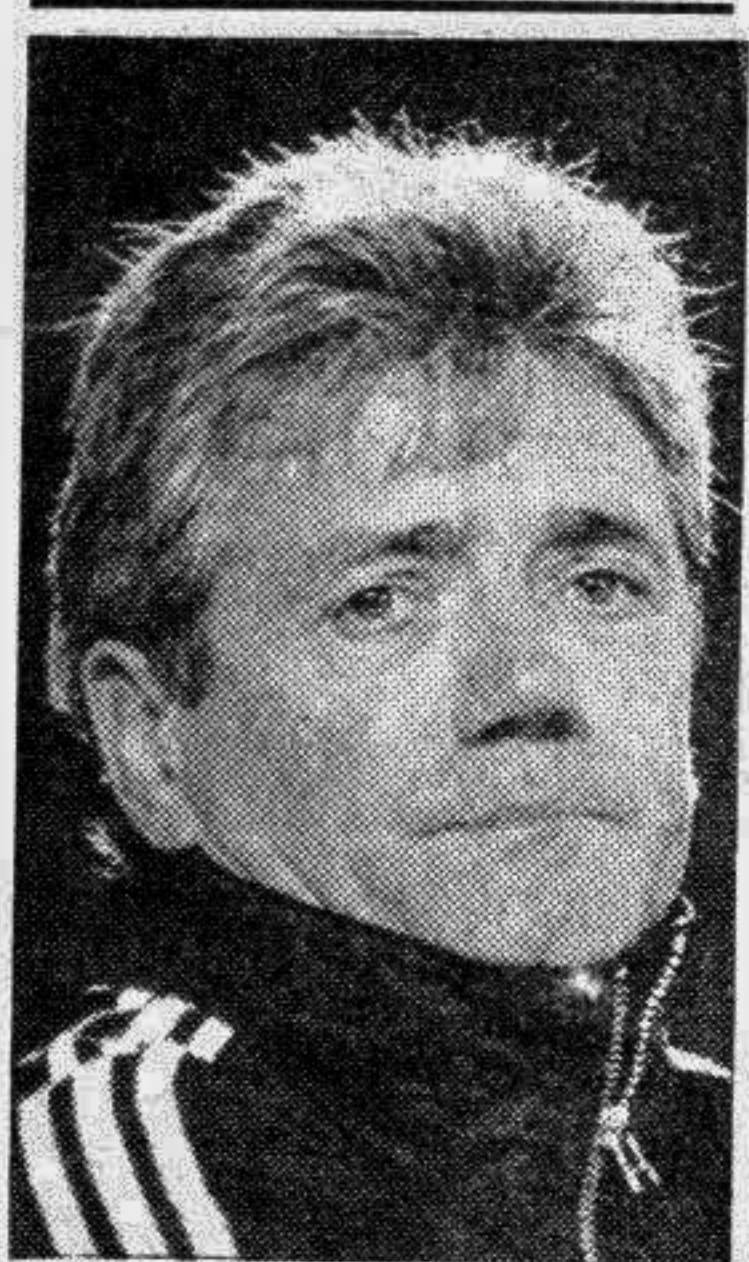


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Kevin Keegan
(England football manager)
"Gascoigne is in my thoughts."
On Paul Gascoigne.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-118
✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Aug 6, '99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who is the new England cricket coach?
Fletcher Hussain Marsh
- Brazilian footballer Ronaldo plays for
Lazio Barcelona Arsenal
- Who is the captain of Argentina soccer team?
Simeone Batistuta Ayala
- How many Grand Slam titles has Steffi Graf won till now?
22 23 24
- Who is ATP's top ranked player right now?
Sampras Moya Agassi

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Notice

Due to unavoidable reasons draw of the WHIZZ KID Competition-118 could not be held last night. It will now take place on August 6.

— Sports Editor

Div II hockey

East End Green Club earned an emphatic 4-0 win against Rayerbazar SC in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division hockey league at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half 1-0 with Kamal scoring a field goal in the 24th minute. Rubel and Tofail added two more field goals in the 41st and 44th minute respectively. Lavlu completed the rout with a field goal in the 62nd minute.

Whatmore coming this weekend

COLOMBO, July 30: Sri Lanka's new cricket coach Dav Whatmore is arriving this weekend to prepare the island nation for a series against Australia and a triangular contest that will feature India as well next month, reports AP.

