

### Sport

## Cricketers' camp concludes

Sports Reporter

The residential camp of the Bangladesh World Cup cricket team concluded at the BKSP yesterday.

The 15-member squad, led by Aminul Islam, will leave for England on April 14, one month before the start of the last Championship of the millennium.

The 1997 ICC Trophy champions, will face New Zealand in their opening Group B match at Chelmsford on May 17. Australia, West Indies, Pakistan and Scotland are the other teams in the first round group. Holders Sri Lanka, India, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya and hosts England make up Group A.

Thirty-three players took part in the gruelling eight-long clinic which began at the country's only sports institute from February 14.

Nineteen were selected as probables on February 26 and the final 15 were named on March 22 during the tri-nation Meril International Tournament.

Squad: Aminul Islam (captain), Khaled Mashud, Shahriar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Faruque Ahmed, Akram Khan, Khalid Mahmud, Hasibul Hossain, Shaifuddin Ahmed, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Rafique, Naimur Rahman, Manjurul Islam, Jahangir Alam and Neeyamur Rashid.

## Pakistan overpower England

SHARJAH, Apr 8 (AP/Reuters): Pakistan, powered by Ijaz Ahmed's century and Shoab Akhtar's sheer pace, opened the Champions Trophy with a 90-run victory over England on Wednesday night.

Ijaz Ahmed had 137 off 130 balls as Pakistan reached 323 from 50 overs under the light at Sharjah Stadium. Pakistan then dismissed England for 233 in 45.5 overs, with fast bowler Akhtar ripping through England's top order.

Akhtar, playing in his 12th one-day international, extracted tremendous pace from the bland pitch, and averaged over 140 kph (87 mph) in his opening spell, which claimed openers Nick Knight (1), skipper Alec Stewart (18) and Graham Thorpe (18).

With some of Akhtar's deliveries hitting 153 kph (95 mph), the Pakistani had England on the back-foot within the first hour.

The paceman had Stewart caught behind by an agile Inzamam-ul-Haq as slips and followed it up by lancing Thorpe — who hammered skipper Wasim Akram for a six — to give a simple catch to Azhar Mahmood at short mid-wicket leaving England on 53 for 3 by the 10th over.

Akhtar's first spell of six overs earned him three wickets at a cost of 38 runs. He also took two catches.

England, however, refusing to be steamrolled, fought back with a defiant 94-run partnership between Graeme Hick and Andrew Flintoff for the fifth wicket.

Hick slammed six boundaries in his 65-run knock, before being caught by Akhtar off the bowling of off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

Flintoff hit four sixes in his 50 off 51 balls before going out in the same manner.

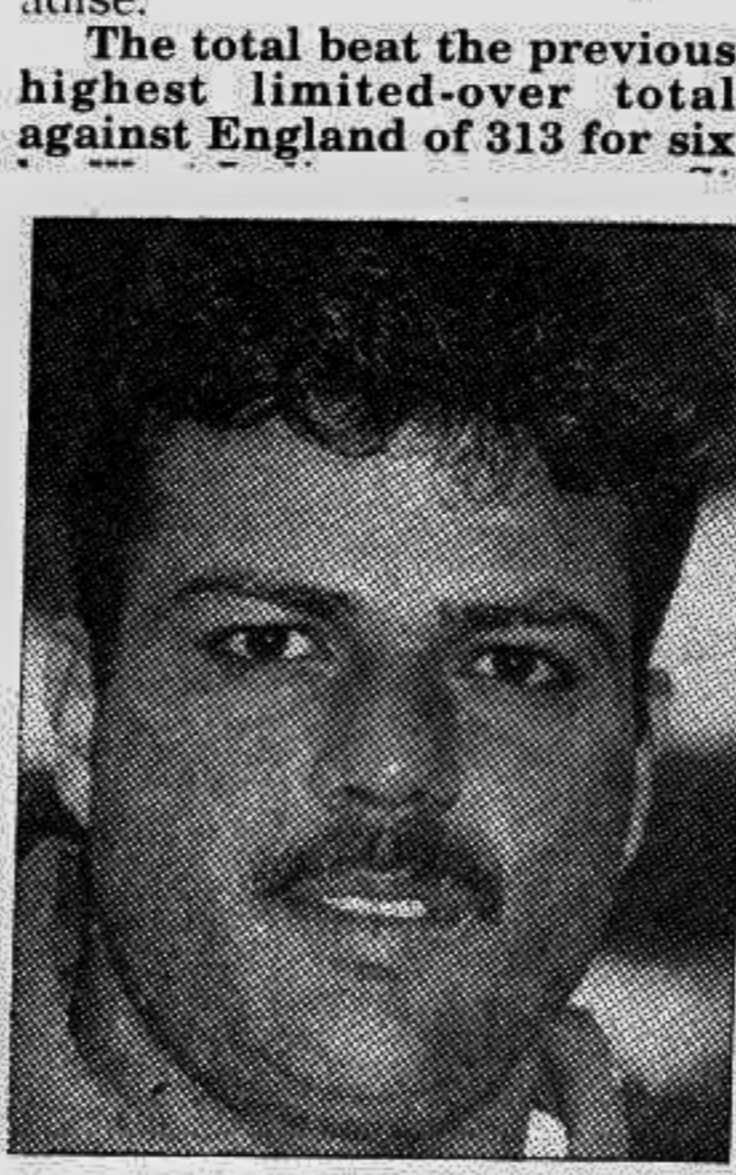
The lower order then lost its wickets systematically. Shahid Afridi took three crucial wickets — Adam Holoake, Mark Ealham and Robert Croft — for 23 runs.

