

## Column One

### SPORTS TALK



**Moin Khan**  
(Pakistan cricket vice-captain)  
"It was disappointing after we played so well in the World Cup. Now the fans must realise we are the number two team in the world."

After returning home on Thursday.

## Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN  
Competition-117

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Post to The Daily Star  
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm  
July 2, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?  
40 41 42
- Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by  
9 wks 10 wks 53 runs
- How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?  
18 21 20
- Saqibain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?  
Kenya Zimbabwe Bangladesh
- How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?  
120 140 140

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

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**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

## China deserves credit

BEIJING, June 25: China should be credited with the creation of swimming, weightlifting, skiing and a host of other sports, according to He Zhenliang, a Chinese executive board member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), reports AFP.

"Over the past 5,000 years, the Chinese people have created a great variety of sports and games," he, who chairs the IOC's cultural committee, was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency.

"A number of modern sports can be traced back to ancient China: weightlifting, swimming, archery and equestrian sports in summer, and skating and skiing in winter," he told the opening of the "5000 Years of Sport in China Art and Tradition" exhibition in Lausanne, Switzerland.

"With its origins in the Yellow River Valley, Chinese civilisation has its own time-honoured sports like all other ancient civilisations," he said. He said he hoped the Olympic Museum exhibition, which includes 150 pieces about sport in ancient China, would give visitors a better knowledge and understanding of China.

## Bangladesh kept waiting

From Nizamuddin Ahmed in London



June 25: Two Test teams and as many 'A' teams are likely to visit Bangladesh in the coming winter as part of ICC's plans to carve Test status for Bangladesh. The national team will also be touring some countries. The emphasis will be on three to four-day matches as the ICC's report on Bangladesh has pointed out this shortcoming. An itinerary will be chalked in a meeting next Monday.

In the ICC meeting held yesterday, Bangladesh secured votes of five full members and all the 25 associate members. Seven of the nine full-member votes and the 25 from the associates are necessary for gaining Test status. A Test-playing country is a full member.

BCB president Sabir Hossain Chowdhury now in London to attend the ICC meeting considered the developments "encouraging". Bangladesh was supported well by the Development Committee chairman Dr

Ali Bacher and also the Finance and Marketing Committee.

"We will give it a big push next year," said Sabir, adding that no one doubted that we should become a Test country, "but the timing was a big factor."

It was decided in the meeting that the next International limited overs competition among the nine Test countries will be held from October 5-15 in the year 2000 at either Nairobi or Sharjah. If they fail to organise it, Dhaka will host the meet. Dhaka is not pursuing the case as the venue should be in principle an Associate Member country, and Dhaka by then may become a Test venue. Moreover, Dhaka has already been a host last November.

Bangladesh may get special-ist coaches, umpires and other resources as support from ICC to develop BKSIP as a centre of excellence. BKSIP's potential has been recognised, revealed Sabir, and matters will only be finalised in a meeting lined up for September 1999.

## Olympic Day Run held

The 10-km Olympic Day Run, organised by Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) marking the founding day of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Movement, was held in the city yesterday despite heavy rain in the morning, reports BSS.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria inaugurated the Run at the Army Stadium amidst enthusiasm.

President of Bangladesh Olympic Association and Chief of Army Staff Lt General Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports A M Shahjahan, BOA vice president Lt Col (retd) Faruque Khan, MP, Secretary General Zafar Imam were with the Finance Minister to lead the Run.

About 5,000 sports persons and organisers, government officials, Parliament members and general public took part. The runners, starting from the Army Stadium, passed through Mohakhali, Cantonment Gate, Farmgate, Sonargaon, Bangla Motor, Shahbagh, TSC, Shishu Academy, Abdul Gani Road, Zero Point before ending at Bangabandhu National Stadium.

BOA officials said they were expecting more participants in the Run. But could not turn up due to heavy rain in the morning.

