

Column One

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 Rivaldo 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



Ajay Jadeja
(Indian cricket vice-captain)
"We spend hours every day training and preparing, but the real thing is quite different, a match is completely unpredictable."

Nat'l TT Ansars begin in style

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Ansars made a flying start in the 23rd national table tennis championships that began at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.
On the inaugural day of the six-day meet, Ansars men's team event matches, Dinajpur beat Comilla 3-1, Rajshahi thrashed Faridpur 3-0, Gaibandha blanked Dinajpur 3-0, Patuakhali outplayed Thakurgaon 3-0 while Habiganj beat Pirojpur 3-1.

The boy's team event, Habiganj edged Bogra 3-2, Rangpur beat Sunamganj 3-1, while Rajshahi won two matches against Faridpur and Patuakhali by identical 3-0 margins.

Pakistan woo Woolmer

KARACHI, Aug 2 (Reuters): Pakistan's new cricket chief Muejib Rehman has asked former South Africa coach Bob Woolmer to take charge of the national team for the coming season, the Dawn newspaper reported on Monday.
"I sincerely hope that he agrees because I am convinced that he is the person who can extract the best out of the Pakistani players," Rehman was quoted as saying.
Rehman, chairman of the ad hoc committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said he expected a reply from Woolmer this week.
Former England opener Woolmer ended a highly successful five-year term with South Africa after the World Cup in June.

Woolmer has already turned down coaching offers from England and Sri Lanka. He is to take over as coach of English county Warwickshire from next season.
"He is methodical and calculated and that's the art which has made him the best coach," Rehman said.
Rehman said Pakistan had the best players in the world, but they did not always perform at their best.
"What lacks in them is consistency," he said. "This is the element which Bob can infuse into the players to bring them at par with any side in the world."



A MOMENT FROM THE SWEETEST MEMORY: Bangladesh players celebrating the fall of a Pakistani wicket during their outstanding World Cup victory. — Star file photo

Stop unfair aspersion on our valiant cricketers

This razakar-ism must stop

Nizamuddin Ahmed

Intrigued though we were by ECB's stratagem to make the two weaker Group B teams - New Zealand and Bangladesh - play against a UK side on its home ground, the significance of beating the Scots had been summed up since before departing Dhaka. Cricket often resembles the enigma of contract bridge, manager Tanveer Muzhar had opted to pass his call even before setting foot on the game's motherland. No one was ready to believe him, perhaps not even he, when he went on record that Bangladesh would not win a single match in the World Cup.

The defeat against the Kiwis at Chelmsford was on the cards, but our bowlers helped to raise expectancy. At Dublin's Clontarf, our fate was pre-destined against the Caribbean, but our score was something to write home about. So by the time we reached the Scottish capital, our morale was as high as the mountainous North.

It was windy, wet and cold at Edinburgh's Grange ground. Stewards found it difficult to keep on ground the makeshift marquee that served as the press box. Five down for 26 in 11 overs, however, made conditions rather warm and stuffy. It was all in the mind. We needed some fresh air. Minhazul Abedin, a testimony of self-belief, baled out the team from the brink of a calamity, for we had gone to the World Cup to win only one match - that against Scotland. At lunch there were not many apples in the barrel, but the Bangladeshis reckoned there were enough to outlast the tenth wicket of the hosts, no less boisterous than the visiting tigers.

The anticipation and the stakes were high as Bangladesh came out to defend their modest total in search of their World Cup goal. We were forced to leave the relative comfort of the press box to stand out in the cold, gusty open air to suffer the

Whatmore says what to do

COLOMBO, Aug 2 (AFP/Reuters): Sri Lanka have already tightened team discipline as they seek to cling to their way back from their World Cup humiliation under coach Dav Whatmore.

Whatmore on Monday urged Sri Lankan cricket managers to pay attention to details to ensure the national team realised its full potential.

New team manager Chandra Shaffer said tighter discipline was already being imposed inside the dressing room and players were punctual for practices.

Earlier, some players had friends walking into the dressing room while other players objected to it.