With Whatmore's coming, the team will get a tremendous boost, said Rennie Wijetilleke, the chief of the Sri Lankan Cricket Board.

"This is the best news we have in recent times," Rennie Wijetilleke said.

Aruna Ranatunga resigned as captain earlier this month after Sri Lanka's debacle in the World Cup where it was eliminated in the first round. Star opener Sanath Jayasuriya has succeeded Ranatunga as skipper.

Whatmore, a Sri Lankan-born Australian, had guided the island nation to its maiden World Cup triumph in 1996.

Whatmore, 45, joined Lancashire in 1997 after resigning as the Sri Lanka coach. He is believed to have differences with then captain Ranatunga.

After a difficult first season, Whatmore guided Lancashire to a one-day double of the NatWest Trophy and AXA League in 1998.

Muktis chance to stop runaway MSC today

Sports Reporter



Leaders Mohamed Muktis will take on holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in an important match of the Keya Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon. The match will kick off at 5:30 pm.

The match is equally crucial for both Mohammedan and Muktiyoddha as it will determine which side ends their first round campaign at the top spot.

Mohammedan, the popular Motijheel-based crowd-pulling side, are the only team in the ten-team fray who remain unbeaten, having won seven of their previous eight matches against a draw. The black-and-whites are leading the table with 22 points, three points more than second-placed Muktiyoddha Sangsad, who were dislodged from the joint top spot last week when they lost to Abahani 1-0.

A win will give Mohammedan a six-point lead in the table when they start the 'super four' phase along with Muktiyoddha, Abahani and Arambagh. The final phase of the league is likely to start from August 2.

On the other hand, it will be a do-or-die affair for the all-reds in order to force today's opponents to share with them the top spot. Muktiyoddha have 19 points from eight matches, which put them second in the

table with a two-point lead over Abahani, who completed their first round with 17 points. Arambagh, the fourth team making it to the super round, have 15 points from the first phase.

The morale of the Mohammedan team seemed to be high after they beat arch rivals Abahani 2-1 last week. That victory gave Alfaz and Company a definite boost. Mohammedan are likely to rely on their skipper to score today.

The experienced striker, who is the leading goal-scorer for his side with four goals, was out of action for more than a week because of a viral fever. However, the national forward gave clear indications of returning to form in the last match against Chalanika and is expected to play with his full potential today.

If midfielder Rakib can play his natural game and provide enough support to Alfaz and Anwar, the Muktiyoddha defence will have a tough time.

On the other hand, Nigerian

forward Effiani with five goals, shares the leading scorer's honours with Zakir (Abahani), Mizan (Brothers Union), Khokon (Badda Jagarani), Ritu and Asif (Arambagh). He will have to practically shoulder the responsibility of winning the match for Muktiyoddha.

Ace forward Nakib, Muktiyoddha's leading scorer for the last couple of seasons, is going through a poor patch and has scored only two goals in eight matches.

This will be the penultimate fixture of the first leg, which will end with the Fakirpool Youngmen's Club-Mirpur Chalanika match tomorrow.

Leading scorers: 5 goals—Effiani (Muktiyoddha), Zakir (Abahani), Mizan (Brothers Union), Khokon (Badda Jagarani), Ritu and Asif (Arambagh), 4 goals—Alfaz (Mohammedan) and Milan (Rahamatganj), 3 goals—Rakib (Muktiyoddha), Sabir Pasha (Abahani), Farhad (Farashganj) and Rabi (Mirpur Chalanika).

STANDINGS									
Teams	M	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		
Mohammedan SC	8	7	1	0	12	1	22		
Muktiyoddha Sangsad	8	6	1	1	17	6	19		
Abahani KC	9	5	2	2	13	6	17		
Arambagh KS	9	4	3	2	14	11	15		
Badda Jagarani	9	4	2	3	12	10	14		
Brothers Union	9	3	1	5	11	11	10		
Farashganj SC	9	3	1	5	8	11	10		
YMC Fakirpool	8	0	3	5	2	13	3		
Mirpur Chalanika	8	0	1	7	7	24	1		



Action from the exhibition match between Obermann XI and Patzke XI at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Sachin was surprised



BOMBAY, July 30: India's newly appointed cricket captain Sachin Tendulkar said today he was given the job against his wishes because he was not 'mentally prepared' for it, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old master batsman, brought back as captain in place of the sacked Mohammedan Azharuddin on Wednesday, stunned a packed press conference here by saying he had expected vice-captain Ajay Jadhav to get the nod.