Saqlain snapped up two wickets for 23 runs to end the innings.

Earlier when Pakistan batted, Ijaz had his 10th limited-overs century from 130 balls, including 12 boundaries and a six, after Pakistan skipper

Akram won the toss and decided to bat on a pitch that appeared to be a batsman's paradise.

The total beat the previous highest limited-over total against England of 313 for six



IJAZ... m-o-m

by West Indies at Kingston, St Vincent in 1994.

The right-hander went in at the fall of Saeed Anwar's wicket at 30 in the seventh over and proceeded to belt the English bowlers in all directions, including a six off spinner Robert Croft that landed on top of the main pavilion and was considered a lost ball.

He posted 145 runs for the third wicket with Inzamam in 132 balls as Pakistan moved from 116 to 2 to 261 for 3.

The 30-year-old batsman was finally dismissed when he holed out to Hick off the bowling of Darren Gough.

Inzamam, who was also dismissed by the same combination, made a solid 59, including two fours. His knock ensured that England face a daunting task.

It was his 41st half century from 178 matches and while lacking his traditional ferocity, was an ideal foil to the more aggressive Ijaz.

Wicketkeeper Moin Khan pushed up the run rate at the end of the innings, cracking two successive sixes off Andrew Flintoff's final over, to remain unbeaten on 29 from just 14 deliveries.

Earlier, opener Afridi troubled the bowlers with a 54-ball innings of 41 when he was well caught by Gough at mid-on off Mark Ealham.

Afridi, who holds the world record for the fastest century, struck three fours and a six.

England left out Nasser Hussain, Angus Fraser, Vince Wells and Ian Austin, while Pakistan had no room for Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Abdul Razzaq and Wajahatullah Wasti.

Pakistan face India on Thursday in the second match of the three-nation tournament. The top two teams in the competition, with each side playing each other twice, will meet in the final April 16.

#### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the opening of the match Champions Trophy between England and Pakistan on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN			
Anwar c Stewart b Gough			17
Afridi c Gough b Ealham			41
Ijaz c Hick b Gough			137
Inzamam c Hick b Gough			59
Akram c Holoake b Flintoff			22
Moin not out			29
Mahmood not out			0
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, w-3, nb-4)			18
Total: (for five wickets in 50 overs)			323
Fall of wickets: 1-30; 2-116; 3-261; 4-280; 5-311			

