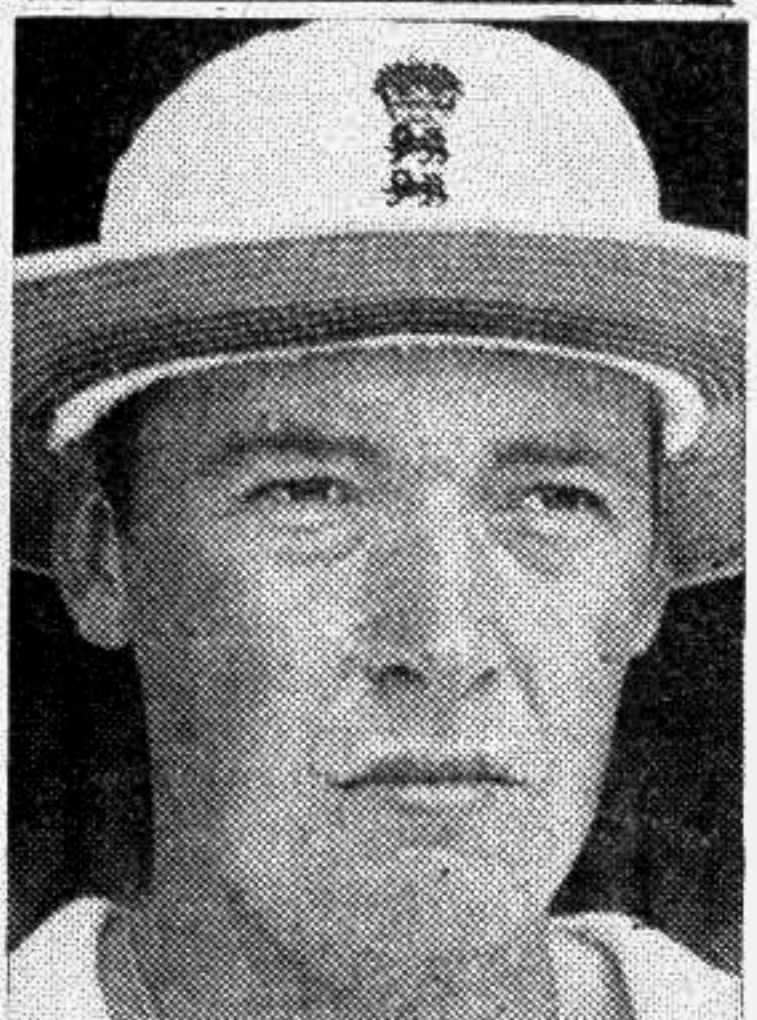


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Angus Fraser
(England cricket player)
"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. Nasser is a solid guy and a popular figure with the players. It looks like a good move."

After the appointment of Nasser Hussain as the national team's captain.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

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

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

1	How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?	40	41	42
2	Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by	9 wks	10 wks	53 runs
3	How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?	18	21	20
4	Saqin Mushaq scored his hat-trick against which country?	Kenya	Zimbabwe	Bangladesh
5	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

Don's bat to be auctioned

MELBOURNE, June 26: The bat used by cricketer legend Sir Donald Bradman in his first Sheffield season for South Australia is expected to fetch up to 20,000 Australian dollars (13,000 US) when it goes under the hammer Sunday, reports AFP.

The autographed, short-handled English willow bat, used by Bradman during the 1935-36 season, will be auctioned in Melbourne by Christie's Australia.

Christie's sporting memorabilia head, Michael Ludgrove, said the bat was one of 545 lots of Australian and international cricket memorabilia expected to be sold.

The bat is very significant in South Australia but also throughout Australia, he said. "During the 1935-36 season, when Bradman became captain of the state team, most of the key players were away on tour in South Africa. He virtually single-handedly took the team to the Sheffield Shield final, and they won it basically because of Bradman's skills."

"That's why the bat is so significant."

Ludgrove said the bat had generated a lot of interest, mainly from private investors.

"There's not that many Bradman bats left for sale, because he gave most of them away to English admirers when he used to tour," Ludgrove said.