"I was not mentally prepared for taking up the captaincy as it is the practice for the vice-captain to be named the next captain," Tendulkar said.

"As it is I was pressurised a lot, I was concentrating on how to win matches for India and how to better myself as I did not get many runs in the World Cup."

Tendulkar said that on Monday he had told Indian cricket board president Raj Singh Dungarpur, secretary Jaywant Lele and chairman of selectors Ajit Wadekar that he was "not mentally prepared" to take over.

But Tendulkar added he had now accepted the challenge and would try to live up to the confidence shown in him by the selectors.

"I am definitely proud to lead the country. It is a great honour," he said.

"Now I have to mentally start preparing myself for the job. I hope things will all fall into the right place."

"Performing better as a batsman is up to me, but performing better as a captain is up to the other 10 players also," he said.

Tendulkar was first appointed captain in August 1996, but that stint lasted only 17

Charity soccer

BAGERHAT, July 30: Bagerhat beat Bangladesh XI of West Bengal in an exhibition charity football match at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Dear netted the all-important goal in the 34th minute.

months when the selectors dumped him, saying the burden of leading the side was affecting his batting.

He said he had not laid down any conditions while accepting the captaincy the second time.

"I want to now put the past behind and look at the positives. People always expect a lot from the captain. Sometimes the expectations are too high," he said. "The players do make mistakes and so does the captain. The captain's job is to tell the players what to do."

"Every captain has his style and one should stick to that or you will be neither here nor there."

"Ultimately the captain is the final authority on the ground and is in charge of the situation," he said.

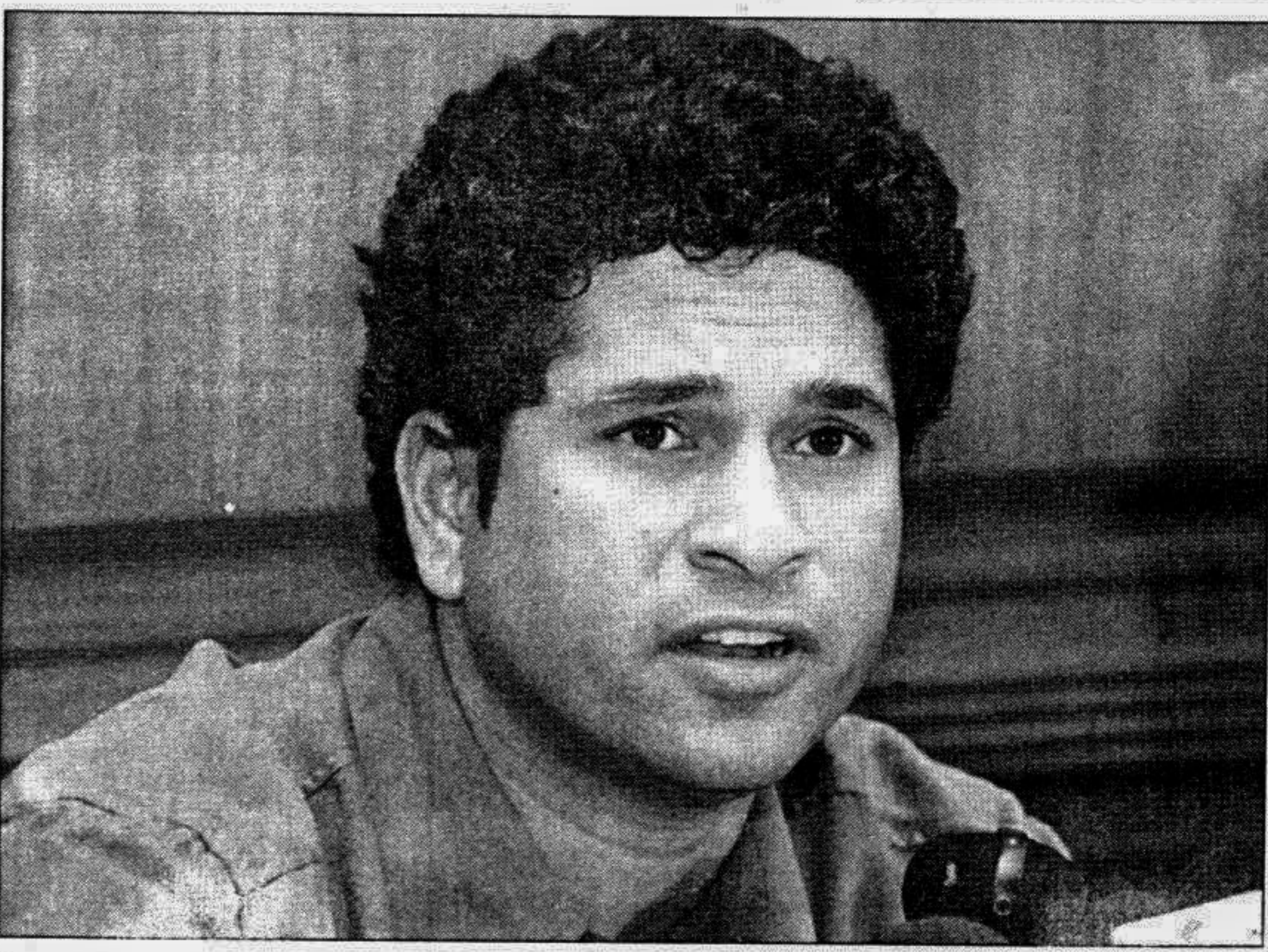
Tendulkar will lead India in three limited-over tournaments in Sri Lanka, Singapore and Kenya in August and September.

