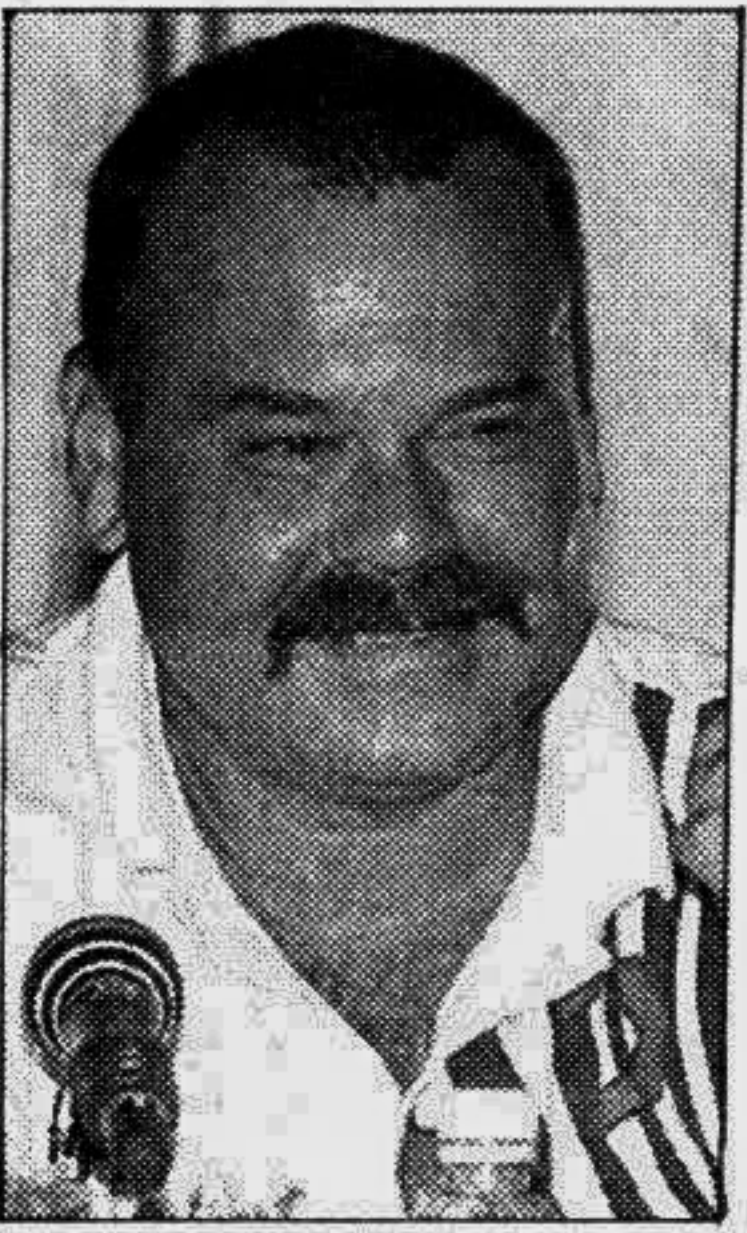


Column One
SPORTS TALK



Dav Whatmore
(Sri Lanka cricket coach)
"I think the team that's going to handle the spinners better is the more likely to make sufficient runs to defend."
On the upcoming Test series between Australia and Sri Lanka.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-119

Tick the Correct Answers
Post to Star Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 10, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who are the current FA Cup champions?
Man United Arsenal Liverpool
- Who is Sri Lanka's cricket coach?
Whatmore Yardley Fernandez
- Who won the Confederations Cup title?
Brazil Mexico USA
- Who is the Bangladesh cricket captain?
Munazzul Akram Aminul
- Which stadium will host the final of 2002 World Cup?
Yokohama Suzuki Nagoya

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Notice
Due to unavoidable reasons draw of the WHIZZ KID Competition-119 could not be held last night. It will now take place on September 10.

Hick given Wores' captaincy
LONDON, Sept 3 (Internet report): Graeme Hick, the 33-year-old England batsman, is to succeed Tom Moody as Worcestershire's captain next season after two years as the Australian's deputy.

