

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Mohammad Azharuddin

(Former Indian captain)
"I didn't want to produce a certificate that I am fit and then not be able to field in the deep."
On why he opted not to be selected for the Kenya-bound team.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-120

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 24, 99 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who won the Singapore Cricket Challenge?
Zimbabwe W Indies India
- Who lifted the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup?
Brazil Ghana Japan
- Who was the man-of-the-series in the Awa Cup?
Jaysuriya Gilchrist Dravid
- Where will the next ICC mini World Cup be held?
Kenya Canada Sharjah
- Who will captain Bangladesh football team in the SAF Games?
Jewel Rana Afiaz Masud Rana

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



Kabadi super league on

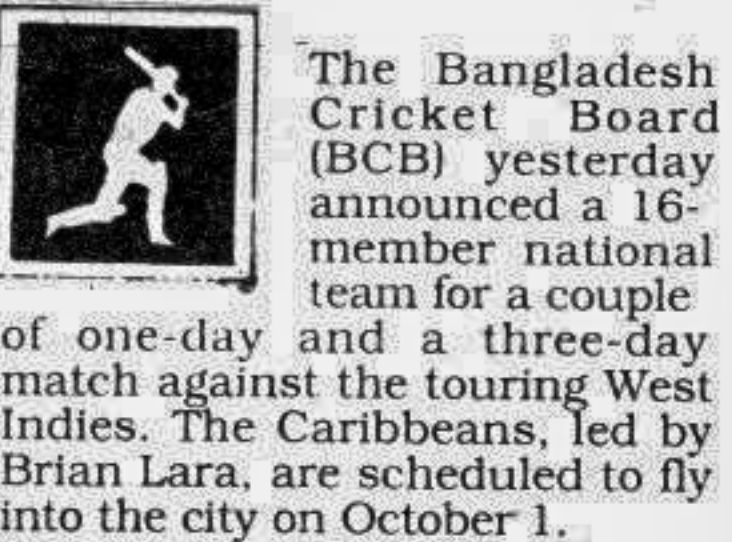
From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Sept 18: The super league matches of Rajshahi First Division Kabadi League began yesterday at the Rajshahi Outer Stadium.
A total of six teams are taking part in the league.
Jagrata Shingha achieved an easy win over Modern Boxing Club 113-35 in the inaugural match of the super league.
Meanwhile, Jagrata Tarun Samaj clinched the championship of the First All India Smriti Football tournament.
In the final also held yesterday at Shakhin Chak Panchan playground, the winner defeated Hathat Brishu Club 4-0.

Kumble to play at Grace Road

LONDON, Sept 18 (Internet report): Leicestershire today signed Indian Test star Anil Kumble as their overseas player for next season. The 28-year-old leg-spinner will replace Australian fast bowler Michael Kasproutz at Grace Road and has signed a one-year contract.
It will be Kumble's second experience of county cricket - he played for Northamptonshire in 1995 when he became the first bowler to take 100 wickets in a season since the start of four day matches in 1993.
He took 105 at an average of 20.4 and made a huge impact on Northants season.
Kumble has played for India in more than 40 Tests and over 100 one-day internationals and took 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan earlier this year.
Leicestershire manager Jack Birkenhead said: "We are delighted that Kumble will be joining us because he is a world-class player."
"There has been a shift in balance in recent years and world class spin-bowlers are increasingly winning matches for teams in England."
"Both Saqlain Mushtaq and Muttiah Muralitharan have been very successful and we believe that Kumble will do a similar job for us."
"He is also a very experienced bowler in bowling at the close of one day innings and we are sure that his one day international experience will be of great benefit to us."