Whatmore who arrived back for his second stint in charge on Saturday, told reporters it was important for the authorities to pay great attention "to the small processes" that all contribute to the final objective.
"The skill level of Sri Lankan players is high... the main thing I wish to say is that the small things that contribute to the process are clearly understood by all," Whatmore said.
Whatmore said bowling, batting and fielding will be closely followed ahead of the forthcoming triangular with Australia and India and the three-test series with Australia that follows.
"The changes may not happen quickly as everyone would like," he said.
He said many people were expecting him to perform wonders with the Lankan team to the extent that "the expectations were unrealistic".
Whatmore said he believed former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga could play. Whatmore ended a two-year contract with Sri Lanka in October 1996 to go to English county Lancashire. He told reporters he was "extremely happy to be back" and had no intention of repeating his performance of ending the

Super Four kicks off today

Sports Reporter
Leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club take on Arambagh Krira Sangha in the opening match of the Super Four phase of the Keya Premier Division football league that begins at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon. The match kicks off at 5:30 pm.

Top four finishers in the first leg of the ten-team league will play each other thrice. Defending champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad and title aspirants Abahani are the other super teams, and they meet tomorrow.

Mohammedan Sporting completed their first round campaign with 25 points from nine matches while Muktiyoddha Sangsad finished the first leg with 19 points. Abahani are in third place with 17 points followed by Arambagh on 15 points.

The other six clubs-Badda Jagarani, Brothers Union, Farashganj Sporting Club, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society, Youngmen's Club Fakirerpool and Mirpur Chalanika will go a through return leg which begins from tomorrow. On completion the bottom three will be relegated.

First week's fixtures of the Super Four and Return Leg:

August 3 Mohammedan SC vs Arambagh KS (5:30 pm)
August 4 Muktiyoddha Sangsad vs Abahani KC (5:30 pm)
August 6 Muktiyoddha Sangsad vs Arambagh KS (3:30 pm)
August 6 Mohammedan SC vs Abahani KC (5:30 pm)
August 8 Abahani KC vs Arambagh KS (3:30 pm)
August 8 Mohammedan SC vs Muktiyoddha Sangsad (5:30 pm)

Return Leg:
August 4 Badda Jagarani vs Mirpur Chalanika (3:30 pm)
August 5 Brothers Union vs YMC Fakirerpool (4 pm)
August 7 Farashganj SC vs Rahmatganj MFS (3:30 pm)
August 7 Badda Jagarani vs YMC Fakirerpool (5:30 pm)
August 9 Brothers Union vs Rahmatganj MFS (3:30 pm)
August 9 Farashganj SC vs Mirpur Chalanika (5:30 pm)

MSC's appeal to Hanif

Sports Reporter
League leaders Mohammedan Sporting Club yesterday appealed to Bangladesh Football Federation president Mohammad Hanif to rethink the Super Four fixtures of the Keya Premier Division football league.

In a petition the popular Motijheel club urged the soccer supremo not to force clubs into playing every alternate day, which would not only increase the number of injuries, but also deprive them of a sizable amount of gate money.

The letter, signed by club general secretary Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan, also sought a meeting between the BFF and club officials to discuss the issue.

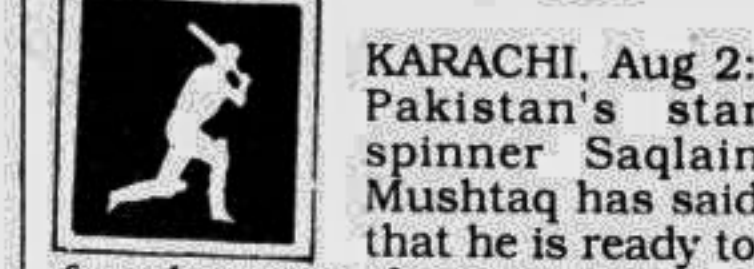
BCCI may show Azhar some mercy

CALCUTTA, Aug 2: Deposed Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin may not have to undertake a board-conducted fitness test if medical fitness certificate was given by a reputed doctor, reports PTI.

"The board may consider his case if the medical certificate was given by a reputed doctor like Anant Joshi. We will have to see," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president, Raj Singh Dungarpur told reporters.

Dungarpur said that Azhar would submit his medical fitness certificate on August 5.

'Hang me if I'm guilty'



KARACHI, Aug 2: Pakistan's star spinner Saqlain Mushtaq has said that he is ready to face hanging if proved guilty of match-fixing and bribery.

"I am found guilty, punish me. I am even ready for public execution. But if it proves wrong then the accusers should be punished," Saqlain told AFP before his departure for England.

"I can swear on the Quran that I am innocent. My hands are clear because I have never been involved in match-fixing," Saqlain said.

Saqlain came to Pakistan to meet officials of a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) committee investigating match-fixing and bribery allegations.