A pair of batting gloves worn by Bradman will also be auctioned off along with a baggy green cap worn by Richie Benaud when he was captain and an autographed batting helmet worn by Shane Warne.

Ludgrove said the green fire-breath helmet was worn by Warne during the Australian team's 1993 tour of England and is expected to fetch 1,500-2,500 dollars.

Div III soccer

Kashaituly Samaj Kalliyala Parishad defeated Surtitola Wright Brothers 1-0 in a super league match of the Metropolitan Third Division Football League at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Saber on Greenidge

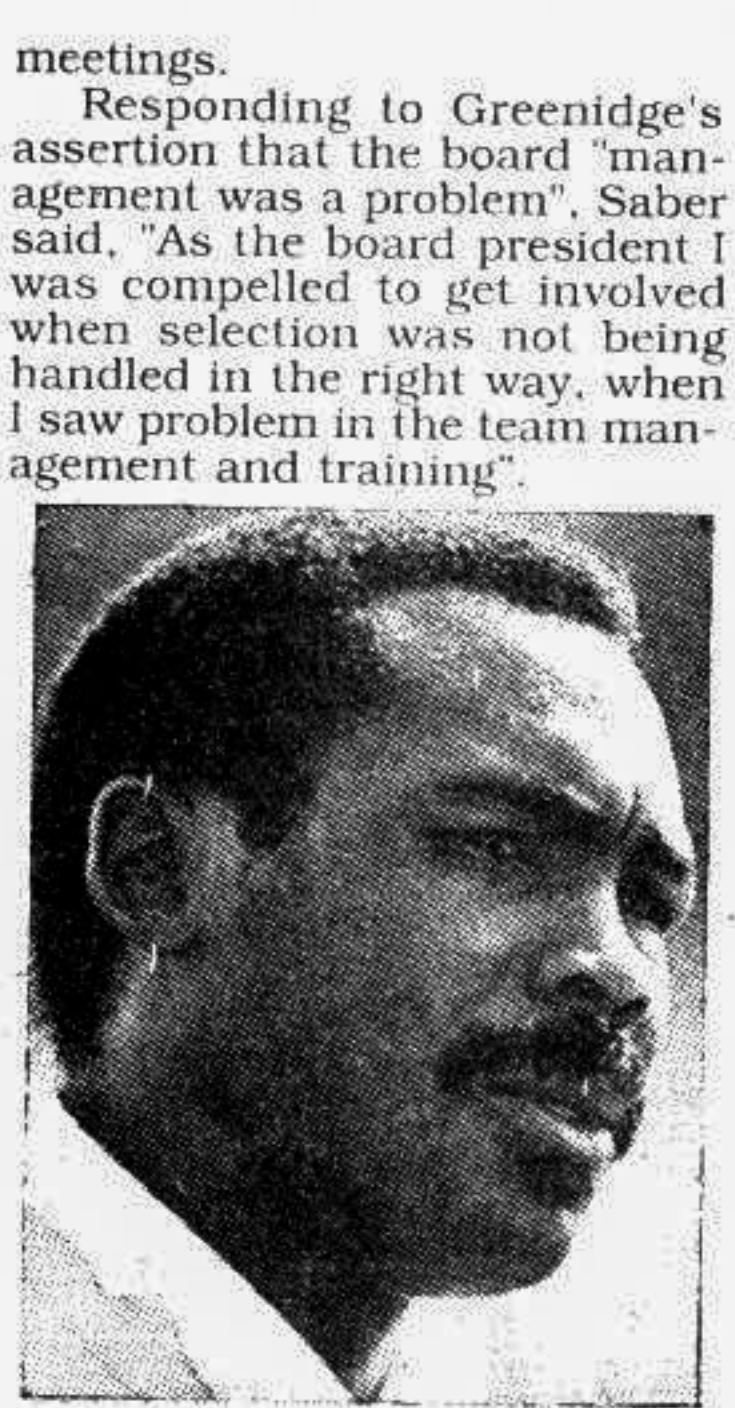
From Nizamuddin Ahmed in London

June 26: Bangladesh coach Gordon Greenidge had "protested" vehemently about the inclusion of Minhazul Abedin in the World Cup squad, saying that the senior batsman was "not good enough as a bat, not good enough as a bowler."