Three new caps in Bangladesh squad BCB gaffe cause uproar

Sports Reporter



AMINUL ISLAM

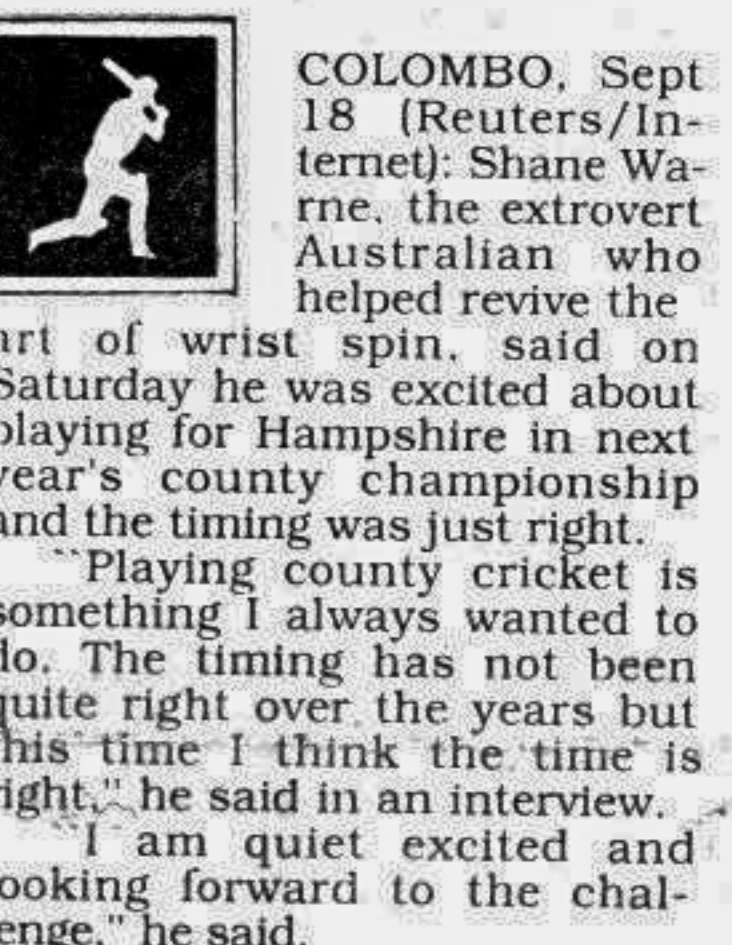
The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a 16-member national team for a couple of one-day and a three-day match against the touring West Indies. The Caribbean, led by Brian Lara, are scheduled to fly into the city on October 1.
However, the manner in which the board disclosed the list can only be termed as strange and, to some extent, the bizarre attitude on its part.
While most Test nations usually choose to call the press before making an official announcement in presence of the chief selector, the BCB for the umpteenth time decided to do otherwise.
Although it would not cost the board anything to develop rapport with the fourth estate, its uncanny attitude came as a shock to many after chief selector Tanveer Haider had announced he would be available to the press when the team was officially announced.
"We want to disclose the team in a press briefing, I think Barlow (the South African coach of the national team) will also be present there", had said an hour before BCB announced the list yesterday.
"We sent the list of 24 players including eight stand-bys for approval of the board president on Friday", added.
But, to the utter surprise of many in the conscientious corps, some newspapers published the team yesterday even before the board president opened the sealed envelope.
Although admitted that the list published in some newspapers yesterday was exactly the same that they sent to the president for approval, he expressed his ignorance about how it was leaked to a section of the press.
While the chief selector expressed his innocence, many were convinced that one of the three selectors played the role of the 'bad boy', forcing the board to make the impromptu announcement yesterday evening.
Aminul Islam was retained as captain in a side where the selectors named three rookies in Ahmed Kamal, Nasirul Alam and Mosaddeq Hossain.
Ahmed Kamal is a medium pacer who played for Abahani last season. Nasirul Alam, a middle-order batsman, played for Mohammedan last year. But the sensational inclusion in the team was that of young leg-spinner Mosaddeq Hossain.
Apart from the three pairs of fresh legs, Al Shahriar and Javed Omar are the two notable inclusions in the side. Al Shahriar, a free stroke-maker and Javed, a doughty opening batsman, were ignored in Bangladesh's World Cup team.
The Bangladesh squad: Mehrib Hossain, Shahriar Hossain, Javed Omar, Aminul Islam (captain), Naimur Rahman, Al Shahriar, Khaled Masood, Hasibul Hossain, Neeamur Rashid, Enamul Hogue, Mosaddeq Hossain, Safiuddin Ahmed, Nasirul Alam, Monjurul Islam and Ahmed Kamal.