ENGLAND			
Knight b Akhtar			1
Stewart c Inzamam b Akhtar			18
Hick c Akhtar b Saqlain			65
Thorpe c Mahmood b Akhtar			18
Fairbrother b Mahmood			19
Flintoff c Akhtar b Saqlain			50
Holoake b Afridi			11
Ealham st Moin b Afridi			11
Croft c Youhana b Afridi			4
Gough c Anwar b Saqlain			4
Mullally not out			2
Extras: (lb-10, w-10, nb-3)			23
Total: (all out in 45.5 overs)			233
Fall of wickets: 1-12; 2-29; 3-53; 4-91; 5-185; 6-186; 7-208; 8-211; 9-224			

Bowler				
Gough	O	M	R	W
Mullally	10	1	55	3
Ealham	10	0	64	0
Croft	10	0	52	1
Holoake	6	0	36	0
Flintoff	5	0	30	0
Hick	2	0	13	0
Flintoff	7	0	62	1

Bowler				
Akram	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	7	0	33	0
Saqlain	10	2	42	3
Mahmood	7.5	0	23	3
Afridi	10	1	55	1
Moin	9	0	53	3
Malik	2	0	17	0

Result: Pakistan won by 90 runs

Man-of-the-match: Ijaz Ahmed

## Walsh among WI World Cuppers

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Apr 8: Fast bowler Courtney Walsh was recalled Wednesday by the West Indies for the seven-match one-day series against Australia and the World Cup tournament in May, reports AP.

Walsh last played in a one-day international a year ago against England. The 36-year-old former captain had missed the West Indies' last 13 matches, but his experience with English county Gloucestershire and his suitability to English conditions weighed in his favour despite his weak throwing arm and limited batting.

Walsh is second overall among West Indian wicket takers in one-day cricket with 204 in his 185 matches. The Jamaican played for Gloucestershire from 1986 to 1998.

Opener Sherwin Campbell, who returned to the Test team with some success during the just concluded series against Australia, also regains a place in the 28-year-old Barbadian last played in the limited overs game on the 1997-98 tour of Pakistan.



PRIZED POSSESSION: Australian skipper Steve Waugh and his men with the Frank Worrell Trophy after victory at St John's on Wednesday.

## Memorable series leaves skippers satisfied

ST JOHN'S, Apr 8 (AP/AF): Australian captain Steve Waugh lifted the Frank Worrell Trophy and compared its significance — supremacy over the West Indies — to that of the Ashes contests against old rival England.

"I think it's pretty much equal. The Ashes has got a tremendous tradition. So has the Frank Worrell Trophy now," Waugh said after Australia completed a 176-run victory Wednesday to even the four-match series 2-2.

"For us we were desperate to win this. It meant a lot to the players. The younger guys were pretty keen to retain the trophy and make sure it went back with us on the plane. We're going to celebrate with it tonight. You know you have to pass that tradition on to the younger guys and let them know it's a special thing to win."

The 33-year-old Waugh held his first Test series as captain, replacing Mark Taylor after his 3-1 victory reclaimed the Ashes in January.

Waugh paid tribute to ace fast bowler Glenn McGrath, who took a series-high 30 wickets in four Tests.

"He's been doing it for a couple of years now," Waugh said. "But he's getting better with every game."

"He just doesn't bowl any loose balls. He's bowling and you can't get the ball out of his hand. Even if he's injured or tired, he won't say anything, he wants to keep bowling. He's great for a captain."

West Indies captain Brian Lara also lauded McGrath.

"McGrath's performance throughout the series was something to behold," Lara said. "I thought it was a tremendous effort. He's a great competitor and someone who all young bowlers should try to follow."

"I thought he would have to break down at some point but he never did," Lara said.

Lara earned the man-of-the-series award just ahead of McGrath. The 29-year-old left-hander added his third century in successive Tests at Antigua off just 82 balls and ended with 346 runs at an average of 91.4.

Lara received his award of a Rover 400 car and 1,600 dollars.

"It was a tremendous series and deserved to be drawn 2-2," Lara said. "After what happened in South Africa (the West Indies losing 5-0) and coming after that and bouncing back to draw this series is a tremendous team effort."

"I'd have loved to have the Frank Worrell Trophy this afternoon, but Steve has it for another two years. Hopefully when we get to Australia (in 2000-2001) the series will be as competitive as this one."

Waugh said Lara was wrong to complain directly to the match referee over the McGrath spitting incident.