This was revealed by the BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury when he was responding to the West Indian coach's outburst against the board in local Bangla weeklies. (There is no Bangla daily in the UK.)

Minhazul Abedin, a former captain, first ignored from the selection of nineteen, who was made to sit on the bench in the World Cup match against New Zealand despite being in the fifteen, but was included against West Indies in the second "on the insistence of board officials", proved to be the single-handed match-winning man-of-the-match in the third match against Scotland, followed up with another defiant fifty against the marauding Australians in the fourth and was notably successful against Pakistan in the epic match at Northampton.

"As a protest against Minhazul's inclusion in the second match versus West Indies, Gordon did not attend the important selection meeting before the match with Scotland," said Saber. Greenidge also skipped subsequent team management



GORDON GREENIDGE

Saber could not fathom what Greenidge meant by "two-three players were not allowed to play" in this World Cup as reported here, adding, "all the fifteen in the squad had played."

About Greenidge's assertion that both he and the board were humiliated by excluding him from an international tournament, Saber said, "Gordon did not act in a responsible manner. He failed in his obligations. As an employee of the BCB, he was accountable to it. Our responsibility is to get the job done."

On the coach's remark that he could have been sacked after returning to Bangladesh, Saber replied, "We did not remove him as coach. He is our coach by contract till June. We only relieved him of World Cup management."

Gordon Greenidge was considering litigation regarding his sacking by the BCB. His solicitor had earlier called BCB, which informed him that Greenidge had taken his pay cheque till the month of June as coach of Bangladesh before leaving Dhaka for the World Cup in mid-April.

Greenidge is under contract with the BCB, and paid for, till end-June, but according to reports here, he has already accepted the Nottingham offer of batting coach. It was not clear whether the Sherwood forest contract will resume after June or before.

Meanwhile Greenidge seemed to have developed a change of heart about the standard of Bangladesh cricket. The same coach, who had dubbed the Dublin match against West Indies as an encounter of "men against boys" and had subsequently stated that Bangladesh were "not ready" and "not capable" now considered Bangladesh "a good team" and said at a London reception, "I always knew they could do it."

Selectors' nod to Silverwood

LONDON, June 26 (AFP/Reuters): Yorkshire pacer-minister Chris Silverwood is being tipped for an England recall Saturday after overcoming injury in his county's match with Hampshire Friday.

Silverwood was already in contention for next week's opening Test against New Zealand at Edgbaston, but a knee injury sustained against Hampshire at Basingstoke two weeks ago put him on the sidelines.

But Friday, he finished with 9-2-33-0 in his nine overs - to help clinch a nine-wicket Super Cup quarterfinal victory over Hampshire.

His likely recall follows an impressive start to the season with Australian Test batsman Justin Langer rating him as "one of the quickest bowlers I've ever faced" when he witnessed Silverwood's improved action playing for Middlesex at the start of the summer.

Silverwood is expected to be one of five pace bowlers in England's 13-man squad to be named.

Darren Gough, Silverwood's Yorkshire's team-mate, has already been ruled out with a calf injury, which is expected to prompt the recall of Somerset fast bowler Andy Caddick after 15 months in the wilderness.

Dean Headley, Alex Tudor and Alan Mullally - England's three Ashes tour successes - should make up the remainder of the pace bowling compliment while Andrew Flintoff, Gavin Hamilton and Mark Ealham will compete for the all-

rounder's role. Deposed captain Alec Stewart will be chosen just as a batsman to open alongside Mark Butcher, opening the door for 20-year-old Nottinghamshire wicketkeeper Chris Read to earn his debut.

Meanwhile, England's new captain Nasser Hussain admitted on Friday his country was no longer in the top flight of international cricket and needed to win back the faith of English

Cup winners' Australia and South Africa you have to be honest and at the moment the results show that we are not in the league," he told a news conference at Lords.