AMINUL ISLAM

many in the conscientious corps, some newspapers published the team yesterday even before the board president opened the sealed envelope.
Although admitted that the list published in some newspapers yesterday was exactly the same that they sent to the president for approval, he expressed his ignorance about how it was leaked to a section of the press.
While the chief selector expressed his innocence, many were convinced that one of the three selectors played the role of the 'bad boy', forcing the board to make the impromptu announcement yesterday evening.
Aminul Islam was retained as captain in a side where the selectors named three rookies in Ahmed Kamal, Nasirul Alam and Mosaddeq Hossain.
Ahmed Kamal is a medium pacer who played for Abahani last season. Nasirul Alam, a middle-order batsman, played for Mohammedan last year. But the sensational inclusion in the team was that of young leg-spinner Mosaddeq Hossain.
Apart from the three pairs of fresh legs, Al Shahriar and Javed Omar are the two notable inclusions in the side. Al Shahriar, a free stroke-maker and Javed, a doughty opening batsman, were ignored in Bangladesh's World Cup team.
The Bangladesh squad: Mehrib Hossain, Shahriar Hossain, Javed Omar, Aminul Islam (captain), Naimur Rahman, Al Shahriar, Khaled Masood, Hasibul Hossain, Neeamur Rashid, Enamul Hogue, Mosaddeq Hossain, Safiuddin Ahmed, Nasirul Alam, Monjurul Islam and Ahmed Kamal.

Warne relishes prospect



SHANE WARNE

COLOMBO, Sept 18 (Reuters/Internet): Shane Warne, the extrovert Australian who helped revive the art of wrist spin, said on Saturday he was excited about playing for Hampshire in next year's county championship and the timing was just right.
"Playing county cricket is something I always wanted to do. The timing has not been quite right over the years but this time I think the time is right," he said in an interview.
"I am quiet excited and looking forward to the challenge," he said.
Warne, who is second on the all-time Australian list of Test wicket takers with 322 victims, signed a six-figure contract and will replace fast bowler Nixon McLean who is likely to tour England with the West Indies.
With Australia scheduled to visit in 2001, next season probably represented Warne's best opportunity to fulfil his ambition to play county cricket.
"The deal we got makes both parties happy. Initially three or four counties were involved, then I got down to a couple," Warne said, adding that his family would join him in England while he plays.
On Friday, Hampshire captain Robin Smith backed Warne to raise the profile of the county.
The former hard-hitting South African born batsman said: "It's a huge coup for us because names don't come any bigger than Shane. The interest he will generate will lift everyone at the club and give us all a boost."
"I've played against him for many years but Shane has always remained a good friend. We've kept in touch and he has always said he would like to play in county cricket before he finished."
Hampshire chairman Brian Ford said: "It's going to be the biggest sum we've ever spent on a player but I feel certain it will be well worth it. The sum in-



SHANE WARNE

involved is well over six figures and it's a very significant outlay, but I feel certain the support from our members and the local business community will make it worthwhile."