Waugh believed the West Indies skipper should have vented his feelings to match referee Raman Subba row via West Indies manager Clive Lloyd, instead of confronting umpire David Orchard.

"It was definitely handled

the wrong way, there's no doubt about that," Waugh said.

"It should have gone through the right channels. If you've got a complaint you make it via your manager to the match referee."

International Cricket Council referee Subba Row fined McGrath 30 per cent of his match fee and severely reprimanded him for bringing the game into disrepute for spitting on the pitch at the end of the fourth day's play of the fourth Test.

He was cleared of aiming it at opener Adrian Griffith, as had been alleged by the West Indian team.

"I know Glenn and there's no way he would have spat at him," Waugh said.

Asked about the spitting incident, Lara said, "There's no love lost, the match referee handled that and it's in the past now."

The last Australian to be accused of spitting at a batsman was Merv Hughes during a clash with Mark Greatbatch on Australia's 1993 tour of New Zealand.

Match referee Javed Burki took no action because the camera angles were inconclusive.

## Div I cricket

Dhaka Wanderers Club recorded a 19-run win over Jatrabari KC in the First Division cricket league at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday, reports APB.

Wanderers, opting to bat first, scored 196 runs for nine wickets in the rain-curtailed 40-over-a-side match.

Opener Mahfiz contributed the highest 67 runs off 84 balls including nine fours while middle-order batsman Nehal and Sushanta made 28 and 25 runs.

Poltu and Jewel were the other notable scorers with 19 and 17 runs respectively.

Saidar bagged three wickets for 22 runs while Bipul and Khokon took two each.

Jatrabari, in reply, were all out for 177 runs in 39.2 overs with one-down Jashim scoring the highest 48 runs.

Liton and Sajal contributed 47 and 41 runs while Nobil was the other double-digit scorer with 10 runs.

Ripon snapped up four wickets for 40 runs while Farid took two for 15.

## Kenya stick with same squad

NAIROBI, Apr 8 (Reuters/Internet): Kenya's final squad of 15 named on Wednesday for the World Cup in England from May 14-June 20 includes eight players who took part in the previous tournament three years ago.

Left-arm spinner Asif Karim will captain Kenya this time while all-rounder Maurice Odumbe, who led their 1996 World Cup team on the sub-continent, is vice-captain.

The party, named barely a week after Kenya's appearance at a tri-nation tournament in Bangladesh, contains no major surprises. Most of the players have been Kenyan regulars for several years.

Kenya's coach is former West Indies batsman Alvin Kallicharman.

#### SQUAD

Asif Karim (captain), Maurice Odumbe, Deepak Chudasama, Hitesh Modi, Sandip Gupta, Thomas Odoyo, Steve Tikolo, Mohamed Sheik, Jimmy Kamande, Kennedy Otieno, Joseph Angara, Ravindu Shah, Alshah Vadhner, Martin Saji, Tony Saji.

## Azlan Shah hockey

Pakistan denied Germany a place in the final with a 4-2 win on Thursday in the ninth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Germany's Jan Peter Tewes (L) is being challenged by Pak Mohd Shahbaz in the ninth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.



## Gade Christensen in qtrs

TOKYO, Apr 8: Running at top speed and smashing with full strength, the world's No. 1-ranked Peter Gade Christensen of Denmark overpowered unseeded Chien Yu-hsiu of Taiwan 15-1, 15-3 Thursday in the third round of the 180,000 dollars Yonex Japan Open badminton championships, reports AP.

"I wasn't saving power, but I'm not tired," said the 22-year-old defending champion, who appeared determined to retain the title. "And I hope I can repeat what I did here last year."

Big names also advancing to the round of eight in men's singles included fourth seed Sun Jun of China, sixth-seeded Peter Rasmussen of Denmark and Malaysia's Ong Ewe Hock, who is seeded 10th.

Six of the top 10 seeds have been ousted, with the latest being Indonesia's 15-7, 17-14 loser to No. 11 seed Wong Choong Hann of Malaysia in the third round.

None of the Japanese male players survived the first three rounds.

