

Column One

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Competition-118

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- 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

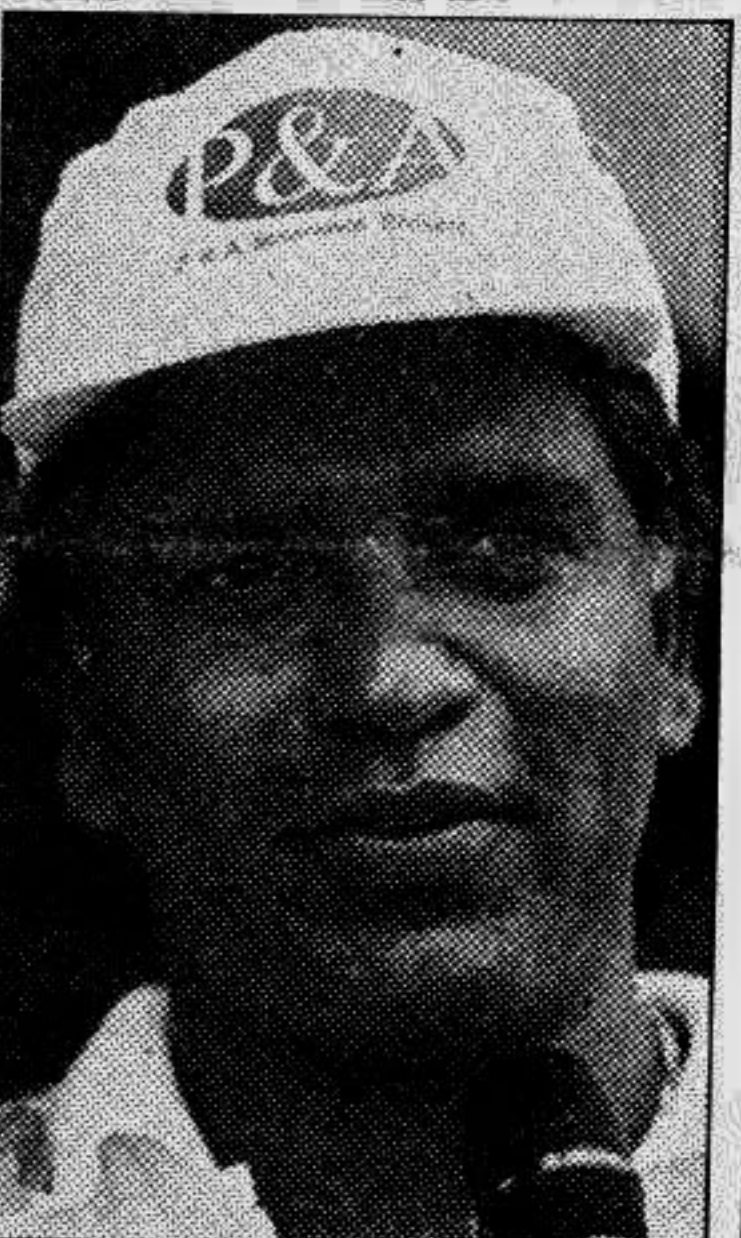
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SPORTS TALK



Arjuna Ranatunga

(Former SL cricket captain)
"Right now my interest is in cricket. But after my retirement I might enter the political arena. After all, my father and brother are politicians. And my father's blood runs in me too."

SL hit back at Emerson

COLOMBO, Aug 11: Sri Lanka cricket chiefs have hit back at Australian umpire Ross Emerson, after his comments about off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's action, reports Reuters.

Emerson, who called the Sri Lanka slow bowler for throwing earlier this year, said in a television interview on Monday that many players around the world believed he threw.

Sri Lanka's cricket board said in a statement today: "Emerson's comments come at a time when there are serious questions about his future career as an international umpire and publicity might be just a means of getting attention."

Murali has been enjoying a spectacular season in England and is without question a great spin bowler.