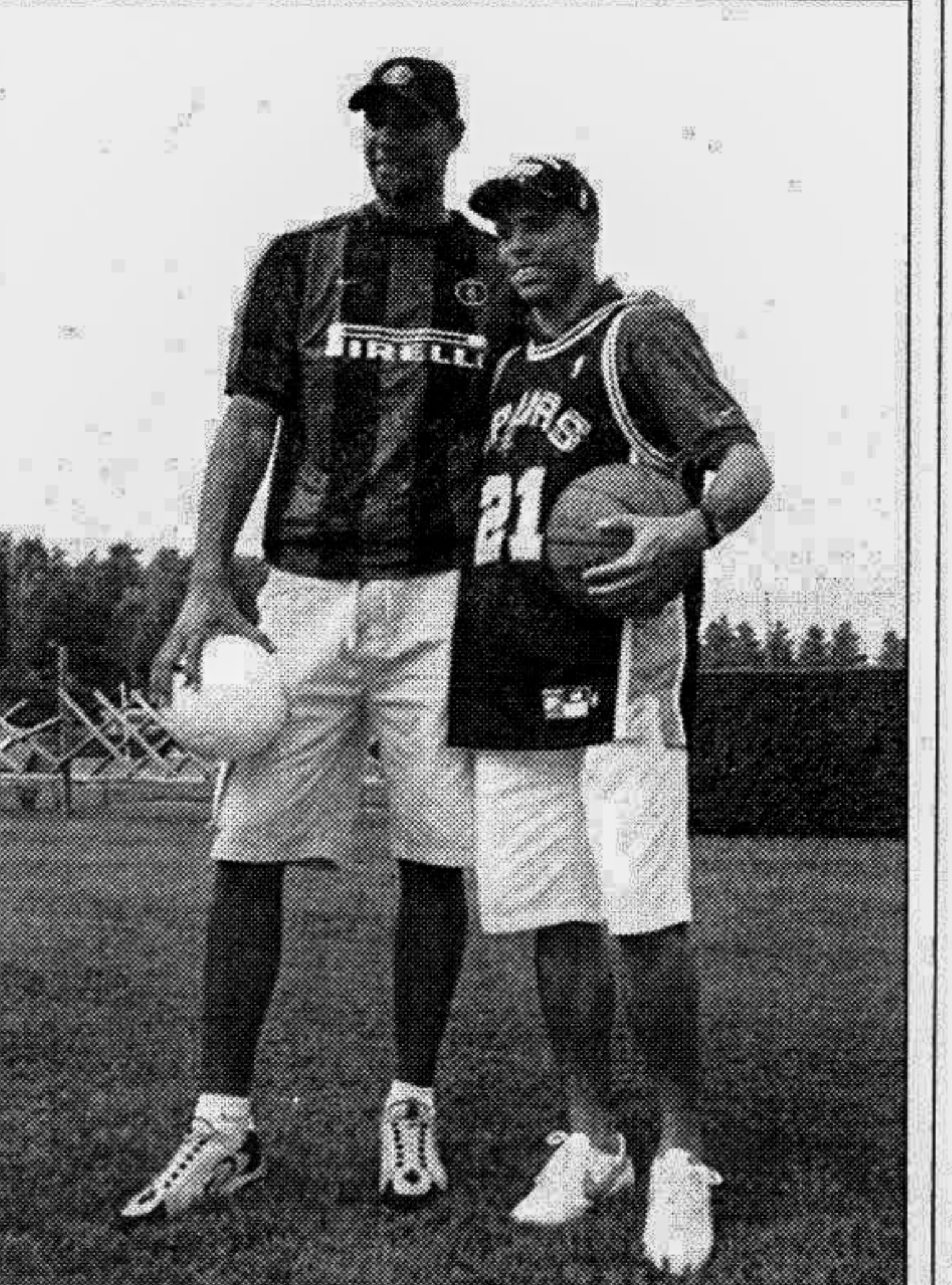
LBWs unaffected!

LONDON, Sept 18 (Internet report): A British scientist says the advent of neutral Test cricket umpires has had no effect on leg-before-wicket rates.
Dr Trevor Ringrose, a statistician from Cranfield University in England, says he had reached the conclusion after studying 340 series, 89 of which had one neutral umpire per game.
He told the British Association Science Festival that the old perception that umpires were neutral no matter where they came from held true.
However, Ringrose's study found visiting batsmen were more likely to be given out LBW in Australia, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka than in the other five Test playing nations.
But there's no evidence to suggest this was from biased umpiring.

Warne's manager Michael Cohen said the Australian star always wanted to play county cricket but so far his commitments in international cricket have prevented him from doing so.
"I played only on Ashes tours and in four games they try out younger guys and the senior players rest so you don't get a true indication of what county cricket is like," Warne said.
Warne, the Australia vice-captain, lost his place in the tour of West Indies this year but was a key figure in their World Cup winning campaign.
He took his 15th five-wicket haul in Australia's first test loss to Sri Lanka last week.
Warne may combine with England left-arm pace bowler Alan Mullally who will quit Leicestershire at the end of the season.
Newspaper reports on Friday said Mullally was likely to join Hampshire.

Schools b'ball BKSP, Happy Times win

Sports Reporter
BKSP and Happy Times School won their respective Tom McCabys Schools Basketball tournament at the Dhanmudi Gymnasium yesterday.
BKSP handed a crushing 106-22 point defeat on BN School in the first match of the day. In a lop-sided affair the boys from the country's lone sports institute led a weak BN team 54-13 in the first half.
Nazmul notched highest 21 points for the winners.
In the second match of the day, Happy Times School recorded a 77-48 point victory over Scholastica. Nandito with 24 points was the leading cager for the winners.



Inter Milan's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo (R) is dwarfed by Tom Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs when the NBA giant visited the Milan club's training ground on September 17.