Top-seeded Gade Christensen chose a short game against his opponent, ranked a remote 16th in the world but a 15-10, 15-12 winner over ninth seed Dong Jiong of China in the second round.

"He beat Dong Jiong last night. So I was telling myself not to underestimate him," said Gade Christensen after beating Chien in only 29 minutes. "I'm satisfied with today's match. I played very well and moved very fast."

Yesterday, it was a big shock to see all the big names eliminated. But there's still Sun Jun and other tough opponents around."

In the quarterfinals, Gade Christensen meets 12th seed Johan Hadi Kusuma of Indonesia, a 15-8, 15-13 winner over his third-round opponent Ahn Jae-chang of South Korea.

Rasmussen, winner here in 1997, was in top form as he ousted 13th seed Heryanto Arbi of Indonesia 15-1, 15-11, appearing to save his energy in the second set for tougher matches ahead.

Arbi won this tournament in 1993 and again in 1995.

On Friday, Rasmussen meets 15th-seeded Chen Hong of China, while Sun Jun takes on Ong Ewe Hock.

## Pakistan stymie Germany

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 8: Pakistan denied Germany a place in the final with a 4-2 win on Thursday in the ninth Sultan Azlan Shah Cup tournament at Malaysia's National Hockey Stadium, reports AP.

Germany who needed a draw to qualify for the final, lost out as Pakistan scored a pair of goals in each half to stay at the top of the preliminary round of the six-nation meet.

Sohail Abbas scored the first goal in the 18th minute when he blasted in Pakistan's opening penalty corner. Muhammad Sarwar added the second goal for Pakistan the following minute to give the team a 2-0 lead at half-time.

Recharged during the interval, Germany reduced the deficit through a penalty corner conversion by Bjorn Michel in the 39th minute.

But Sohail was again on target when he converted Pakistan's third penalty corner in the 43rd minute to emerge the leading scorer of the tournament with 11 goals so far.

Michel was in his element again when he scored another penalty corner in the 47th minute before Pakistan sealed the game with a goal by Muhammad Shahbaz in the 65th minute.

The other finalists will be decided in the matches between South Korea and Malaysia, and Canada against New Zealand later Thursday.

Pakistan have won all of their matches so far with earlier victories over Canada (6-3), South Korea (6-2), New Zealand (5-2) and Malaysia (5-1).

Germany won their first three matches against South Korea (4-3), New Zealand (3-0) and Malaysia (4-3), but lost to Canada 1-2.

Pakistan's coach, Shahbaz Sheikh, said his team was not worried about which final opponents they would play.

## Savicevic's solidarity call

MADRID, Apr 8 (Reuters/Internet): Former AC Milan striker Dejan Savicevic has written to Predrag Mijatovic encouraging the Real Madrid man to continue his boycott against playing while NATO strikes continue against their country.

Mijatovic, who was fined 5 1/2 million pesetas (\$32,490) for his non-appearance against Alaves on Sunday, announced this week that he would be available for next week's game at Celta Vigo.

Savicevic, in a letter from Yugoslav published in Spanish newspapers on Thursday, urged Mijatovic to hold out for at least one more game -- and offered to pay any further fines from Real Madrid himself.

"Only \$30,000 to defend the love of your country and people?" Savicevic wrote. "As I'm not in a position to do the same, I beg you not to play at least one game more, charged to my account."

A proposed boycott of matches by Yugoslav internationals, which met with a mixed response last weekend, appears now to be at an end.

Of the six players who opted out of last week's league action, five have said they will return on Saturday and Sunday.

Only Celta Vigo defender Goran Djorovic, who was in talks with his club on Thursday, had yet to announce a decision.

Stuttgart's Yugoslav players ready to play again.

While in Germany VfB Stuttgart said its Yugoslav players Kristijan Djordjevic and Sreto Ristic, who had resumed to be left out, should resume playing this weekend.

"They are in a better frame of mind now they are able to have contacts with their relatives in Yugoslavia again," said Stuttgart coach Rainer Adronic.



Young booters of Yugoslav side Partizan Belgrade put up a protest banner ahead of a friendly between Partizan and AEK Athens at Belgrade on April 7.

