amateur events like the Olympics," he said while supervising his team during their warm up schedule at the Muang Thong Thani Stadium in Bangkok.

"We start the guys early from 10 or 11 years of age, and take them through set stages depending on how old they are, so when they are old enough for senior competition they have had six or seven years in boxing."

BCCSL's sigh of relief



COLOMBO, Dec 5: Sri Lanka's cricket board Friday welcomed the withdrawal of controversial Australian umpire Darrell Hair from next month's matches but insisted that disciplinary action should be taken against him, reports AFP.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said it was still pushing the International Cricket Council (ICC), to take action against Hair for his remarks against Sri Lanka's star spinner Muttiah Muralitharan.

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timing was probably unfortunate," Hair said Thursday.

The timing of my book is inappropriate and in the best interests of cricket harmony I have taken this decision."

Rogers made clear the ACCB's displeasure at the timing of Hair's book.

"As I said to him (Hair) in an uncomplicated way, the timing of his book was indeed unfortunate," Rogers said.

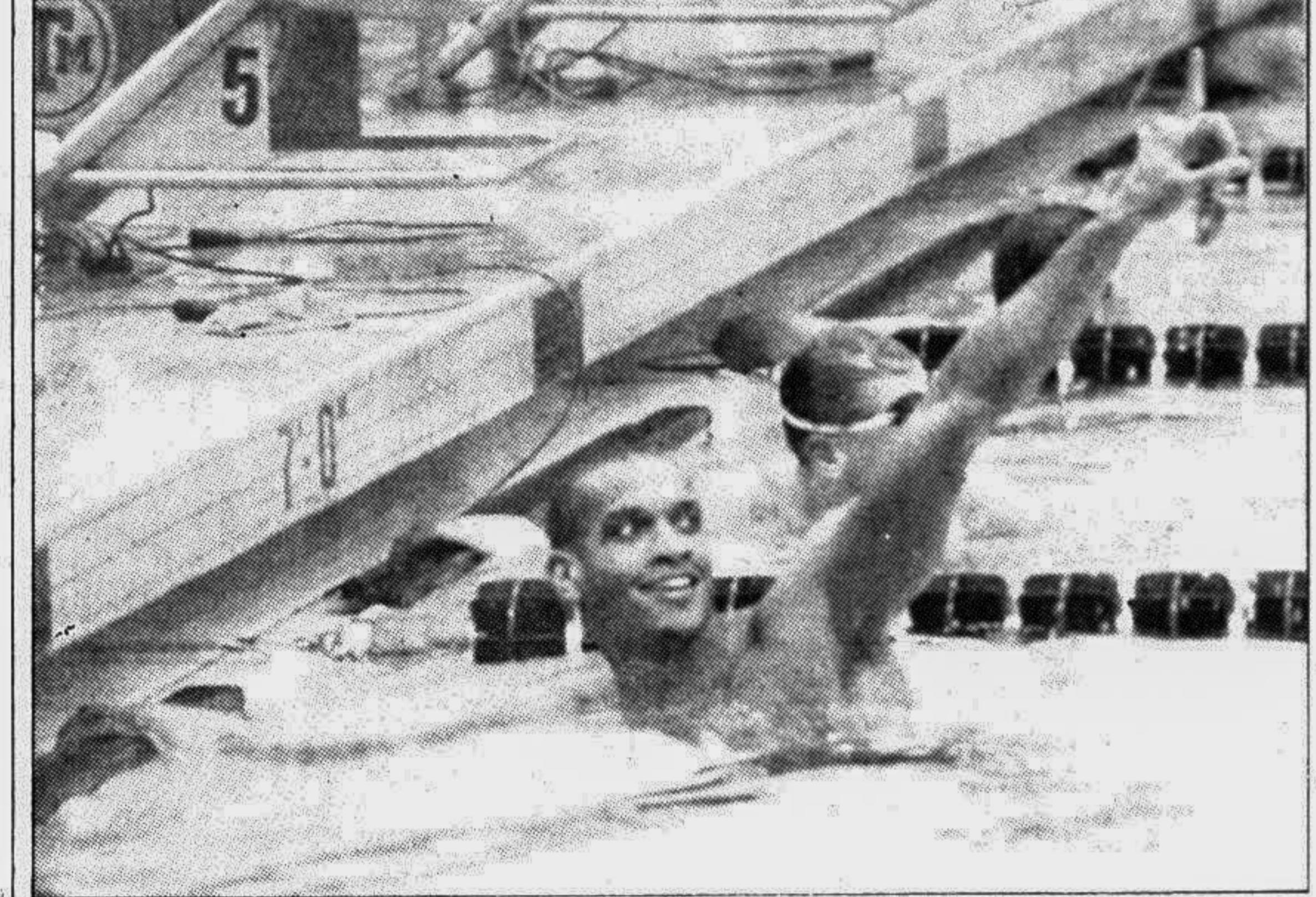
"He has made some comments about contemporary players who will be touring here this summer and he is a serving umpire."