Muralitharan has taken 66 wickets in six county championship matches for Lancashire, whom he joined after the recent World Cup in England.



Arambagh defenders trying to stop an airborne Monwar Munna of Mohammedan during their Premier League 'Super Four' fixture yesterday. — Star photo

Breather buoys Mohammedan

Sports Reporter

A second-half rally enabled title aspirants Mohammedan Sporting to come from behind to post a comprehensive 3-1 win over neighbours Arambagh Krira Sangha in their second of three 'super four' clashes of the Keya Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

Mohammedan, who suffered a downright degrading defeat (1-4) to holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad in their previous match last Sunday, were trailing 0-1 at the breather against a spirited Arambagh side, who dominated the first half.

However, Mohammedan bounced back in the second session with three goals to return to winning ways.

The black and whites appeared as yet unable to overcome the shock and humiliation of their earlier defeat as

they were quite disorganised in the first session, failing to produce any notable move. They also missed the services of their two regulars -- midfielders Rakib Hossain and Matur Rahman Munna.

Arambagh, who lost the first

'super four' clash by a solitary goal last week, played positively. Although a good number of regular players were missing from their lineup, Arambagh earned the respect of their powerful counterparts with their attacking game.

Forward Mujibur Rahman Ritu put Arambagh ahead following a right-side attack in the 15th minute. Defender Tito crossed the ball to Tajir inside the box. The latter moved up before missing the ball to Ritu. Mohammedan custodian Ponir

failed to grip Ritu's shot, and the ball returned to Ritu, who made no mistake this time with a left-footer (1-0). This was Ritu's seventh goal of the season.

Arambagh had two more chances in the 28th and 29th minutes, but thanks this time

to Ponir, whose quick reflection saved Mohammedan. After the breather, Mohammedan made a drastic change in their approach and took command of the match within ten minutes with two goals from two corners.

Defender Monwar Hossain Munna levelled the match placing home a Ruhul Amin corner in the very first minute of the second-half, while striker Mizanur Rahman Don headed home an Alfaz corner eight

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Aussie tour to SL faces fresh threat

Warne loses state captaincy

MELBOURNE, Australia, Aug 11 (AFP): Australian star spinner Shane Warne was shocked to lose the captaincy of the Victorian Sheffield Shield team for next season.

Warne, vice-captain of Australia, is expected to be succeeded as skipper by retired Test paceman Paul Reiffel.

Warne's international programme would make him available for just one Shield game and three domestic one-dayers but he said Wednesday he was disappointed at being dropped as state skipper.

He said he would like to have been told who the new captain was so he could wish him well.

But Warne said he would accept this decision. "I'll cop it on the chin and get on with it. I'm looking forward to the tour of Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe," Warne said.

"I'm getting used to disappointments but I'll bust my gut as always playing for Victoria," he said.

"Whoever's captain has got my full support and I'll continue to love playing for Victoria."

Warne has ambitions to lead Australia and does not believe being axed as state skipper will damage his chances. "I don't think it will have any effect really," he said.

"I'm vice-captain of the Test side and the one-day side at this stage."

"Myself and Steve Waugh have been getting along very well."

Warne said his bowling form, post-shoulder operation, was now back to where it had been for the past eight years.

The Australian team leave for Sri Lanka next week.

But another report from Colombo says, the fate of tour plunged into fresh crisis as the Tamil Tiger guerrillas bombed a Sri Lankan military convoy Wednesday, killing 11 police, according to local officials, and wounding dozens more in the

escalation of violence comes in the wake of preparations by the Sri Lanka cricket board to host a triangular tournament with Australia and India later this month. The Australian team is due to arrive in Sri Lanka on August 17 and will also play three Tests afterwards.

Two days after the Australians arrive in Colombo, the main ruling party plans to stage a large public demonstration to denounce recent opposition rallies.

The government move is to be a show of strength but police said it would require tight security at a time when there were reports of suicide bombers infiltrating the capital.