Members of the American (L) and Russian Fed Cup teams pose at Stanford University in California on September 17. — AFP photo

Physio advises Akram to train

Sports Reporter
Despite having ruled himself out from the home series against the West Indies due to injury, Akram Khan is likely to join the national team's training camp at the BKSP today on the advice of Bangladesh's South African physiotherapist Gavin Benzafield.
The former national captain, who is nursing the Achilles tendon of his left leg, opted out of the national camp called by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB). The selection camp got underway at the BKSP on September 1.
The board is preparing a national team for a series of matches against the visiting West Indies and the England A.
Akram, the portly middle-order batsman, who happens to be a backbone in Bangladesh's batting line-up, changed his mind after consulting Benzafield at the BCB office yesterday.
"It would be better for him if he stays at the camp. I have talked to him and he has agreed to join the camp", said Benzafield, who paid a brief visit to the BCB office yesterday afternoon along with Eddie Barlow, the South African coach of the national team.
"I don't know how long it will take for him (Akram) to recover. But I'm going to do some extra work on him at the camp. It will take a week and then I can tell you about his condition", said the 24-year-old South African Physio.
Although Akram was not available for his comment, chief selector Tanvir Haider confirmed that the Chittagonian would join the camp today.
"It is certain that he would not be available for Bangladesh's matches against the West Indies. But we are working on getting him fit before our matches against the visiting English", Tanvir added.