The captain for the rest of the season, which includes home series against New Zealand and South Africa and a tour of Australia, will be named after the selection committee is reconstituted in September.

In Tendulkar's first term as captain, India won three Tests, lost four and drew 10. He also won 17 one-dayers and lost 31.

Tendulkar, the leading batsman in contemporary cricket, has scored 5,177 runs in 68 Tests with 19 centuries and an average of 54.19.

In 218 one-dayers, he has amassed 8,054 runs with a record 22 centuries.



Reappointed Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar responds to a question during a press conference in Bombay yesterday. — AFP photo

Pintoo Academy begins journey

The Pintoo Football Academy, the country's lone private soccer academy, began its journey from the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday, report agencies.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader formally inaugurated the academy named after Zakaria Pintoo, the captain of Swadhin Bangla team.

Noted German FIFA coach and founder of the academy Holger Obermann and German World Cup hero of 1970 Bernd Patzke arrived in the capital on Thursday to attend the inaugural function of the academy.

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) general secretary Harun-ur-Rashid MP, Obermann, Patzke, Pintoo and German charge d'affaires addressed the function.

According to academy sources, the first batch of the two-month long training camp with 40 selected street children of 14-16 age group will begin on August 1 at the Gazipur Stadium and later some 240 children will be equipped with basic soccer skills in six batches in the next one year.

Later two exhibition matches were held.

In the main one Obermann XI defeated Patzke XI 3-1.

A number of former national booters and officials of the German Embassy in Dhaka took part in the 40-minute match.

Joshi scored two and current Iraqi coach of the national team Samir Shakir one goal for the winners while Manik netted one for the losers.

The other match between Tokai XI and Chhinmamul XI. The game ended in a goalless draw.

Bhutto goes into bat for Akram

ISLAMABAD, July 30 (AFP/Internet): Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Friday condemned the suspension of three star cricketers over match-fixing charges, calling it a "drama" to divert attention from political issues.

"It is deplorable to see how sporting heroes of the nation are being hounded, giving the impression that Pakistan lacks sportsmanship spirit and is a bad loser," the former prime minister said.

In a statement from London, released by her party here, Bhutto said the "drama" had been created on the orders of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, to divert attention from domestic political issues.

"The cricket team is being crushed and accused of taking money for losing a cricket match," she said.

Pakistani cricketers Wasim Akram and batsmen Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik have been suspended from the national team after being charged with match-fixing by the government's anti-corruption Accountability Bureau.

The players, who have denied the charges, have been interrogated by investigators of the bureau.

Pakistan's defeat by Australia in the World Cup last month triggered angry reactions from fans and accusations the match had been rigged.

Officials of the bureau and the chief of an ad-hoc committee managing cricket affairs, Mujibur Rehman, have said the findings of the investigation will be passed to a one-man judicial commission already probing the cricket scandal.

The commission of Lahore High Court Judge Malik Mohammad Quayum was entrusted with the probe after an interim report by the Pakistan Cricket Board implicated the three in September last year.

Quayum is expected to complete the inquiry next month.