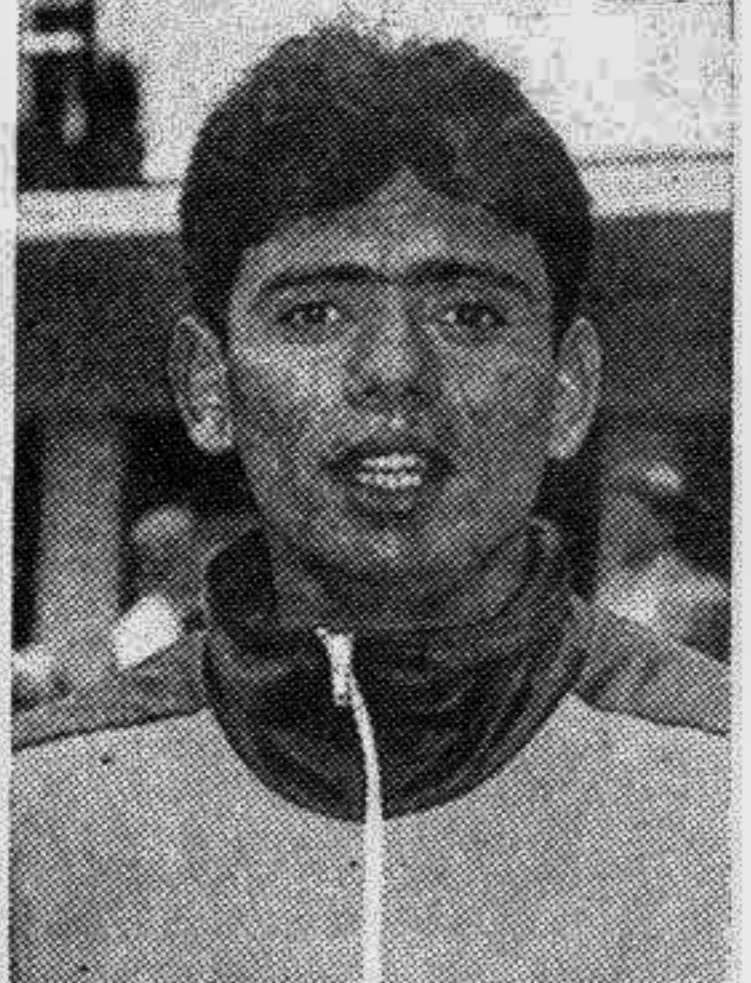
Saqlain was named as "beneficiary" along with Mushtaq Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Waqar Younis, Moin Khan in last year's interim report by the PCB.

Team skipper Wasim Akram, Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik were suspended by the committee on the basis of that interim report.

Cricket bosses said the three would not be considered for selection until they prove their innocence.

The fate of the suspended

players depends on the findings of a one-man judicial commission headed by the Lahore High Court (LHC) judge, Malik Mo-



SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ hammad Qayyum, expected to be finalised in August.

"I have never been asked by any senior player to play poorly. I have never seen any player involved in such a practice," Saqlain said, adding "but people are still throwing dirt on me."

"I have been disturbed. You cannot even imagine that how

much it hurts because I always play for my country and pray for its success," he said.

The off-spinner plays for English county Surrey and has bagged 27 wickets in three matches.

The 22-year-old Saqlain said he planned to undergo treatment to an injured right knee in England.

"They level allegations without thinking they are not only accusing the players but also defaming Pakistan. For me Pakistan comes first, as my identity comes from my country," he said.

"Even if I perform well in the county championship, then the newspapers say Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain... so Saqlain is a Pakistani," he said.

Saqlain is the youngest cricketer to take 200 wickets in one-day internationals. He has 203 wickets from 108 one-day matches.

Big moment for Butcher



LONDON, July 2 (Internet report): Mark Butcher spoke of the "great honour" at being chosen as England's stand-in captain for the third Test - but remained optimistic that Nasser Hussain will recover in time to lead the side.

opener Butcher was selected by England on Sunday as the man who would take charge at Old Trafford against New Zealand should Hussain fail to pass a fitness test on the broken finger sustained during the nine-wicket defeat by New Zealand at Lord's.

Butcher was chosen - after glowing reports of his leadership at Surrey earlier this season - before other candidates like Graham Thorpe, who led the side in Hussain's absence during the last Test, or returning former captain Michael Atherton.

It is a testimony to Butcher's leadership skills with just 24 Tests to his name. Whatever the reasons for his appointment, Butcher is just delighted to be considered in that role, having enjoying the responsibility of captaining Surrey in Adam Hobbins' absence during the World Cup.

"I'm not fazed by the idea of captaining England," he said.

"I rather look forward to it if I get the chance, although I hope Nasser is fit - we all do."