## Lillee sings Glenn's praises

PERTH, Australia, Apr 8 (AFP/Internet): Fast bowling icon Dennis Lillee believes Glenn McGrath has already become one of Australian cricket's greatest fastest bowlers.

McGrath, 29, Wednesday lifted his career tally to 232 wickets in 49 Tests at 22.60 after claiming 30 victims in the four-Test Caribbean series against the West Indies.

He set a new wicket-taking record by an Australian in a series in the Caribbean and was just three wickets short of the record for a series between the two teams, which was established over five Tests by Curtly Ambrose, Clarrie Grimmett and Alan Davidson.

McGrath's strike-rate of a wicket every 51.52 balls compared favourably to that of Lillee, who took a wicket every 52.02 balls in gathering 355 victims in 70 Tests between 1970-84.

Lillee said McGrath could be a force for many years barring injury and deserved to be rated up with the best.

"He has done it in, or against, all countries now and keeps on doing it consistently," Lillee said Thursday.

"If his career ended right now, he would go down as one of the greats."

"Barring injury, he still has a lot of bowling in him."

But another former Australian Test paceman, West

Australian Bruce Reid, warned Thursday that McGrath's career would be cut short unless his workload was reduced.

Reid, whose own career produced 113 wickets in 27 Tests before it was blighted by injury, agreed with Lillee and said McGrath bowled with similar control to Curtly Ambrose and Shane Warne.

"He's basically carried the fast bowling burden in the Caribbean, even though he had Jason Gillespie in the side for the first three Tests," he said.

"The longer they play the two spinners the worse it is for him as he has to bowl longer spells with the new ball."

"It takes a lot out of you when you have to bowl two spells in a session."

"When Warne was in-form he would bowl the majority of the overs and look what has happened to him - the same thing could happen to McGrath."

## Davis Cup draw

LONDON, Apr 8 (AP): Thursday's draw for the Davis Cup World Group qualifying round to be played Sept 24-26 (home teams listed first):

Uzbekistan vs Czech Republic

Romania vs Germany

Britain vs South Africa

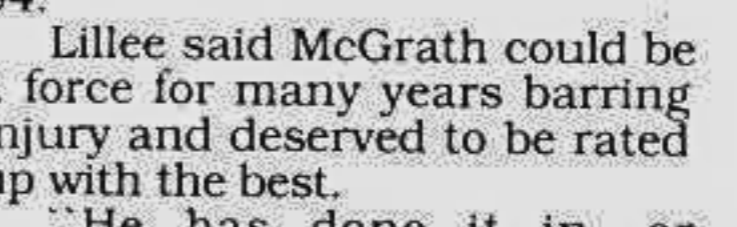
Italy vs Finland

Ecuador vs Netherlands

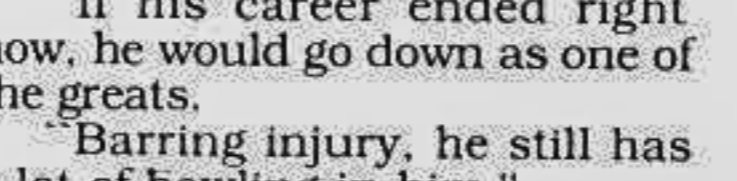
New Zealand vs Spain

Austria vs Sweden

Zimbabwe vs Chile



GLENN McGRATH



Col (ret'd) Kazi Shahed Ahmed (C), director-in-charge of Abahani, receives the long-term lease certificate of the ground adjacent to the club from Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain (R) yesterday.