Similar Runs were organised in five other divisional headquarters - Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet under the auspices of BOA in co-operation with divisional sports associations.

The runners were given a certificate and a T-shirt each as a souvenir.

## Bevan's bag returned!



SYDNEY, June 25: Australian cricketer Michael Bevan had a sports bag containing souvenirs from his triumphant World Cup campaign returned today just 24 hours after it was stolen from outside his Sydney home, reports Reuters.

A spokesman for the public relations company which manages Bevan said an unidentified man handed over the bag after Bevan posted a 5,000 Australian dollars (3,250 US) reward for its safe return.

The bag, which contained shirts, pads, caps and cricket bats signed by the entire Australian team, was taken from outside Bevan's flat on Sydney's northern beaches while he was visiting a friend.

Bevan, who hit 264 runs at an average of 52.80 during the World Cup, said he had left the bag outside his beachside unit after returning home from a Melbourne street parade honouring the team.

Bevan's spokesman said the bag was returned after an anonymous man called them to arrange the handover. He said the man was not asked whether or not he was the thief.

Bevan said most of the items in the bag would be donated to charity, apart from a few souvenirs he planned to keep for himself and his family.



Action from yesterday's Premier Division football league match between Muktiyoddha Sangsad and Badda Jagorani at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

## Holdings brave Badda scare

Sports Reporter

Defending champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kiria Chakra survived a second half onslaught from a spirited Badda Jagorani to record a hard-fought 2-1 win in one of the two Keya Premier football League matches played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Effine and Aliu Rahman, the Nigerian duo of the all reds, scored one goal apiece in the first half to ensure Muktiyoddha's second successive win after their 5-0 whitewash of Mirpur Chalanika in the inaugural match of the league on Tuesday.

But it was the youthful Badda, one of the two promotes in the Premier League this year who won the heart of a few hundred avid football followers at the big bowl last evening.

The boys in the men's group, who showed a lot of promise in their first match against Mohammedan before going down fighting, gave the star-studded Muktiyoddha a real scare when they pulled off a sensational equaliser eight minutes after the holders took the lead through an Effine header.

After a dream debut against Chalanika, where he scored two goals, Effine continued his scoring prowess heading home a Hasan al Mamun floater in the right in the 16th minute.

But Muktiyoddha's celebration was short lived as Badda bounced back in the 24th minute with Monwar shooting home a Khokon low cross from an acute angle.

With Monwar, Parvez Babu - the two youngsters who donned the national color in the SAFF championships - and

Khokon forming a terrific trio in the upfront Badda almost got their second goal in the 35th minute. But Khokon's sliding volley from the danger zone missed the near post by a few inches.

After enduring the close shave, Muktiyoddha once again relied on a Al-Mamun-Effine and Aliu combination to get the match-decider four minutes from the short-whistle.



Al-Mamun took a perfect corner from the right, which Effine guided to an unmarked Aliu, who made no mistake in head into an empty net. It was Aliu's second goal in the League.

Undaunted by the setback, Badda came firing all cylinders in the second half, but all their efforts proved futile in the face of a stubborn Muktiyoddha defense, undoubtedly the best in the league.

Besides, a wicked change by Muktiyoddha's coach Shaikhul Haq Manik, who successfully introduced Arif Rahman Joy in the middle to disturb the opponents' rhythm, also shut the cutting edge of Badda.

Muktiyoddha, however, got a chance to consolidate their victory 75th minute when Nakib fired a first-time right footer from the edge of the box only to be denied by the metal work.

**Yellow cards:** Liton, Nakib (Muktiyoddha) and Tanvir (Badda).

## TEAMS

**Muktiyoddha:** Biplob, Hasan al Mamun, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Masud Rana, Titu, Tushar, Aliu Rahman, Liton (Joy), Effine and Nakib.

**Badda Jagorani:** Apel, Riad, Hasan, Lajuk, Papal, Tanvir, Govinda, Haider, Parvez Babu, Haider (Asad), Khokon and Monwar.