Moody is leaving the county at the end of the season after captaining the side since 1995. Coach Bill Athey and assistant Damian D'Oliveira have been awarded contract extensions. Seamer Bobby Chapman, fast bowler Jason de la Pena and batsmen Abdul Hafeez and Nathan Batson are to be released.

Kenya include 3 rookies
NAIROBI, Sept 3: Kenya included three teenagers in a squad of 14 announced today for a four-team cricket tournament, reports Reuters.

Kenya, the hosts, and South Africa, India and Zimbabwe contest the tournament from September 25 to October 5. The teenagers, all bowlers, are Peter Ochieng, Josephat Ababu and Francis Otieno. Kenya Cricket Association selection chief Asif Padamshi said the team, coached by former India test batsman Sandeep Patil, had a concentration of bowlers, hitherto Kenya's main weakness.

Squad: Maurice Odumbe (captain), Steve Tikolo (vice-captain), Kennedy Otieno, Martin Suji, Hitesh Modi, Alpesh Vadher, Ravindu Shah, Thomas Odoyo, Mohamed Sheikh, Tony Suji, Peter Ochieng, Josephat Ababu, Francis Otieno, Jimmy Kamande.

Hungary to meet Ghana in semi-final
Bangladesh's futile comeback

Bangladesh could not make it to the Bangabandhu Cup semi-finals despite making a late but brilliant comeback. The capacity crowd at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon saw the home side deliver an outstanding rally late in the second session and score two goals in six minutes, one in the 86th minute and the other in injury time, to hold the powerful Hungarian side Kerulet Football Club 2-2 in their last group A clash.



The draw paved the Hungarians' way into the last four as they have a superior scoring rate over the hosts. Both teams finished their first round campaign on four points. Kerulet will now meet favourites Ghana in the semi-final tomorrow. After a barren first half,

Kerulet FC striker Attila Sagi netted two goals in 24 minutes to put the visitors 2-0 up. But a rejuvenated Bangladesh took charge of the match with a series of forays and pulled back both the goals through skipper Jewel Rana and his defending partner Masood Rana. Bangladesh made an impressive start against the strong Europeans and earned three corners in the very second minute of the match. But none of the three corners, taken by Masood Rana, found his teammates in the right place. The home side then produced another half-a-dozen scoring chances in the first half. But all



Ace South Korean striker Lee Chun-Soo unleashes a left-footer during the match against the boys from Rio yesterday. —Star photo

Rain, Russel reigns

COLOMBO, Sept 3 (AFP): Frequent rain disrupted the first day's play Friday of the 4-day match between the touring Australian team and a Board XI at the Saravanamuttu Stadium here. The match was stopped twice during the day following a delayed start. After the second stop in the afternoon, play was called off despite clouds clearing.

The Board XI, electing to bat first, scored 69 for two wickets off the 25.2 overs that were possible during the day in 102 minutes. For Australia, who are short of match practice ahead of next Thursday's first Test against Sri Lanka at Kandy, it was a disappointing day. They looked rusty on the field and dropped two catches in the slips. Opener Pradeep Hewage was dropped by captain Steve Waugh off Colin Miller before he had scored in the second over.

Then Matthew Hayden at third slip missed Russel Arnold at 14 off Glenn McGrath when the score was 29. Arnold survived a testing over from McGrath who hit him on the helmet as he took his eyes off a sharp rising delivery. Otherwise he batted with composure to remain unbeaten on 44 with the help of six fours. Hewage fell to Shane Warne when the leg-spinner drew him forward in his first over and had him stumped by Ian Healy for 17. Dilshan failed to trouble the scorers and the Board XI lost their second wicket at 45. Skipper Hashan Tillekeratne joined Arnold and was unbeaten on six when play ended prematurely. The Australians were forced into naming a near full strength side, said coach Geoff Marsh. The only major exclusions from the likely first Test team were in-form paceman Jason Gillespie and batsman Mark Waugh, who have been

rested. "We had to bite the bullet and pick our best side to get some practice in before the Test match. It's disappointing we haven't got a lot of preparation, we just had to make some tough decisions early and stick with them."