Organisers of the three-nation cricket tournament were assured five days ago that the Australian tour would go ahead as planned but cricket officials privately said that they were nervously watching the developments.

Travelling Australian supporters have been warned to stay away from the war zone in the north of the island, where the Tamil Tiger rebels are fighting for an independent homeland. More than 55,000 people have been killed in fighting in the past 27 years.



SHANE WARNE

latest of an escalating series of attacks.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam ambushed the bus in the heart of Batticaloa town, 300 kilometres (185 miles) east of the capital Colombo, killing 11 constab-

Delay in cashing SAFF award

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is yet to receive the 25,000 US dollars cash award as runners-up of the 2nd SAFF championship held in Goa, India last April and May. BFF general secretary Harun ur Rashid MP said.

Talking to the Daily Star over reports that BFF has not yet distributed the money to the footballers, Harun said that the money could not be disbursed unless they get it.

"We received the cheque last month and we have deposited that in our bank. But the bank has not yet got the clearance from the corresponding bank to cash the amount," said Harun.

The players will get their share once we receive the money, Harun said, adding that the BFF will also keep a part of the amount.

See pages 1/12 for more sport news

Special Olympics participants felicitated

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Special Olympic team, which earned the fifth place in the recently-concluded Special Olympics with 23 golds, 10 silvers and seven bronzes, were hailed by Reneta Limited at a city hotel yesterday evening.

Thirty-one intellectually retarded children from Bangladesh took part in the Special Olympics which was held in North Carolina, USA, last month.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury attended the reception as chief guest, while chairman of Reneta Limited Syed Humayun Kabir, MD of Reneta Limited Dr. Sarwar Ali, BOA secretary-general Zafar Imam, Bangladesh Buddhist Protibondhi Kalyan Samiti chairman Dr. M. Lufur Rahman, and its secretary-general MA Baten were also present on the occasion.

All the participants of the Special Olympics were presented with flower bouquet and gift boxes.

Headley doubtful for fourth Test

LONDON, Aug 11 (AFP): England bowler Dean Headley is nursing a shoulder injury which looks almost certain to rule him out of next week's fourth and final Test against New Zealand at the Oval.

"Dean has damaged his right shoulder and won't be available for a week to 10 days," Kent coach John Wright said on Wednesday.

"It's disappointing for us but even more so for Dean. I think it must make him very doubtful for the Test match."

Headley has missed four of Kent's recent County Championship matches because of Test call-ups.

Wright was doubtful for the Old Trafford Test with a rib injury but reported fit and was selected ahead of Alan Mullally and Chris Silverwood.

World chess roundup

LAS VEGAS, Aug 11: Top-seeded Vladimir Kramnik was forced into a tiebreaker, and only one player was able to win in the fourth round of the World Chess Championship, reports AP.

Vladimir Akopian of Armenia, the 31st seed, defeated veteran Bulgarian Grand Master Kiril Georgiev, seeded 23rd, in an endgame that lasted 90 moves Tuesday.

Kramnik tied against Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria, while sixth-seeded Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine tied against Liviu Nispeanu of Romania.

Second-seeded Alexei Shirov of Spain who won a marvelous game Monday, secured a draw Tuesday against 10th-ranked Nigel Short of England. By winning the match, Shirov earned one of the eight spots in Thursday's fifth round.

The other six matches saw draws for the second straight day. Two-game sets of tie-breaking matches will be held Wednesday.

The Federation Internationale des Echecs tournament is being held at Caesars Palace. The winner will receive \$1.6 million of the \$1.8 million prize fund.

Judit Polgar of Hungary, the only woman remaining in the tournament, was on the verge of elimination in her game with Russia's Vadim Zvjaginsev.

Polgar was forced to sacrifice a bishop but her counterattack forced the Russian give up a piece of his own.