**Referee:** Sheikh Badruddin.

## FARASHGANJ-FAKIRERPOOL

Meanwhile, in the first match of the day Farashganj Sporting Club won the battle of the two mediocre teams by a lone goal against Fakirerpool Youngmen's Club.

Striker Farhad scored the all-important goal for the old town outfit in the 40th minute.

Farhad, who had earlier missed a couple of sitters, found the net with a grounder after being fed by medio Azim deep into the opponent's box.

## TODAY'S MATCHES

**Premier football league**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS (5:30 pm)

**First Division football league**  
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium  
East End Club vs Wari Club (3:30 pm)

Agrani Bank vs Prantik KC (3:30 pm)

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium

## Sharjah tri-series in October

COLOMBO, June 25 (Reuters/Internet): Sri Lanka has confirmed its participation in a triangular one-day cricket tournament with Pakistan and West Indies in Sharjah in October, the national cricket board said on Friday.

## FIXTURES

- Oct 13: Sri Lanka vs West Indies
- Oct 14: Pakistan vs West Indies
- Oct 15: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
- Oct 17: West Indies vs Sri Lanka
- Oct 18: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
- Oct 19: Pakistan vs West Indies

## October 22: Final

## Schools h'b'ball

The 10th Bata schools handball tournament for girls organised by Bangladesh Handball Federation, begins today at the Dhanmudi Sultana-Kamal Women's Sports Complex.

Vigarnunissa Noon School will take on BCIC School at 4 pm in one of the three opening day fixtures. The other matches are - Kamalapur Sher-e-Bangla Railway School vs Ispahani School & College, and Sher-e-Bangla Girls School vs Bangladesh Rifles School & College.

## Ctg handball

CHITTAGONG, June 25: Agrabad Pioneers beat Blue Star Club 33-15 in the inaugural match of Bridgestone Maruti Mahanagari Handball Competition at the Lalghali ground here today, reports BSS.

Eight teams are participating in the meet organised by Chittagong Mahanagari Sports Association (CMSA). The teams are, Agrabad Pioneers, Blue Star Club, Kattali Kiria Sangstha, Ekota Sangha, Mohammedan Blues, Shatabdi Gosthi and Agrabad Nowjoan Green.

## Boxing protest

BANGKOK, June 25: About 700 young Thai boxers aged from 10 to 15 years staged a noisy protest today against a boxing bill that would ban children from Thailand's national sport, reports Reuters.

They youngsters gathered near the parliament in Bangkok to demonstrate their boxing skills before handing a protest letter to a parliamentary committee scrutinising the bill.

The professional Boxing Bill, which aims to ensure boxers protection from unscrupulous promoters and access to proper medical care when injured, has been approved by the lower house of parliament.

It is now being debated by an upper house committee which added a clause that would ban boxers below the age of 15 from boxing.

"We are doing this for the sake of these young kids in the long run," said Wallop Thangkananurak, a senator known for taking up child-protection issues.

He said senators had consulted doctors who warned that boxing from a young age could cause brain damage and other injuries.

"Apart from that, it's against the labour law, which bans the exploitation of children," Wallop told Reuters, adding that it was unlikely the protest would sway the lawmakers.

Boxing is regarded as Thailand's national sport. Every major town has a boxing arena and bouts are broadcast nationwide every weekend.

The young boxers, promoters and trainers rejected the suggestion that the sport was exploitative and said the ban would wreck the livelihoods of many struggling boxers.

More than a hundred thousand young Thai boxers earn their living and make money for their schools from boxing and if the law bans them what are they going to do with their future? Somsak Shookaew, a well-known promoter, told Reuters.

Fahkamron Watdirang, 12, who has been boxing since the age of eight and has fought 40 professional bouts, said he used his winnings to help his family and school.