SCOREBOARD
SRI LANKA BOARD XI: First innings
Arnold not out 44
Hewage Healy b Warne 17
Dilshan c Warne b Miller 0(2)
Tillekeratne not out 6
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1) 2
Total: (For 2 wickets in 25.2 overs) 69
Did not bat: Silva, Saram, Jayawardene, Perera, Hearath, Gallage, Villawarayan, Jayantha.

Fall of wkts: 1-44; 2-45.
Bowler O M R W
McGrath 8.2 1 25 0
Miller 1 1 3 35 1
Warne 6 1 8 1

AUSTRALIAN TEAM:
S Waugh, S Warne, M Slater, G Blewett, M Hayden, J Langer, R Ponting, I Healy, S MacGill, C Miller, G McGrath.

Cullinan misses Kenya series
Cronje under scrutiny

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 3 (AFP/Reuters): Hansie Cronje's job as South African cricket captain is on the line and will be reassessed midway through this summer's tour by England, chief selector Rishdie Magiet said Thursday.

"We're just not sure about Cronje's availability in Test cricket," Magiet said. "We're giving him a chance. We're hoping he will regain his form."

Cronje, 29, took over the captaincy of South Africa from Kepler Wessels in 1994 and has been the country's most successful skipper ever, with an impressive record in both the Test and one-day arenas. He has captained South Africa in 44 Test matches, more than twice as many as any other South African captain, and has led them to 21 wins, three times more than any previous captain. He has also led his team to

announcing the South African squad for a quadrangular one-day tournament in Kenya from September 25 to October 3. Magiet said Cronje will captain the team for the tournament, for two Tests against Zimbabwe in October and November and for the first two Tests against England.

"We'll reassess (the captaincy) after the first two Tests against England (in December)," he said. England will play five Tests against South Africa in the coming summer.

Magiet earned his chance because of a consistent flow of runs for Free State in the 1998-99 domestic season. In 21 first-class innings he scored 1,070 at an average of 59.44. Another mild surprise was the inclusion of left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams, who has struggled to maintain his presence in the Test team and is considered a luxury in the one-day format. "It's an ideal opportunity for Adams to prove himself at international level again," Magiet said.

Adams will go to Kenya having spent two weeks with wrist spin coach Terry Jenner, the mentor behind Australian kingpin Shane Warne. "Victor Mpitsang, the young fast bowler who accompanied South Africa to New Zealand last season, also earned a place. SQUAD: Herschelle Gibbs, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Dale Benkenstein, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonny Rhodes, Shaun Pollock (vice-captain), Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Steve Elworthy, Derek Crookes, Victor Mpitsang, Paul Adams, Alan Dawson.

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Samir satisfied
Sports Reporter

Bangladesh coach Samir Shakir praised his team's performance against Kerulet FC of Hungary yesterday saying that it was a good match played by his side.

"This was my first match against a rough and tough European side and I'm quite happy with the way the boys faced them," said the former Iraqi World Cupper after his team's 2-2 draw with the Hungarian side. "It's a bit disappointing as we could not reach the semis, but they proved a point that they can play a better game," Samir added.

The national coach also said that his team deserved to get at least three more penalties, which were overlooked by the Omani referee. He however did not blame the referee saying that it was human error. For the first goal, Samir blamed two defenders Masood Rana and Rajani. He said that these two defenders were at a loss and did not mark Sagi properly. The Hungarian was totally unguarded.

He was also unhappy with his striker Alfaz. "He is the only man who has the ability to convert a half chance into a full. But today he was out of his mind," said Samir. Samir also mentioned that the absence of the number one goalkeeper Aminul Islam affected the team. "I hope he gets cured before the SAF Games," Samir contemplated.