"We have to start getting up towards them... People know what a determined character I am. We have to start winning. We have got to win back the faith of the public."

Indian-born Hussain, who had a reputation for being a fiery character in his younger days, takes on a team described by former England coach David Lloyd as "not being tough enough" after their failure to make the World Cup Super Six stage.

The role of England cricket captain is one of the most high-profile positions in British sport, coming a close second to managing the England soccer team.

Hussain, who met new coach Duncan Fletcher for the first time on Friday, said every player started with a clean sheet. He paid tribute to Stewart and said he hoped the batsman-cum-wicketkeeper would remain a part of the England team in the future.

"He is too good a player to write off like that," he said. "I think we should stick with Alec for as long as possible... He will feel he has a point to prove."

England (from): M Butcher (Surrey), A Stewart (Surrey), N Hussain (Essex, capt), G Thorpe (Surrey), M Ramprakash, A Flintoff (Lancashire), M Ealham (Kent), C Read (Nottinghamshire), A Tudor (Surrey), A Caddick (Somerset), C Silverwood (Yorkshire), D Headley (Kent), A Mullally (Leicestershire), P Tufnell (Middlesex).

"We have to be realistic. If we are being compared to (World

cricket fans. Hussain was named as the new skipper to replace Alec Stewart on Thursday after the host country's disappointing first-round exit from the World Cup last month. He is under no illusions about the difficult task ahead.

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Nat'l hockey DU, Army in group finals

Dhaka University and Bangladesh Army reached their group finals of the BRIC 21st national hockey championship winning their respective matches at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The last year's runners-up Dhaka University defeated Jessore 3-0 after leading in the first half by 2-0.

Dhaka University will play their group final against Narayanganj on June 28.

In the day's match, Mahfuzul Alam Nixon put Dhaka University ahead in the early second minute from a penalty corner while Ramiz Ahmed doubled the margin in the 29th minute by a field goal. Tutul Kumar Nag completed the winners tally in the 68th minute also by a field goal.

In the other match, Army outplayed Rajshahi 4-0 after dominating the first half 2-0. Army will meet Bangladesh Air Force in the group final on June 28.

Rafiqul Islam put Army ahead in the early 2nd minute from a penalty corner while Hasan Shahid doubled the margin in the 34th minute also from a penalty corner. Sirajul Islam widened the margin in the 38th minute by a field goal and Rahajuddin finished the tally in the 49th minute also by a field goal.

On Friday, holders Dhaka earned a massive 15-1 victory over Comilla.

Winners dominated the first half 7-0. Veteran striker Mohamed Sadeq scored five goals. Rafiqul Islam and Kader struck twice. Murad two and Hasan and Javed one goal each for the winners. Kamal netted a consolation goal for the losers.

In the other match, Faridpur defeated Tangail 3-2 after leading the first half 2-1. Yousuf, Isha Miah and Musha Miah netted one goal each for the winners while Alamgir Alam scored both goals for the losers.

TODAY'S MATCHES
Faridpur vs Bangladesh Navy (2pm)
Dhaka vs BKSP (4pm)

No football

All matches of Keya Premier and First Division Football Leagues have been suspended for two days from due to bad ground condition. League Committee officials said yesterday, reports BSS.

The official said the ground condition was unplayable due to heavy rain.

Ex-BKSP students' meeting

Sports Reporter
A meeting of former students of Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan (BKSP) will be held on Tuesday (June 29) at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) cafeteria of Dhaka University at 11 am, says a press release.

The possibility of a reunion will be discussed at the meeting. All former students of BKSP are cordially invited to attend.

Kennis ravages Black Caps

LONDON, June 26: Somerset opener Gregor Kennis put New Zealand's likely bowling attack for next week's first Test at Edgbaston to the sword at Taunton on Friday, reports AFP.

Kennis struck 35 fours in a career-best 175 as Somerset reached 407 for seven on the first day of the Vodafone Challenge match.

It was an amazing turnaround in fortunes for Kennis, who had an average of 13 and a highest score of 49 from his previous 11 first-class matches.