"I make about 3,000 baht for each fight and if the law stops me from boxing I don't know where I would get the money for my school and family," he said.

## Blanchard joins Lens

LENS, France, June 25: Juventus midfielder Jocelyn Blanchard has Tuesday signed a four-year deal with deposed French champions Lens, according to his new side's president Gervais Martel, reports AFP.

Martel did not reveal the fee paid for 27-year-old Blanchard, who starred for Metz before signing for the Italian giants last summer in a move that proved to be an unsuccessful one for the player, who only started 15 games for the Blanconeri.

Blanchard said: "I opted for the security of playing for a club that really wanted me and that I know by heart. I did not want to wait another year and a change of coach before regaining my place."

## Minutes of ICC meeting



LONDON, June 25: The chief executive of the International Cricket Council today released details of matters decided at annual conference held at Lord's on June 22-24.

**"Safety of Players & Umpires"** - the Executive Board views with serious concern the recent incidences of crowd invasions of grounds, and disruption to matches. The safety of players and umpires is of paramount importance.

The following policy has been adopted: "No spectator has a right to enter the field during the play and until the players and umpires have left the field after play. No spectator has a right to throw any object at anyone, be they players, umpires or fellow spectators."

Countries will have the opportunity - as a matter of priority - to take whatever corrective measures are necessary within the framework of local laws.

However, sanctions in the form of removal of a ground's approval to hold International cricket are to be seriously considered together with other measures to improve safety. Progress will be reviewed at the September Board meeting.

**"Code of Conduct Commission"** - the Chairman of the Commission, Lord Griffiths, has received the full report of the inquiry in Australia and has that under review. The Indian Board will be asked to provide the report from their inquiry also be reviewed by the Commission's chairman. The nine man panel was also confirmed in office.

**"Bangladesh Cricket Board"** - their application to be the tenth Test nation was reviewed. Countries were encouraged by the satisfactory progress of cricket in Bangladesh, including the team's two victories in the recent World Cup. Sabir Chowdhury (President BCB) was congratulated on the staging of the highly successful Wills International Cup in Dhaka last October. Countries have committed to provide Bangladesh with an intense program of 3 and 4 day 'A' and national team cricket over the next 9 months to assist in their high performance development. The appli-

cation will be further reviewed at next year's conference.

**"Playing Conditions"** - the Duckworth-Lewis method for calculating target scores in interrupted One Day International matches will be adopted as part of the standard playing conditions with effect from 1st September 1999. Existing conditions will not be reviewed until 2001.

**"Advisory Panel on Illegal Deliveries"** - arising from concern about the need for a standard approach to the matter of dealing with throwing, the 9 man panel will meet within the next 2 months - details to be announced.

**"National Grid Panel"** - there are 4 new umpires on the National Grid Panel - A Jayaprakash from India, Ri-azuddin and A Zaidi from Pakistan and B Cooray from Sri Lanka. Former Pakistan Captain Intikhab Alam and countryman N Ali, together with Brian Hastings of New Zealand are new faces on the Referees Panel.

**"New Members"** - Germany was upgraded to Associate member status, while Cyprus, Morocco and Qatar were admitted as Affiliate Members, bringing the total number of member countries to 56.

**"Under 19 World Cup"** - Sri Lanka was confirmed as the host nation, with the 16 team event taking place in January 2000. The 7 Associate Member nations will be selected on a regional basis - the top 2 from the European tournament to be held in Ireland next month; the top 2 from the Asian Cricket Council tournament in Singapore in early July 2000 from Africa (to be determined) and one from the Americas.

**"2001 ICC Trophy"** - this 26 nation event will be held in Toronto in July 2001 and will be played in 2 divisions. The number of countries qualifying for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa will be decided at next year's Conference.