See pages 1/12 for more sport news

Pak charity cricket

LAHORE, Sept 3 (Internet report): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ad hoc committee has announced two teams for the floodlight cricket match at the Qaddafi Stadium on September 5 for the benefit of Kargil fighters. Earlier, the match was to be held on Aug 15, but was postponed due to rain. Former captain and coach of Pakistan team, Javed Miandad will lead the PCB Greens Eleven. Wicket-keeper-batsman Moin Khan is named skipper of the PCB Blues Eleven.

PCB Greens: Javed Miandad, Abdul Qadir, Rashid Latif, Hasan Raza, Naved Qureshi, Shabbir Ahmad, Imran Nazir, Aamir Sohail, Yasir Arafat, Arshad Khan, Shahid Nazir, Muhammad Akram, Muhammad Wasim, Fazle Akbar.

PCB Blues: Moin Khan, Mushtaq Ahmad, Saeed Anwar, Wajahatullah Wasti, Yousof Yohana, Shoaib Akhtar, Waqar Younis, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Shahid Afridi, Azhar Mahmood, Abdul Razaque, Kabir Khan, Akhtar Sarfraz, Waqas Ahmad.

Tudor on road to recovery

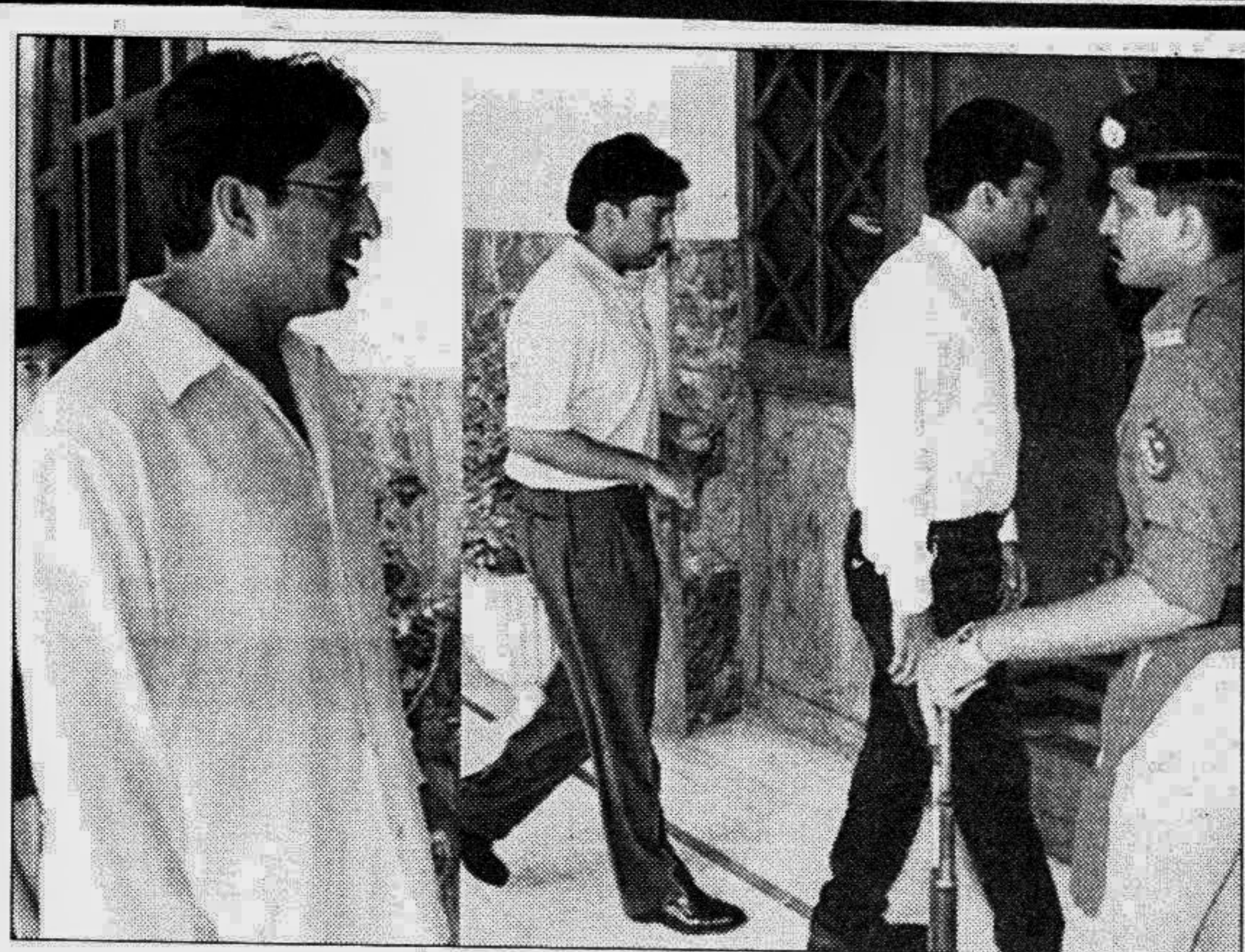
LONDON, Sept 3 (Internet report): Injury-prone Surrey fast bowler Alex Tudor is on course to be fit for England's winter tour to South Africa. Tudor has undergone micro-surgery on an injured knee, and Surrey coach Keith Medley said he expects him to be back in training "in 10 days". The youngster's selection for the tour depends on him passing an England fitness test, but Medley said: "The surgeon cleared his knee up. There wasn't a lot to do - it was very successful. We expect him to be training in 10 days and 100 per cent fit to tour South Africa - and we're confident he will come back bowling at his fastest for England."