"But captaining your country is a real honour, and even if I don't captain the side it's a great honour even to be thought of in

that regard."

England are remaining optimistic that Hussain, named in the 14-man squad, may recover in time and are giving him the maximum opportunity to prove his fitness before handing the responsibility to Butcher.



MARK BUTCHER

Chairman of selectors David Graveney explained: "Nasser's been trying to put a glove on at home and fiddle with a bat and if it's a positive indication he's shaking hands with his right hand rather than his left, and we will be giving him the maximum amount of time to get fit."

"Nasser's original decision was to give it to Graham Thorpe on the field because we were coming towards the end of the New Zealand innings and he thought quite rightly that both

Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart were about to bat - and I had no inclination to change that decision."

"We hope the idea of Butcher as captain isn't activated in this situation. But Mark's been acting Surrey captain this season, and we had good reports from all people involved in the game, players, umpires and team management."

Butcher, who guided Surrey to five County Championship wins in his eight-game unbeaten record as captain earlier this season, has clearly set his sights on captaincy - if not with England, certainly with Surrey - in the long-term.

He admitted: "I find captaining very enjoyable - something I have always felt I would do a good job at."

"I've always tried to think as a captain even when not captaining the side, trying to think in those terms on the field. I did it a few times last year and found it very enjoyable."

He is well aware, though, of the pressures involved in captaining a side, particularly at international level with England needing a vastly improved performance to raise the public's spirits after their dismal display at Lord's.

"Captaining a side brings its own pressures in a one-off situation, but it's not to be enjoyed too," added Butcher.

"There will be lots of experienced players and familiar faces to call upon for advice, but if I were to take charge you have to be aware that the buck stops with you."

Gloucester's drought over



LONDON, Aug 2 (AFP/Internet report): Gloucestershire celebrated their first trophy for 22 years after overpowering an out-of-sorts Yorkshire by 124 runs to win the Benson and Hedges Super Cup at Lord's on Sunday.

Captain Mark Alleyne led by example as he scored a fine century, after deciding to bat on winning the toss, out of Gloucestershire's formidable 291 for nine from 50 overs.

Yorkshire had been guilty of some poor bowling and their batsmen never seriously threatened to overhaul that to-

tal after losing early wickets left them with an impossible task.

For Alleyne, it was a personal triumph after a winter of sadness which saw him forced to return home early from England's tour of Australia because of the death of his 56-year-old father Euclid in a car crash.

He then suffered agony on a professional level of missing out on England's World Cup squad but on Sunday he lit up cricket's headquarters with a dazzling performance.

Kim Barnett (28) and Tim Hancock (35) had laid the foundations with an opening stand of 66 in 13 overs as the Yorkshire attack strayed in line and length.

Then Alleyne and Rob Cunliffe took the game out of their opponents' reach in a stand of 157 in 26 overs.

Scotland World Cup star Gavin Hamilton felt the full weight of Alleyne's bat as he conceded 55 runs in six overs.

Cunliffe eventually was bowled by Craig White for 61 after working the ball around so effectively that he hit only two fours and a six in his 81-ball innings.

But Alleyne, who gave only one chance when on 88, continued to smash the Tykes attack to all parts of the ground and a two to long-on off Hamilton took him to his 100 off just 86 balls.

It was the signal for scenes of celebration amongst the Gloucestershire contingent in the 21,500 crowd and Alleyne went on to make 112 with 11 fours and two sixes - both in one over from Hamilton - before being bowled by White.

White and Paul Hutchison helped themselves to some late wickets in the normal end of innings slog but it was soon evident that it was too little, too late for Yorkshire.

They were on the back foot from the moment Greg Blewett (9) edged fellow Australian Ian Harvey to first slip, although it needed third umpire George Sharp to adjudge the catch had been cleanly taken.

Yorkshire captain David Byas (13) was caught and bowled by the accurate Mike Smith off a leading edge and then White aimed a dreadful heave across the top of the stumps and was bowled by Jonathan Lewis.

Imran urges to suspend cricket

KARACHI, Aug 2 (AFP): Pakistani cricket legend Imran Khan said Sunday the country should not play international cricket until the issue of match-fixing and betting was resolved.

"Pakistan should not play international cricket until the issue is resolved because it is damaging the national image as well as the image of players," he told reporters.

Imran condemned as "humiliating" the implication of star players in match-fixing and bribery.

The Pakistan Cricket Board's ad hoc committee has suspended skipper Wasim Akram, Ijaz Ahmed and Salim Malik over match-fixing and bribery charges.