England selector Graham Gooch was among a sizeable crowd and he will have been encouraged by some wayward New Zealand bowling.

No-one struggled more than left-arm seamer Geoff Allott, fresh from his impressive World Cup campaign, who had a return of nought for 84 from his 17 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day tour match between Somerset and New Zealand on Saturday:

SOMERSET: First innings (overnight 407-7)				
G Kennis c Fleming b Doull	175			
M Trescottick c Horne b Vettori	43			
P Holloway c Parore b Nash	4			
R Turner c Cairns b Astle	59			
M Burns c Vettori b Astle	0			
J Parsons b Cairns	16			
A Pierson c Parore b Allott	66			
P Jones c Trowse b Vettori	105			
I Jones c Fleming b Nash	23			
S Mahmood not out	7			
Extras (lb-13, lb-10, w-1, nb-16)	40			
Total (All out)	554			
Fall of wickets: 1-87; 2-120; 3-234; 4-235; 5-294; 6-333; 7-344; 8-516; 9-527.				
Bowling				
Allott	27	0	118	1
Cairns	26	8	94	1
Doull	15	3	74	1
Vettori	38	8	167	2
Nash	19.3	3	49	2
McMillan	1	0	7	0
Astle	16	9	22	3



Action from yesterday's national hockey championship match between Rajshahi and Bangladesh Army at the Moulana Bhasani National Stadium. —Star photo

Brazil the team to beat

ASUNCION, Paraguay, June 26 (AP): Brazil is synonymous with soccer success. Just not in South America's championship.

The only four-time World Cup champions have won the Copa America a mere five times in 32 tries, well behind Argentina and Uruguay, both who have won 14 times.

They have, however, finished runners-up a record 11 times. Desperate to recover their reputation from last year's 3-0 World Cup final loss to France, Brazil are reuniting Ronaldo, Rivaldo, and Roberto Carlos for the 41st edition of the continental tourney to prove Brazil is home to the best soccer in South America.

For Brazil's nine South American neighbours, plus invited guests Japan and Mexico, the challenge starts Tuesday in Paraguay to subdue a Brazilian powerhouse bent on defending their Copa America title and make up for losing the World Cup.

The Copa offers bragging rights in a region where soccer passions run deep along the faultlines of history. Played every two years, the Copa is the world's oldest soccer tournament for national teams, dating to 1910.

Normally, Argentina would be considered the odds-on

favourite to beat Brazil. While that is the case again this year, the Argentine roster is readi-

cally different from its 1998 World Cup version.

Many of Argentina's stars are staying home: Gabriel Batistuta, Hernan Crespo, and Juan Veron all want time to recuperate from grueling European seasons.

Instead, Argentina will bring an array of Argentine league stars and a sprinkling of the national team's more recognisable names. Local standouts Martin Palermo, Guillermo Barros Schelotto, and Juan Riquelme hope to make the first outing of new coach Marcelo Bilesa a success.

World Cup qualifiers Mexico and Chile also will be looking to derail Brazil.

With an eye on capturing their first Copa America title, both teams are loaded with their premier players. The two teams will get an early look at

Brazil, facing it in Group B along with traditional continental weakling Venezuela. El Matador Marcelo Salas and Ivan Zamorano again will form Chile's attacking tandem. But they may need to work overtime to offset weaknesses on defense.

Mexican opponents will be squinting again. Jorge Campos and his loud uniforms will be back in goal for Mexico. Luis Hernandez will be up front, though it remains unclear if Campos will leave the goal to join him.

Venezuela, the fourth team in the group, should prove a good tune-up match for Chile and Mexico in the quest to slay Brazil.

Hosts Paraguay should benefit from being in the easiest of the three groups. Group A opponents Peru, Japan, and Bolivia, however, will seek to spoil the host country's festive mood.

Angered that a leader of an attempted coup in Paraguay briefly served as the tournament's top organizer, goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert said months ago he wouldn't play for his native Paraguay. Chilavert is considered by many to be the world's best goalkeeper.