Tudor played in the first Test against New Zealand at Edgbaston but made a bigger impact with his batting, scoring 99no as nightwatchman in England's sole victory of the series. But the knee problem ruled him out of the remainder of the series, and up until Thursday there had been fears that his winter tour could be jeopardised by injury.

SA to tour India in Feb

MUMBAI, Sept 3: The cricket board has persuaded its South African counterparts to agree to play five limited-overs international matches in addition to the Test series against India during their forthcoming tour to this country, scheduled for February-March 2000. The United Cricket Board of South Africa has agreed to play two Tests and five one-day internationals during their tour instead of only three Tests. The detailed calendar will be released by the Board Secretary (Jaywant Lale), Board's Executive Secretary Sharda Dwivedi and PTI here today.

Meanwhile, the board has decided that junior India coach Krishnamachari Srikanth would accompany the India "A" squad team on its forthcoming tour of the United States to take on the "A" squad of Australia in a five-match one-day series in Los Angeles from September 15-21.



A combination of photographs showing Pakistan World Cup captain Wasim Akram (L), batsmen Salim Malik (C) and Ijaz Ahmed arriving at a hearing of the Qayyum Commission in Lahore yesterday. — AFP photo

Next Pak hearing on Sept 8

Accuser drops his finger

LAHORE, Sept 3: The main accuser withdrew allegations against suspended Pakistan captain Wasim Akram before a judicial cricket inquiry commission here Friday, officials said.

Discarded pacer Ataur Rehman told the commission headed by Lahore High Court judge Malik Mohammad Qayyum that no match fixing and bribery had ever taken place, they said.

The judge ordered a show-cause notice to be issued to Ataur over perjury and banned him from leaving the country without the commission's permission.

"Ataur Rehman has recorded three different statements before the commission. First he said no wrongdoings, then he alleged Wasim offered him money and now he says no match fixing, no betting," court registrar Abdus Salam Khawar told AFP.

"It was all a misunderstanding," Khawar quoted accuser Ataur as telling the commission. The 28-year-old pacer had originally alleged that Wasim offered him 300,000 rupees (6,000 dollars) to bowl badly in a one-day international match in Christchurch, New Zealand in 1994. Wasim denied the charge.