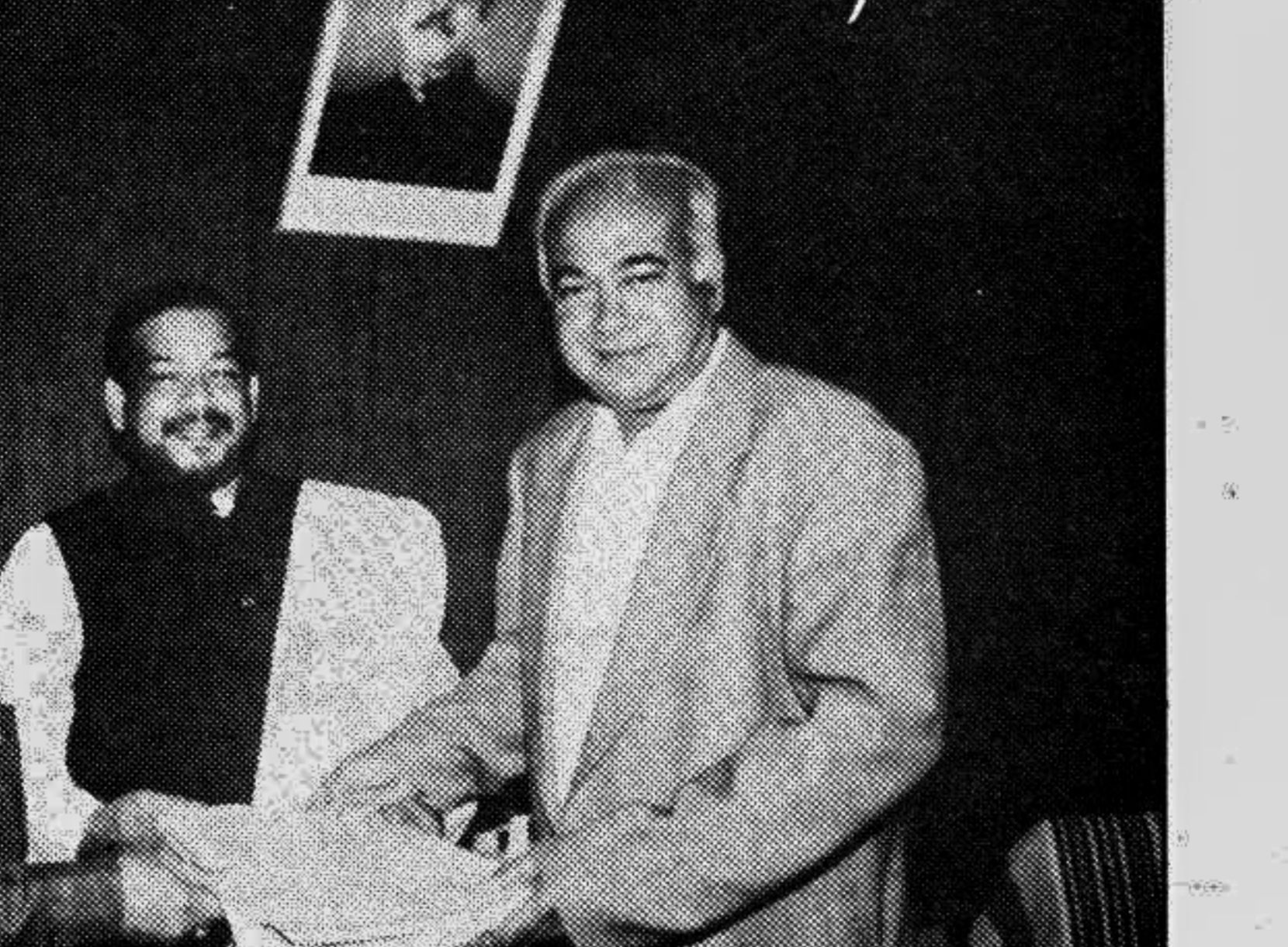
## Friendly soccer games postponed

SARAJEVO, Apr 8: Two charity soccer matches for Bosnia and Bulgaria later this month have been postponed because of the conflict in the Balkans, reports Reuters.

The April 27 Bosnia game — supposed to feature soccer greats like France's Zidane and Brazilians Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos — has been delayed until a more suitable date, Bosnian national team director Ahmet Pasalic told.

Airlines have had to cancel flights to Sarajevo after the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Bosnia closed the country's air space last month because of the strikes on Yugoslavia.

Pasalic said FIFA chief Sepp Blatter had assured him a new date for the game — between Bosnia and FIFA's World XI of superstars — would be set as soon as conditions permit.



Col (ret'd) Kazi Shahed Ahmed (C), director-in-charge of Abahani, receives the long-term lease certificate of the ground adjacent to the club from Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain (R) yesterday.