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Hair wrote of Muralitharan "I don't think he strengthens his arm all the time, just on some occasions."

"I could have called him 27 times or even more but I did not want the matter to become a complete farce."

Sri Lanka arrive in Australia on New Year's Day for the one-day series.



Sabir Muhammad exults after breaking the American 100m butterfly record at the US Open swimming in Texas on December 4. He clocked 52.42 seconds.

— AP/UNB photo

India A 297/9 dec



CHENNAI, Dec 5: India A declared their first innings at 297 for nine, 16 minutes before tea on the second day of their four-day cricket match against West Indies A at the MA Chidambaram Stadium today, reports PTI.

Overnight not out, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, who scored a century and MSK Prasad stepped out of their sedate game and accelerated the scoring in the post-lunch session.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day match between India A and West Indies A on Saturday:

INDIA A: First innings

Jaffer run out 0
Ramesh b Gayle 22
Khurshid c Brown b Tuckett 17
Kanitkar c Brown b McCullum 143
R Gavaskar c McCullum b Bishop 11
Prasad run out 61
Chopra lbw Bishop 0
Ganesh b McCullum 7
Kamal not out 17
Sanghi not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-6) 12
Total: (For 9 wickets in 129 overs) 297

Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-26; 3-50; 4-66; 5-92; 6-267; 7-268; 8-274; 9-29.

Bowler O M R W

Collins 19 3 50 0
Bishop 34 12 54 2
Tuckett 19 12 13 1
Gayle 28 6 80 1
McCullum 26 3 77 3
Hinds 2 0 6 0
Sersan 1 0 11 0

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English cricket rings in change

LONDON, Dec 5: The most radical change in the history of the English county championship aimed at improving the fortunes of the national team was approved at Lord's on Thursday, reports AP.

The 18 counties agreed, by an overwhelming majority, to adopt a two-tier programme from the start of the 2000 season.

Approval was granted by 15 votes to two with two abstentions, one of which was by the MCC.

The two-division idea was thrown out last year but, ever since the first-class forum met in October, the chance has been imminent.

Since 1890, the championship has remained largely unchanged and this move is designed to improve England's competitive strength at international level.

However, there will be more international cricket in 2000 than ever before, with seven Test matches and 10 one-day internationals already inserted into that season's England programme.

That in itself, will reduce the overall strength of counties that provide players for the extended international format.

Bogacheva is her nation's best hope for winning a gold medal here.

The biggest question mark is her decision to run the Chicago marathon less than two months ago.

She placed sixth in 2 hours, 30 minutes, 34 seconds but may not have had enough time to recover for a race in sapping heat despite an early morning start.

But Bogacheva knows how to win, having claimed the past two Belgrade titles and victories in Cleveland, San Francisco and Minnesota.

Japan is missing most of its top runners, including last year's world champion Hiromi Suzuki, and its challenge will be led by Naoko Takahashi.

Takahashi became the first Japanese woman to win a race on the international Grand Prix circuit when she claimed the 5,000 meters at the Osaka Grand Prix earlier this year.

Takahashi also has the best entry time of the field — 2 hours, 20 minutes, 48 seconds.

Pan is ranked second on entry times but has more big race experience than her Japanese rival.

She was 11th in this year's London Marathon after finishing 17th in 1997.

Wang also ran in London this year, finishing 13th.

North Korean Kim Chang is also experienced, running 26th in difficult conditions at the Atlanta Olympics.

In gymnastics, diving and other events, China aims to use the Asian Games starting Sunday in Bangkok to hone future stars. It hopes giving young athletes the vital experience of big competition will pay off in medals at the Sydney Olympics.

Two of China's four women divers — Yang Lan and 14-year-old Li Na — have never attended a major international competition before, team manager Xue Li said. On the men's side, 16-year-old diver Huang Qiang is also in his first big international meet, she said.

For most Chinese athletes, this is their first Asian Games. Just 69 of the 596 athletes are veterans of both Hiroshima and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, and officials say. The athletes' average age is 23.

The crop of new faces means some famous stars have been left behind. They include table tennis players Wang Tao and Deng Yaping, a three-time world champion. In the pool, world record holders Li Jingyi and He Chong also are missing the Games, as is top butterfly swimmer Liu Limin.

In gymnastics, a Chinese

Paes isn't going to Bangkok

BANGKOK, Dec 5: India's gold medal prospects at the Asian Games suffered a severe blow today when tennis star Leander Paes withdrew with an ankle injury.

"I am out, I am not going to Bangkok," Paes told AFP from his base in Florida where he is recovering from the injury sustained during the World Doubles Championships last month.

"I was dying to go to Bangkok but my doctor here said that there was no way I could resume playing tennis before December 9," said the 25-year-old.

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— AFP photo

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