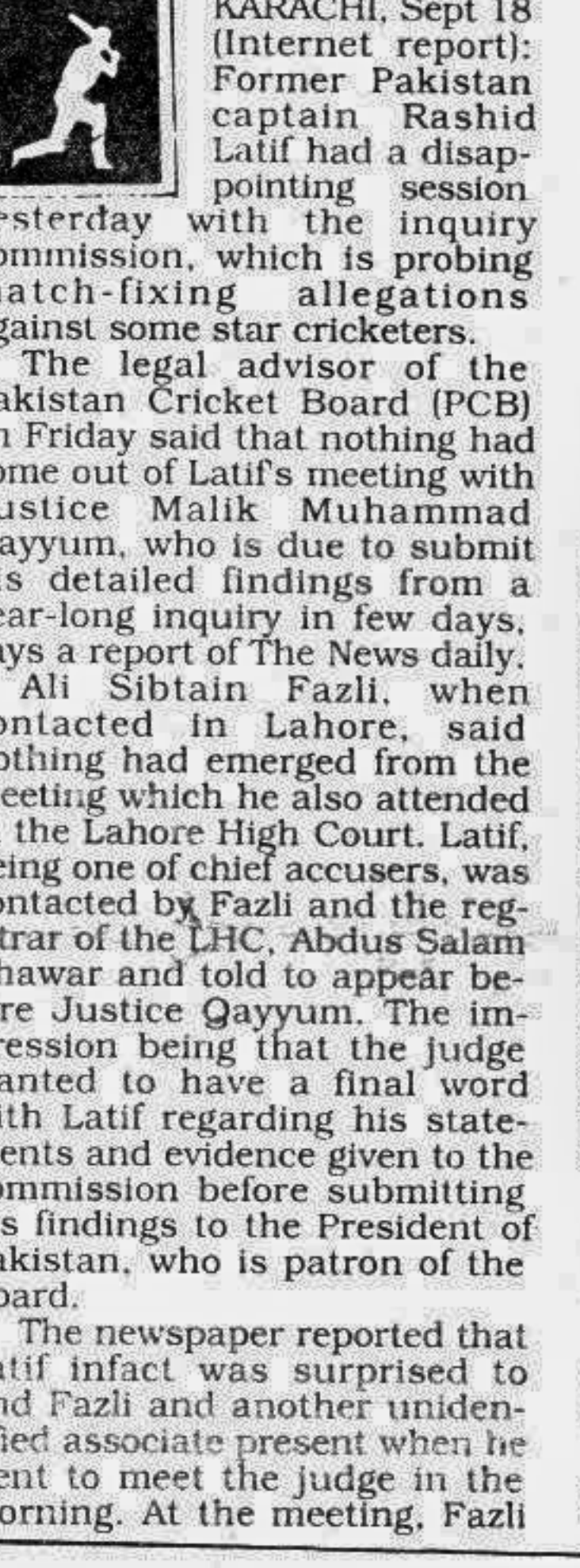
SAF flag-bearer BOA undecided

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) appears to be in a thick soup in announcing the name of the flag-bearer of the Bangladesh contingent at the forthcoming SAF Games, scheduled to start in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu from September 27.
Although the first batch of the 173-member Bangladesh contingent has already reached the Himalayan kingdom to take part in the eighth edition of the regional meet involving the seven SAARC nations, the BOA is yet to make up its mind about the flag-bearer.
It was learnt that the athletics and the shooting federations were involved in a tug-of-war to carry the red-and-green national colours. While the athletics federation claimed that Mahabubur Rahman, who won the 200m gold in the last SAF Games in Madras in 1995, should have the honour, the shooting federation considers Commonwealth and SAF gold medalist Saiful Alam Rinky as a more fitting contender to do the most enviable job.

Wushu contest mark China day

Sports Reporter
The Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic & Mass Communication Centre (BCECMCC) held a martial arts competition at the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex on Friday.
The daylong competition, which attracted a lot of enthusiasts from across the country, was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Wushu Federation and the BCECMCC to mark the 50th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China.
Yao Bao Lai, first secretary (cultural) of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka was present on the occasion.
Dominic Cork's team fed Hampshire, who must win to play in division one, cheap runs to set up a declaration with a day and a half remaining.
Even wicketkeeper Karl Krikken removed his pads to bowl nine overs in a session of

Latif cross-examined



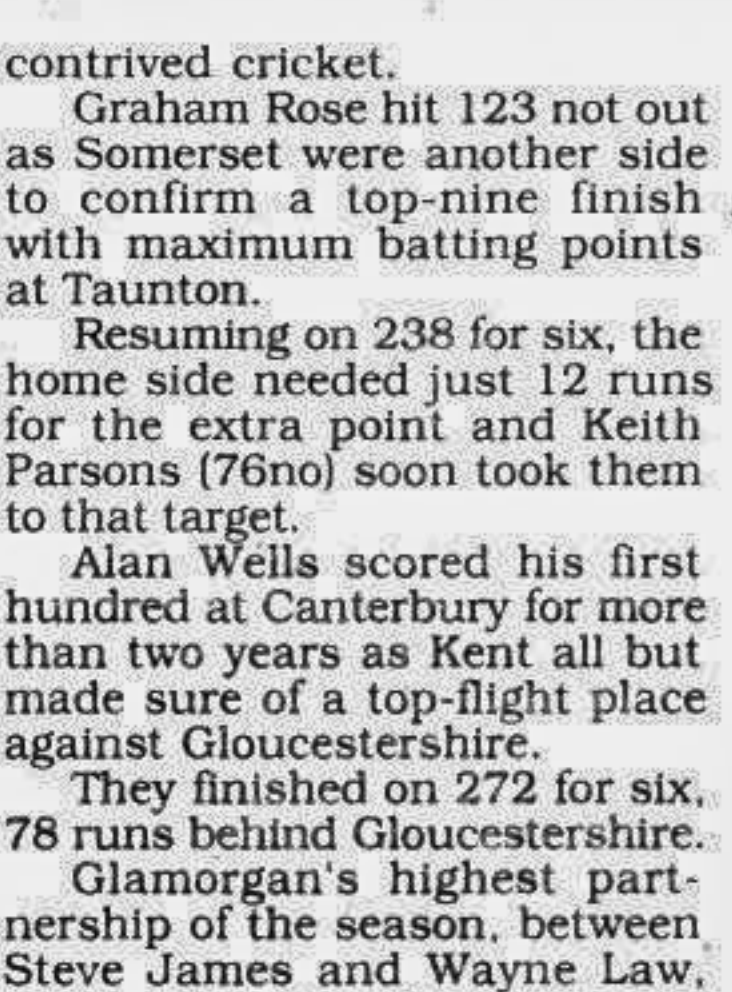
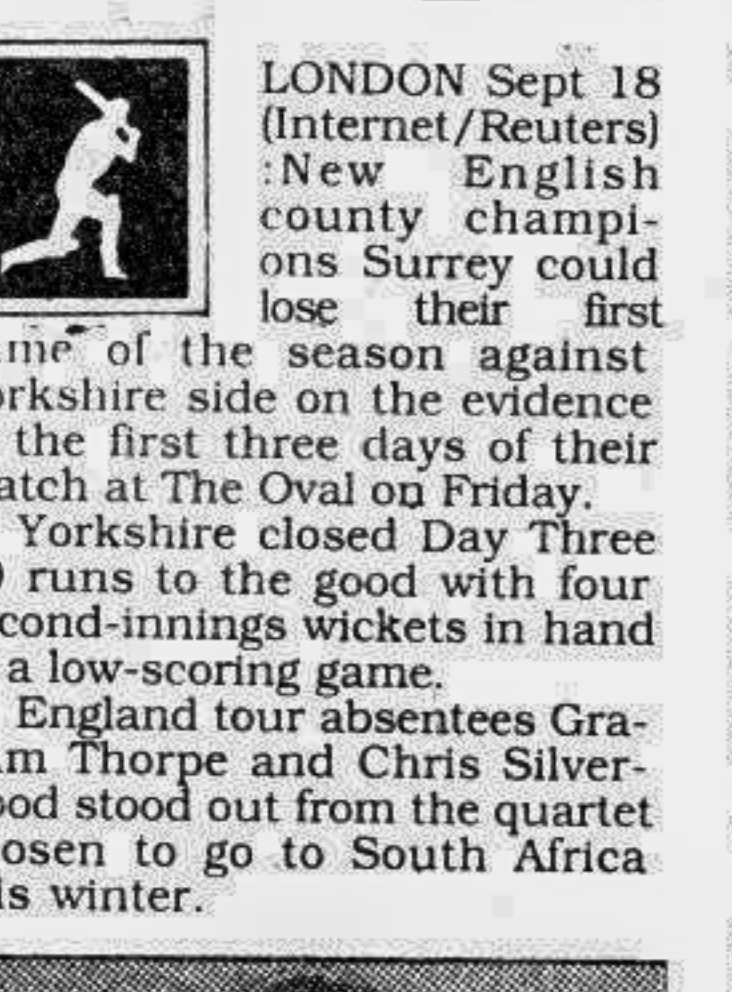
RASHID LATIF