**"Cricket Development"** - the ambitious Development Program received a further boost with approval of a 1.35 million pound budget for the current financial year. Andrew Eade has been appointed as Development Officer for the East Asia-Pacific region, working from the offices of ACB in Melbourne. The next development conference will be in Nairobi in early August. — Source: Internet

## Pete too good for Danny



LONDON, June 25: The big guns in the men's singles blasted their way into the fourth round at Wimbledon on Friday, reports AFP.

Top seed Pete Sampras crushed valiant British qualifier Danny Sapsford as he marched on towards his sixth singles title in seven years.

The 27-year-old world number one was never at his best but did not need to be against the world number 595 as the American secured a workmanlike 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 win.

Sapsford, the 30-year-old who prepares for matches by gardening and who had played eight matches just to reach the third round, was never disgraced on Court One and was af-

forded a standing ovation as he stepped out of the arena and into retirement.

Sampras' quarterfinal opponent could be Australian Mark Philippoussis, the seventh seed, who made short work of Francisco Clavet, the world number 22 and one of only two remaining Spaniards in the top draw.

Philippoussis, who led the tournament chess chart with 66 going into the game, recovered from a break down to nick the first set and never looked back as he completed a stylish 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory.

Courier took his place in the last 16 after saving three match points in a marathon 7-6, 3-6, 3-6, 7-5, 13-11 victory spanning four and a half hours over Dutchman Sjeng Schalken.

Women's second seed and tournament favourite Steffi Graf cruised past American world number 41 Corina Morariu on Court One, finishing off her 6-1, 6-3 victory with a delightful backhand drop shot.

A slight security scare apart, Russian Anna Kournikova was given an easy passage into the fourth round when Argentine opponent Ines Gorrochategui retired hurt in the second set of their encounter.

## Nasser gets the nod



LONDON, June 25: Nasser Hussain will replace Alec Stewart as England's Test cricket captain.

England's Test series against New Zealand, it was announced on Thursday, reports AFP.

**Zimbabwean Duncan Fletcher, currently coach of county side Glamorgan, was confirmed as England's coach for the next two years, replacing David Lloyd who resigned after the World Cup.**

Fletcher will take up his new post at the end of the English domestic season in early September. His first task in his new job will be to lead England on the end-of-year tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney will take charge of the England side for the remainder of the summer.

The length of Hussain's appointment has not been fixed but if he makes a success of the series against New Zealand, which starts next week, he is almost certain to retain the captaincy for this winter's tour.

Graveney said: "The decision has not been rushed because we were keen to make sure we're not simply making a change as a knee-jerk reaction to our World Cup performance."

"As it is, by taking our time, we are satisfied we have made the right decision and that decision is to turn to Nasser."

"He has plenty of experience of cricket at all levels, has served a long apprenticeship as a vice-captain to both Michael Atherton and Stewart, and in our conversations with him he has shown a huge passion for what is a massive job."

Hussain who becomes Eng-

land's third captain in little over a year, said: "This is a huge honour, the biggest one in the game and I'm delighted and immensely proud."

Fletcher, 50, has been appointed after first choice Bob Woolmer ruled himself out of the race declaring he needed a break from international cricket when he leaves his post with South Africa.

He has since accepted an offer to return as coach of county side Warwickshire.

Fletcher led Zimbabwe in their first World Cup campaign in 1983 and since becoming a coach, he has helped Glamorgan