Former national football stars Badal Roy (2nd from L) and Ashrafuddin Chunnun (2nd from R) presenting bouquets to German FIFA coach Holger Obermann (R) and compatriot Bernd Patzke, also a World Cup hero, before the exhibition match yesterday. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

Second Bangabandhu Cup

Preparation at snail's pace

Sports Reporter



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is yet to finalise several aspects of the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup, which is billed for an August 25 start at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Although twelve foreign teams have already sent their entries to the tournament, BFF is yet to decide how many teams it will formally invite to participate in the meet.

According to a senior BFF official, who requested anonymity, BFF is planning to hold a 12-team tournament, which will also include hosts Bangladesh. He said that the federation is likely to leave out one country from their 12-country list. The matter will be finalised when the chairman of the organising committee, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, returns from Paris on August 4, the source informed.

Apart from the format, the federation is also facing an acute financial problem to run the tournament.

Although the BFF general secretary, Harun-ur-Rashid MP, had said last week that whatever amount is required for arranging the tournament would be arranged, the reality is a far cry.

The BFF Executive Committee sat only once last week in connection with the Bangabandhu Cup. But the meeting ended without any decision as the chairman of the organising committee was absent, which also prevented the federation from forming the different sub-committees for the tournament.

According to another source in the BFF, the federation needs around three and a half crore Taka to arrange the Bangabandhu Cup and not a single penny has so far been raised.

The source said One Crore Taka will be required to bring

only the teams from Brazil and Ghana. The team from Hungary will also be costly.

The other nine teams, which have confirmed their participation are: Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Indonesia, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Nepal and India.

"The BFF can not take the responsibility of arranging such a big fund," said an influential BFF official in this regard.

With only 25 days left, the federation seems hardly prepared for the tournament. Only the chairman of the organising committee has been named so far. Besides, the tournament budget has not yet been estimated.

Kishoreganj clinch DC Gold Cup

MYMENSINGH, July 30: Kishoreganj emerged champions of the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup football tournament beating Sherpur 2-1 at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Rahel put Sherpur ahead in the 8th minute, but Taj equalised the margin for Kishoreganj in the 39th minute. Anwar netted the match-deciding goal in the 18th minute of the second half.

After the match, District Commissioner of Mymensingh distributed the prizes.

Women's h'ball final today

Viquarnissa Noon School & College meet Shamsun Nahar Hall of Dhaka University today in the final of the 5th Delta Life Women's handball tournament at the Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex at 4 pm, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will distribute the prize as chief guest.

Meanwhile, in the third place deciding match yesterday, Mirpur Girls Ideal Laboratory Institute beat Ishpani Girls School & College 5-2 after leading the first half 2-0.

Farju netted 3 and Mithun 2 goals for the winners while Sumi scored 2 for the losers.



STREET BOYS NO MORE: Street boys showcase their football talent at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

Moin may replace Wasim



KARACHI, July 30 (The Dawn/Internet): The ad hoc committee has decided to replace Wasim Akram as captain even if he wins his battle to prove innocence in the match-fixing and betting saga, well-placed sources said.

Sources, requesting anonymity, said former captain Moin Khan will take over as captain.

Moin captained Pakistan in one Test last year at Lahore against Zimbabwe.

He also captained Pakistan in the 1995 Asia Cup at Sharjah. He was Akram's deputy in the recent World Cup.

Mujibur Rehman, ad hoc committee chairman, told newsmen that he has made up his mind who will replace Akram but refused to disclose the name.

"I believe in continuity and that's precisely why I appointed Yawar Saeed as manager for four years. I don't know if my policy would be followed by my successors but I believe that's

the right thing," he added.

Sources said Moin earned the ad hoc committee chairman's nod after gathering information from his teammates. "Moin is a popular player of the team. Every member likes him

and there's no denying the fact that he is a fighter and has a good head on his shoulders."

Sources added that Akram has been informed of the decision and the Test all-rounder has promised to first clear his name and then extend full support to the wicketkeeper.

Mujib said the name of the captain for the Canadian trip would be announced next week.

In another development, the ad hoc committee has approached Wasim Hasan Raja to take over as cricket manager. In addition to this, the committee has also contacted Australian Cricket Board (ACB) to recommend a good coach.

"There are a couple of names that can be seriously considered. But the ad hoc committee is firm on the point of appointing a foreign coach because they are more professional and dedicated than the others," sources remarked.

The ad hoc committee is also expected to offer a fresh contract to the England-born South African Richard Pybus. "He will be reappointed as a trainer."



MOIN KHAN