Miguel Angel Benitez, Paraguay's biggest offensive threat, also is staying away following a nasty confrontation with federation officials over money.

"We think we have enough good players to replace them," Paraguayan coach Ever Hugo Almeida said.

Bolivia won't make many changes from the team that lost to Brazil in the Copa America final two years ago. Marco Etcheverry is back directing traffic in the midfield and his teammate at American club DC United Jaime Moreno should pressure opposing defenders again as an experienced Bolivian squad returns.

For Japan, this year's guest country and the tournament question mark, Wagner Lopes should help ease the absence of Italian Serie A regular Hidetoshi Nakata.

Peru might create some havoc, led by Newcastle's Nolberto Solari.

In Group C, Colombia's official embarks on the post-Carlos Valderrama era. Meanwhile, the prickly Faustino Asprilla returns after being dismissed from France during last year's World Cup.

Always dangerous, Colombia's frontal attack will also include Real Madrid's Edwin Corga.

Like group favourites Argentina, the best players for Uruguay won't be in Paraguay. But an accomplished group of young players has the potential to make things interesting.

Finishing out the four-team group are Ecuador, striving to be competitive.

COPA AMERICA SCHEDULE

Group A (Asuncion)		Group B (Ciudad del Este)		Group C (Luque)	
MATCH	DATE	MATCH	DATE	MATCH	DATE
Peru vs Japan	June 29	Chile vs Mexico	June 30	Uruguay vs Colombia	July 1
Paraguay vs Bolivia	June 29	Brazil vs Venezuela	June 30	Argentina vs Ecuador	July 1
Paraguay vs Japan	July 2	Brazil vs Mexico	July 3	Uruguay vs Ecuador	July 4
Peru vs Bolivia	July 2	Chile vs Venezuela	July 3	Argentina vs Colombia	July 4
Paraguay vs Peru	July 5	Mexico vs Venezuela	July 6	Colombia vs Ecuador	July 7
Japan vs Bolivia	July 5	Brazil vs Chile	July 6	Argentina vs Uruguay	July 7
QUARTERFINALS		SEMIFINALS		3RD PLACE	
(1) 2nd A vs 2nd B — July 10: 4 pm at Luque		(5) Winners 2 vs Winners 3 at Luque — July 13		Losers 5 vs Losers 6 at P J Caballero — July 17	
(2) 1st A vs 3rd B — July 10: 6:30 pm at Asuncion		(6) Winners 1 vs Winners 4 at Ciudad del Este — July 14		FINAL	
(3) 1st C vs 3rd 1 — July 11: 3:30 pm at Luque				Winners 5 vs Winners 6 — July 18 at Asuncion	
(4) 1st B vs 2nd C — July 11: 6 pm at Ciudad del Este					

Becker keeps on going

LONDON, June 26: Evergreen Boris Becker prolonged his Wimbledon love affair on Saturday but there was a shock exit for men's fifth seed Richard Krajicek in the third round, reports AFP.

Becker, the 31-year-old three-time former winner, won his Centre Court clash with 18-year-old Australian Lleyton Hewitt 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 to roar into the last 16 in vintage style.

Becker is likely to face another Australian, second seed Pat Rafter, in the last 16.

Dutch giant Krajicek became the highest profile casualty of the men's draw so far when was beaten in five sets by Switzerland's Lorenzo Mantia.

Mantia, the world number 196, beat the 1996 champion 6-3, 7-6, 4-6, 4-6, 6-4 to earn a fourth-round clash with Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten.

Fourth seed Andre Agassi also advanced with a four-set win over Spaniard Alberto Martin but men's 14th seed Tommy Haas was another surprise loser, going down in three

tiebreak sets to Australian qualifier Wayne Arthurs.

Agassi, the 29-year-old French Open champion, won 6-2, 6-0, 2-6, 6-3 against baseliner Martin on Court One.

In the fourth round he will play tall Australian Arthurs, who ousted Haas on the back of three tiebreaks, 7-6, 7-6, 7-6.

Women's holder Jana Novotna and number three seed