The chairman of the committee, Muejib Rehman, has said the three would not be considered for selection until they proved their innocence.

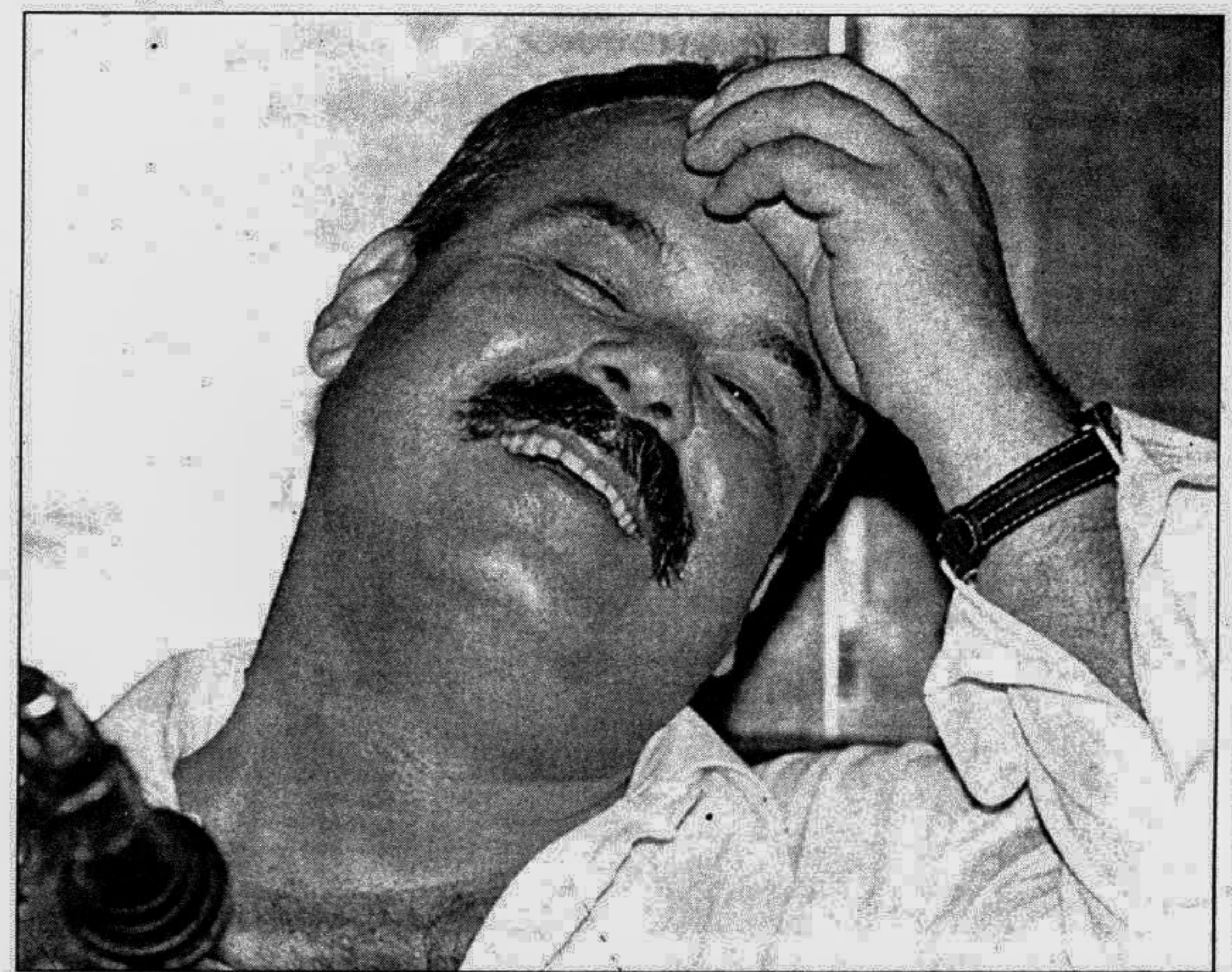
Investigators from the government's anti-corruption Accountability Bureau have interrogated the trio.

The charges stem from an year-old interim report by the cricket board implicating the three in match-fixing and bribery.

Imran said the bureau and the board's ad hoc committee had not acted properly because "they went public before any conviction" by a judicial commission which has been investigating allegations since last year.

The commission has yet to announce its findings and the board's interim report contained mere accusations, he said.

"What will happen if the suspended players go to the court to



Dav Whatmore, the newly signed Sri Lankan cricket coach, speaking to the media at Colombo yesterday. — AFP photo