The youngest player, Sergei Movsesian, 20, of the Czech Republic, managed a draw against Alexei Fedorov of Belarus, the third seed. Fedorov gained an early advantage, and Movsesian was forced to give up his queen for only a rook and knight.

Fedorov was winning handily but played inaccurately. Movsesian, the 27th seed, was able to build a fortress and salvage the draw.

Bangabandhu Cup preparations on Mohun Bagan replace India?

Sports Reporter



The organising committee of the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup has drawn up a budget of Taka 3.43 crore for running the 12-team tournament, which will kick off at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on August 27.

The estimated budget was passed by the 101-member organising committee in its first meeting held Tuesday night.

Chaired by the organising committee chairman and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, the meeting was attended by Bangladesh Football Federation president and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Health Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Civil Aviation Minister Engi-

neer Mosharraf Hossain, Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rab.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Textiles KM Jahangir, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, BOA president and Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman, BB, Lt Col Faruk Khan (retired) MP, Alhaj Mokbul Hossain MP, Akhteruzzaman MP, Sports Secretary ASM Shahjahan, Information Secretary Mohammad Akmal Hossain, chairman of National Board of Revenue Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, and representatives of different public and private sector enterprises were also present.

Apart from approving the budget, the meeting also formed a Standing Committee with NBR chairman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury as chairman, as well as 15 sub-committees.

According to BFF general secretary Harun ur Rashid MP,

BFF will also form a six or seven-member Coordination Cell for the tournament which will conclude on September 7.

Talking to the Daily Star yesterday, Harun said that the Standing Committee is scheduled to sit today to finalise the format of the tournament.

"We have to shed one foreign team from the 12-team list and then make the draw. With Bangladesh, we want to make it a 12-team tournament," said Harun.

Teams from Japan, South Korea, Kuwait, Hungary, Brazil, Ghana, India, Uzbekistan, Thailand, Malaysia, Nepal and India have already agreed to play in the tournament.

Although India earlier said that they would send the national team as part of their preparation for the forthcoming SAF Games, but a close source to the AIFF revealed yesterday that Calcutta-based Mohun Bagan Club might participate in the tournament.

Gooch, Gatting get the axe



LONDON, Aug 11 (Reuters/Internet reports): Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting have been dismissed as England selectors.

The pair will continue to act as advisors but will have no part in picking the team, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement Tuesday.

The two former captains have paid the price for England's poor performances over the years.

After failing to reach the Super Six stage of the World Cup, England have been widely derided for their showing in the current Test series against New

Zealand and neither will attend selection meetings or have a vote.

Their removal followed a dinner at England's Manchester hotel on Sunday night between ECB chairman Lord MacLaurin, England Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) chairman Brian Bolus, International Teams Director Simon Pack, and Fletcher and Hussain.

The EMAC has endorsed the move to make the changes and the Selection Committee will meet for the first time on Thursday, August 12 to discuss longer term selection policy. Selection for the Foster's Oval Test will be made on Saturday, August 14.

Lord MacLaurin said: "We

leagues on EMAC. We believe the input of the Coach and Captain is crucial to the future of the Team and that we need to plan long term to build a strong side over a period of time."

Gatting meanwhile has insisted he bears no ill-feeling about his dismissal from the selection panel and hopes his sudden departure would spark an improvement in their Test fortunes.

Gatting, whose three years as a selector was due to end in February, claimed he bore no grudges particularly after the way England had performed during his time on the panel. "I suppose in effect we haven't done very well and with a new management team coming in, they want to do things differently," said Gatting, who will still manage the A tour to Bangladesh and New Zealand this winter.

"My place was coming up in February next year, a new coach has come in and he wants to do his way, bring in his own ideas and his job is on the line in that respect - if that's the way he wants to do it, I'm happy."

"When the team's not performing very well they lose confidence and that's sometimes understandable but they are still very good players, so hopefully this can stir them up a bit."