Bookmaker Salim Pervez, during the session Friday, repeated his last year's allegations that he paid 100,000 dollars to Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed in Sri Lanka to fix a one-day international. The two cricketers have denied the charges. Four members of Pakistan's world cup squad - vice captain Moin Khan, Azhar Mahmood, Shahid Afridi and Inzamamul Haq, also testified before the commission. The quartet was accused by the then Pakistan coach Javed Miandad of having played poorly by design in Sharjah in April this year. The four were believed to have denied the accusation. Wasim and Malik's counsels will cross-examine more witnesses at the next sitting. The commissioner has also summoned PCB Chief Executive Majid Khan, former captain Rashid Latif, batsman Basit Ali and former pacer Sarfraz Nawaz.

"I will take another week or so after the September 8 hearing to submit findings to Pakistan President," the registrar said.

Judge Qayyum can recommend innocence or guilt as well as punishment, however, he has no authority to impose punishment or lay charges.

On Thursday, government officials, who did not want to be identified, said the Accountability Bureau chief Saifur Rehman, who also was investigating charges of corruption, recommended all allegations be dropped.

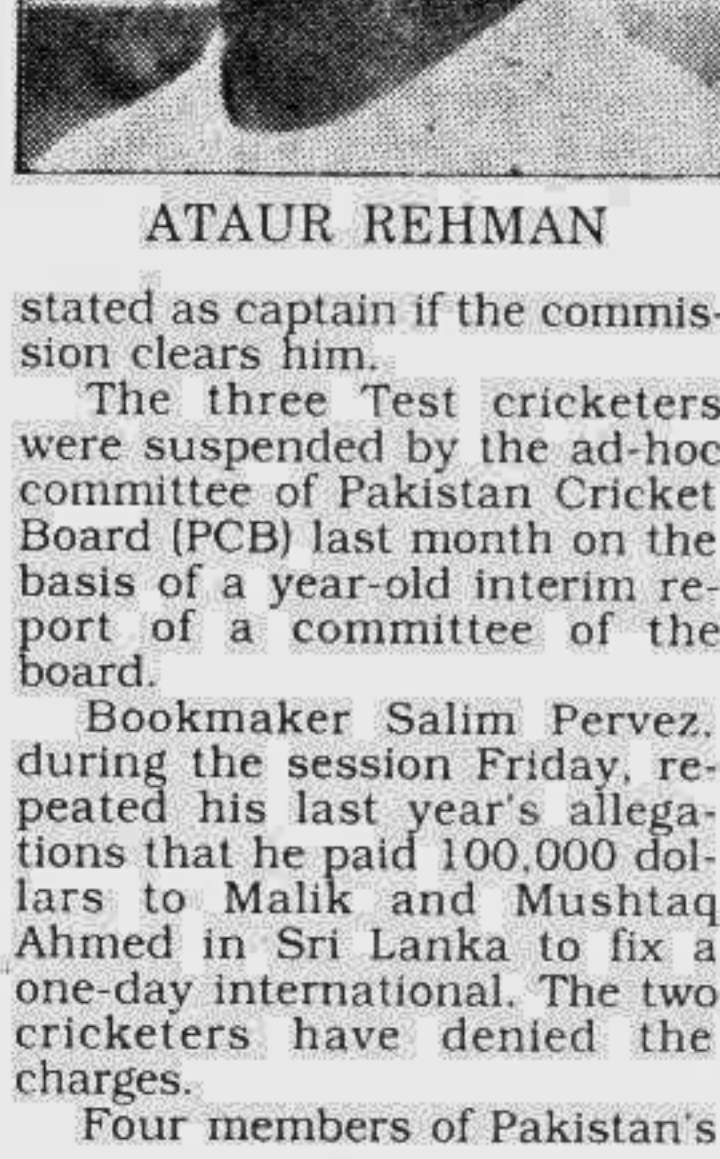
In an interview with The Associated Press, Rehman said that charges should be dropped because it is bringing a bad name to Pakistan and players have done a lot for the country.

However, Rehman's recommendation is not binding on Qayyum or Pakistan President, the patron of the PCB.

The judicial inquiry has so far recorded statements of 60 players, officials, journalists and alleged bookies.

Match fixing and betting allegations first surfaced in Pakistan cricket in 1994 when Australian players Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh accused then captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to perform poorly.