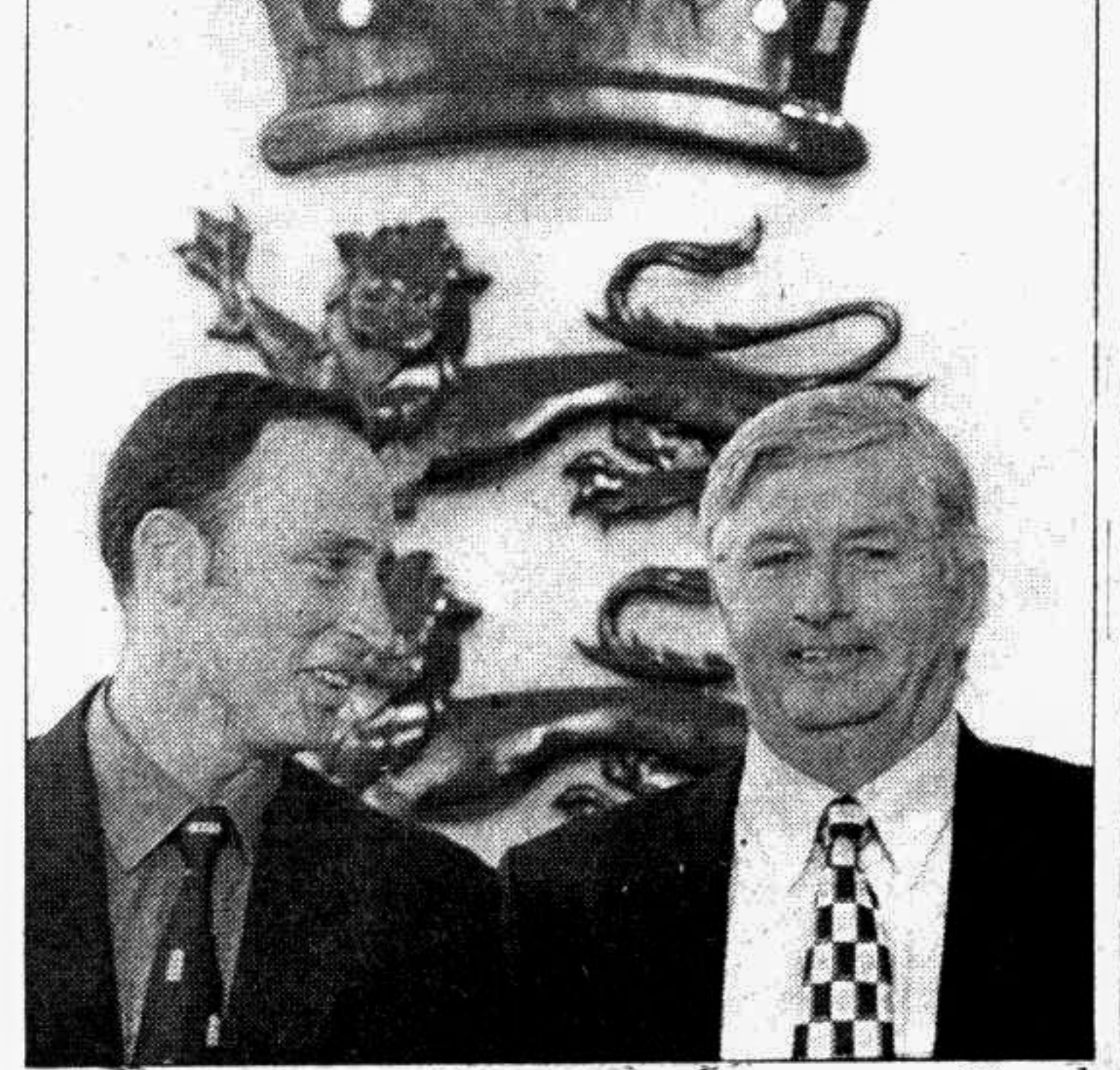
to the county championship two summers ago.

He has also guided Western Province to two South African domestic championships and a one-day title.

England paceman Angus Fraser believes Hussain could be the man to lift England's spirits.

"Nasser is a good communicator and a passionate bloke. It's a job he wanted and an important factor is that he is a regular member of the side," said Fraser.

"Nasser is a solid guy and a popular figure with the players. It looks like a good move."



Newly appointed England captain, Nasser Hussain (L) and coach Duncan Fletcher at a press conference at the England and Wales Cricket Board in London yesterday. —AFP photo



Participants of the Olympic Day Run set off from the Army Stadium in the capital yesterday. —Star photo