Gatting also claimed to have no resentment towards Graveney, who has maintained his position while his fellow selectors have paid the price for England's continual failures on the international stage.

"The captain should always be on the park with the side he wants, so if that's the best way forward for English cricket so be it - I've tried to do the best job I can," he said.

"If the coach wants to take more control of the situation, fine. The reason we brought back the old faces was because the younger ones were looking at weren't doing much."

"I enjoyed my time, sitting down talking cricket but I felt disappointed when they underperformed."

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE? Former England Test stars Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch. — Internet photo

Zealand. Their nine-wicket second Test defeat at Lord's was generally regarded as one of the worst England performances ever, and only rain saved them in the third Test which finished at Old Trafford on Monday.

Teams will now be picked by chairman of selectors David Graveney, captain Nasser Hussain, and new coach Duncan Fletcher, who is due to take up the post on a full time basis in October.

Gooch's contract as a selector was due to end next month while Gatting's term finished in

have reviewed England Team selection and the strengths and limitations of existing selection policy have been considered in detail. Discussions have focused on a policy which would best fulfil the interests of the England Teams for the longer term.

"It is clear that the Selection Sub Committee should produce a clear long term policy statement for EMAC approval and Management Board endorsement as soon as possible."

Brian Bolus, Chairman of EMAC, said: "I have discussed these changes with my col-

Hussain for youthful revolution



LONDON, Aug 11 (Internet report): Captain Nasser Hussain intends to promote radical changes in England's final Test squad of the summer when he meets up with his new panel of fellow selectors later this week.

Hussain is frustrated at England's failure to properly compete in the Cornhill series against New Zealand, and having stayed loyal with the old guards at Old Trafford he is now advocating giving youth a chance.

After slumping to a nine-wicket defeat at Lord's, England elected to recall the experience of Michael Atherton, Graeme Hick and Peter Such in Manchester, when rain helped them force a draw yesterday.

Now, with the selection of this winter's tour squad to South Africa about to become a pressing issue, Hussain is starting to look at the future.

He wants to implement his joint master-plan with incoming coach Duncan Fletcher to revive the flagging fortunes of English cricket.

With that in mind, Hussain promises to start with "a blank piece of paper" at this week's Selection Sub Committee meeting with Fletcher and David Graveney.

In fact, the selectors will be working overtime with a policy meeting set for Thursday before the regular Saturday team discussions.

will be thinking through for the next week.

"It's an important and valid point and we're getting to the stage where we're getting towards that point of view being taken into serious consideration."

"But you have to balance two things out - whether there are people out there good enough to come in; and that the people you retain in the side must be high quality players and also set the example for new Test players coming into the side."

Hussain has his own viewpoint both about established players and untried candidates but plans to speak to leading figures for their thoughts - be-

paper and myself and Duncan will work from that."

"The other selectors have been thinking it's time to look to the future for a while, but there's always the importance of winning the next game, that was what the case was in the last Test and that will be the case in the next."

"The next one is a bit of a watershed with myself and Duncan Fletcher being at our first selection meeting together and I think for continuity's sake we should start with a blank piece of paper."

"Whether that leads to the same names because of what other people or what I think, we'll have to wait and see, but if you start with a blank piece of paper it's amazing what you can end up with."

Should the other selectors grasp Hussain's move for change, it could involve many tough decisions and puts question marks over players like Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Hick and Such for both the next Test and the winter tour.

Hussain does not intend to shirk such a responsibility if the selectors decide that is the best course of action to lift English cricket out of the doldrums.

He insisted: "I'm not worried about leaving out friends of mine or people I've played with for a long time. I'm not going to do things because that's what public want or the media want. I want to do the things I think are right so that when I've got a side with me out there it will be the side I wanted."

"My gut feeling is that we're



NASSER HUSSAIN

cause he admits that five years of international cricket have left him a little out of touch with the county game.

He explained: "I have gut feelings on certain players, but there is now a blank piece of