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ATAUR REHMAN

stated as captain if the commission clears him.

The three Test cricketers were suspended by the ad-hoc committee of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) last month on the basis of a year-old interim report of a committee of the board.

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India aiming for revenge

SINGAPORE, Sept 3 (AFP/PTI): India have vowed to give their best against never-say-die Zimbabwe Saturday in the Singapore International Challenge, with captain Sachin Tendulkar determined to break his run drought.

He said he wanted to put the Sri Lankan debacle behind and get cracking. India managed only one win in four matches and lost out to hosts Sri Lanka in the race for the final berth against Australia on run-rate at the recently held Awa Cup tri-nation tournament.

"We were short of cricket when we arrived in Sri Lanka. But now that everyone has had time to assess their form, I expect to get the best out of the team," said Tendulkar, in his second stint as Indian captain. "I have myself not been scoring runs but that I see only as a temporary phase," he said.

Apart from inexplicable batting failures barring the last time where the skipper braved a painful back to crack his 23rd one-day century and left-hander Saurav Ganguly hit up a fine half-century against Sri Lanka, it was abysmal fielding and equally ordinary bowling that stood out.

The team went through a rigorous four-hour fielding session yesterday but heavy showers in morning once again ruled out their nets today, as poor weather that undermined practice in Sri Lanka continued to dog them.

The sky remained thickly overcast with threat of more rain. Ajay Jadeja and Robin Singh are no mean hitters themselves, but a score close to the 300-mark is what the Indian team hopes to achieve against Zimbabwe.

The tall Anil Kumble must be hoping to get some help from the hard wicket at Singapore's Kallang ground, more so since he has been rested from the squad for their upcoming stint

ing forward to bowling here. Mohanty, who gave account of himself in England, did not get to play in Sri Lanka, and has not been successful on placid pitches of the subcontinent.

With the Indian tail among the weakest in international cricket, the team management could go in for teenage all-rounder Laxmi Ratan Shukla, considering his potential for big hitting.

For Zimbabwe, who lost by six wickets to West Indies on Thursday, it is do or die as their only chance of staying in the reckoning for Tuesday's final is to beat India.

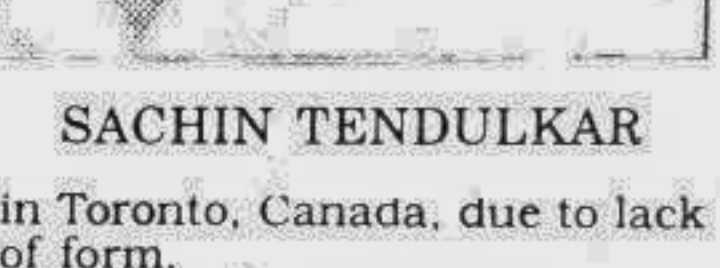
Skipper Alistair Campbell is well aware of the pressure to perform and prove that Zimbabwe's progress to the World Cup second round in June was no fluke.

"We beat India in the World Cup and hope to do it again. The boys are eager to go out, give off their best. It is after all the crunch game for us."

"Against the West Indies, we lost wickets in heaps and lost momentum just when we looked like getting on to a big total. In the end, 244 were just not enough," said Campbell.

Two good partnerships were all Zimbabwe could muster against the West Indies in the inaugural fixture, though Andy Flower and Campbell himself looked sharp, particularly against the West Indian spinners.

The 13 overs sent down by Nehemiah Perry and Jimmy Adams yielded 99. Zimbabwe's bowling has been weakened by the absence of three frontline bowlers in Heath Streak, Eddo Brandes and Adam Huckle.



SACHIN TENDULKAR

in Toronto, Canada, due to lack of form. The Indian seamers are also wary of the weather and could be bowling in short spells. Debashis Mohanty may be rested since there is not much chance of the ball swinging on the hard track, though even the veterans Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad cannot be said to look-

ing forward to bowling here. Mohanty, who gave account of himself in England, did not get to play in Sri Lanka, and has not been successful on placid pitches of the subcontinent.

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