KARACHI, Sept 18 (Internet report): Former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif had a disappointing session yesterday with the inquiry commission, which is probing match-fixing allegations against some star cricketers.
The legal advisor of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday said that nothing had come out of Latif's meeting with Justice Malik Muhammad Qayyum, who is due to submit his detailed findings from a year-long inquiry in few days, says a report of The News daily.
Ali Sibtain Fazli, when contacted in Lahore, said nothing had emerged from the meeting which he also attended at the Lahore High Court. Latif, being one of chief accusers, was contacted by Fazli and the registrar of the LHC, Abdus Salam Khawar and told to appear before Justice Qayyum. The impression being that the judge wanted to have a final word with Latif regarding his statements and evidence given to the commission before submitting his findings to the President of Pakistan, who is patron of the Board.
The newspaper reported that Latif was surprised to find Fazli and another unidentified associate present when he went to meet the judge in the morning. At the meeting, Fazli

started to cross question Latif on the statement and evidence he had given to the commission and the wicketkeeper understandably was not happy, but made it clear he stood by what he had said and it was up to the commission to view it and draw conclusions from it.
Fazli, it is understood, inquired from Latif about his allegations against Salim Malik, but did not make much headway when the player insisted he stood by what he had told the commission. When Fazli inquired from him about the contents of the audio tapes he had given to the commission, Latif expressed surprise that the

lawyer had not heard them as yet although they were with the commission for months now.
Latif reportedly came out of the meeting a disappointed man and left after speaking to Khawar. Fazli when asked whether the commission planned to take more time or hold anymore hearings before submitting its findings replied this was not so and believed the findings by the judge would be submitted any day now.
With the exhaustive inquiry by the judicial commission having lasted exactly for a year between September 1998 to 99, people both at home and abroad are now anxiously waiting to know what the findings would contain.
Specially so, since the impression being created from various quarters including the cricket Board is that the players accused of fixing matches are all going to be cleared by the commission because of lack of evidence. The removal of the suspension on Wasim Akram and his reinstatement as captain by ad hoc committee chairman Mujeeb Rehman are being widely considered as an indication of that.
In this exhaustive inquiry the commission questioned and cross examined more than 60 former and present cricketers, Board officials, team managers, coaches, journalists, police personnel and even bookmakers.

Thorpe, Silverwood shine



GRAHAM THORPE

CHRIS SILVERWOOD

LONDON Sept 18 (Internet/Reuters): New English county champions Surrey could lose their first game of the season against Yorkshire side on the evidence of the first three days of their match at The Oval on Friday.
Yorkshire closed Day Three 79 runs to the good with four second-innings wickets in hand in a low-scoring game.
England tour absentees Graham Thorpe and Chris Silverwood stood out from the quartet chosen to go to South Africa this winter.
Thorpe's unbeaten 58 from 63 balls for Surrey and a return of five for 28 for Yorkshire paceman Silverwood eclipsed anything Mark Butcher, Alec Stewart, Michael Vaughan and Gavin Hamilton could offer.
Surrey followed the visitors' 115 with 128 before Yorkshire closed on 92 for six with Carl Greenidge, son of West Indies legend Gordon, returned championship debut figures of five for 60.
But the Tykes will feel a lead of 150 could be enough.
Derbyshire left the field to a torrent of abuse from their members only hours after they had qualified for the First Division of next season's championship.
Dominic Cork's team fed Hampshire, who must win to play in division one, cheap runs to set up a declaration with a day and a half remaining.
Even wicketkeeper Karl Krikken removed his pads to bowl nine overs in a session of

contrived cricket.
Graham Rose hit 123 not out as Somerset were another side to confirm a top-nine finish with maximum batting points at Taunton.
Resuming on 238 for six, the home side needed just 12 runs for the extra point and Keith Parsons (76no) soon took them to that target.
Alan Wells scored his first hundred at Canterbury for more than two years as Kent all but made sure of a top-flight place against Gloucestershire.
They finished on 272 for six, 78 runs behind Gloucestershire.
Glamorgan's highest partnership of the season, between Steve James and Wayne Law, kept alive victory hopes against Northamptonshire at Cardiff.
When rain ended play, Glamorgan were 204 for three, a lead of 227.
Middlesex openers Andrew Strauss and Ben Hutton completed two century partnerships which could still be a lost cause against Worcestershire at New Road.
The South African born left-handers added 117 together, only for the first innings to fold for 235.
When Middlesex followed on 230 behind, they put on 103 and Strauss' second half-century of the match paved the way for a more resilient 153 for one.
Mark Ramprakash's term as Middlesex captain is now likely to end with an exchange of positions with Worcestershire among the sides condemned to the Second Division next season.
Nasser Hussain found a ray of sunlight at the end of a dismal summer with his unbeaten 109 leading a spirited Essex fightback against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.
The England skipper shared

BRIEF SCORES

(DAY 3 OF 4)
At Derby: Hampshire 362-8 declared (A.Ayres 86, J.Larney 67, R.Smith 64, D.Mascarenhas 51) and 199-5 declared. Derbyshire 277-9. (P.DeFreitas 54) and 109-4.
At Cardiff: Glamorgan 227 (M.Powell 67) and 204-3 (S.James 111, W.Law 64, D.Malcom 3-72). Northamptonshire 204 (R.Warren 72).
At Canterbury: Gloucestershire 350-6 declared (K.Barnett 125, L.Harvey 123). Kent 272-6 (A.Wells 100).
At Leicestershire: Leicestershire 322 (D.Stevens 98, V.Wells 57, N.Killen 5-58). Durham 229-4.
At Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire 349 (J.Gallian 118, G.Welton 76, T.Robinson 66). Essex 188 (S.Law 64) and 266-1 (P.Prichard 110 not out, N.Hussain 109 not out).
At Taunton: Lancashire 322 (J.Crawley 64, G.Lloyd 144, A.Caddick 8-113). Somerset 376-6 (M.Trescothick 78, G.Rose 123 not out, K.Parsons 76 not out).
At the Oval: Yorkshire 115 (C.Greenidge 5-60) and 92-6. Surrey 128 (G.Thorpe 58 not out, C.Silverwood 5-28).
At Worcester: Worcestershire 465-9 declared (E.Wilson 116, V.Solanki 155, D.Catterall 60, P.Tufnell 5-107). Middlesex 235 (A.Strauss 62) and 153-1 (A.Strauss 55 not out).