

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Bishan Singh Bedi
(Former Indian captain)

"I don't know. I am not an expert. It is for the administration to decide. The ball is in their court. They must come clean."

When asked to give a solution on how bookies can be kept away from Indian cricket.

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-131

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm June 16, 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who is the number one women tennis player at the moment?
Hings Pierce V Williams
- Who won the European Champions' League?
M United Real Madrid Lazio
- Who won the UEFA Cup?
Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina
- Who lifted national schools cricket title?
St Joseph M Singh Zila Cig Khastagur
- Who is the coach of Bangladesh football team?
Harrison Van Gaal Shahr

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Hockey squad leaves for S'pore today

A 20-member Bangladesh youth team leaves here for Singapore today to participate in the Asian Hockey Federation Cup Under-16 tournament, reports UNB.

The eight-team first ever Asian junior hockey meet will be held at the Delta Complex in Singapore from June 16-25.

Bangladesh captain Hedayetul Islam Rajib, a left wing back of BKS and Abahani told the news agency "Our first target is to play in the semifinal."

"This time our team is a balanced side. I hope we'll be able to beat Japan and Oman in the group engagements if we are able to display our usual performance," he said.

Rajib added, "we'll try our best at least to share points with giants India."

Bangladesh have been placed in Pool B along with India, Japan and Oman while the Pool A consists of Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and hosts Singapore.

In the group matches, Bangladesh will play Japan on Saturday (June 17), meet giant neighbour India on Monday (June 19) and Oman on Wednesday (June 21).

TEAM

Hedayetul Islam Rajib, Mahbubul Chowdhury, Golan Shahrar, Yamin Hossain, AKM Shamsuddin, Golan Sarwar, Rajibul Hasan, Abdul Haq Shahedi, Ashiq Abedin, Rahul Kanti Roy, Shawkat Ali, Mazharul Islam, Ashrafur Islam, Maksud Alam, Russeluddin and Hosne Mobarak.

Officials: Manager — Haji Manwar Hossain, Asstt Manager — Yousuf Ali, Coach — Nurul Islam and Asstt Manager — Kawsar Ali.

Maqsoodur Rahman will also accompany the team as umpire.

Board for elected boss

Al-Amin



The much-anticipated reconstitution of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) finally got a shape following an emergency board meeting yesterday.

The most interesting outcome of the meeting, chaired by BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, was the proposal for an elected chairman rather than a government appointed president in the revolutionary draft constitution.

"We have agreed to form a fully elected board. A chairman will head a board of directors, which will not have more than 25 members. The chairman will be elected by the board of directors," Saber told the reporters late last night on conclusion of the marathon meeting that lasted for more than three hours.

"The committee will consist of elected representatives from the cricket clubs based in Dhaka, members from the six divisional headquarters, a representative from the soon to be launched Bangladesh Cricket Foundation and a nominee of the chairman and the CEO," said Saber. He however did not disclose the ratio of representation from the Dhaka-based clubs.

"But this is only a recommendation. Things would be finalised only after the AGM (Annual General Meeting AGM)," the BCB boss said. The first AGM, scheduled for June 15, has now been shifted to September 2. Interestingly, the AGM will be held in the tranquil settings of Cox's Bazar, the country's premium sea resort.

The BCB president also revealed that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) would start discharging his duties from August 1. The Board is also likely to bring 14 national cricketers on its pay roll from the same day.

About the appointment of the CEO, Saber said the Board has so far received around 24 applications. We are going to shortlist the figure to three to

BCB's rejection

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday refuted the latest match-fixing allegation made by the managing director of South African cricket board Ali Bacher. Backer on Monday told a South African inquiry commission that the Bangladesh-Pakistan match in the World Cup last year was fixed.

The BCB media release is as follows:

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in its scheduled Board meeting of today (Wednesday) discussed the recent allegation of match-fixing involving Bangladesh-Pakistan match in 1999 World Cup.

In the continued absence of any evidence to substantiate this serious allegation, BCB has no option but to reject the claim and reiterate its firm belief that Bangladesh won its match against Pakistan as the better team on the day.

BCB is committed to the cause of eradicating any unfair means designed to influence the normal course of a game which it believes should always be played in its true spirit.

four before the final interview takes place," Saber said, adding that a three-member interview committee will be headed by BCB treasurer Afzalur Rahman Sinha.

"The CEO will be a member of the Board of directors, but he won't have the right to vote," he said. His job will be to coordinate between the four departments — finance, accounts, administration and development.

Apart from the four standing committees, to be headed by a member of the board of directors, there will also be three sub-committees. These are — Cricket Committee Playing, Cricket Committee Management and Cricket Committee Development.

Regarding the issue of taking selected cricketers under the BCB pay roll Saber said they would prefer those fit and young cricketers who have a long term prospect.

"We are planning to bring ten to fourteen players initially on our pay roll," said Saber, hinting that the figure might increase if required.

Div II kabadi

The four-team super league matches of the Metropolitan Second Division Kabadi begins today at the Outer Stadium Kabadi ground, reports UNB.

Matuail Milan Smitri Sangsad will play Maniknagar Unnayan Samity at 3:30 pm while Hazi Suruzzamal Smitri Master Smitri Sangsad at 4:30 pm in the opening day fixture.

Noakhali in final Mass suicide by Chittagong

Sports Reporter

Hosts Noakhali stormed into the final of the 21st Sher-e-Bangla National Football Championship with a sensational 11-2 win over Chittagong in the second semifinal at the Moidul Stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 1-0 with national defender Sourav Majumder finding the net in the 34th minute.

But the match turned into a farce when Chittagong booters conceded five suicidal goals in protest of a penalty decision against them in the second session.

It began in the 65th minute when Noakhali were awarded the penalty and Nakib converted to put his side 5-1 up.

Chittagong's Asif and Taher shot into their own net twice each while their teammate Shahjahan scored the other to gift it 10-1 in favour of the home side. The five goals were scored in seven minutes.

Noakhali's Alfaz then made it 11-1 in the 78th minute while Pavel reduced the margin for Chittagong in the 86th minute.

Earlier, Saurav Majumder put Noakhali ahead in the 34th minute while Farhad equalised for Chittagong in the 46th minute.

The winners will take on Bangladesh Army in tomorrow's final.

BCB turns down Minhaz's plea

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Cricket Board declined to entertain former national captain Minhazul Abedin's plea to allow him play in the longer version cricket for the country.



Minhaz, who retired from international cricket after 1999 World Cup, formally requested the Board yesterday to give him a green signal.

"We have discussed about it in our meeting today (Wednesday). The Board has rejected his request. Firstly because it was a conditional plea. We want to stick to our policy of not reviving the career of a retired player," said Saber Hossain Chowdhury late last night.

"In the near future, Bangladesh would be travelling a lot where they will play both one-day and first class matches. We're not thinking to take different players for different form of matches," he said.

Earlier, Minhaz, in his application, said that he was still capable of playing for Bangladesh in the longer version of the game.

"I retired from one-day cricket after the World Cup. But as now Bangladesh has a chance to play Test matches, I think I can serve the country with my experience," said Minhaz while talking to The Daily Star Sport over telephone yesterday.

"I have requested the board to consider me if Bangladesh play Test cricket in the near future," added Minhaz, who inspired Bangladesh to some brilliant performances in last year's World Cup.

Rajshahi hockey

From Our Correspondent

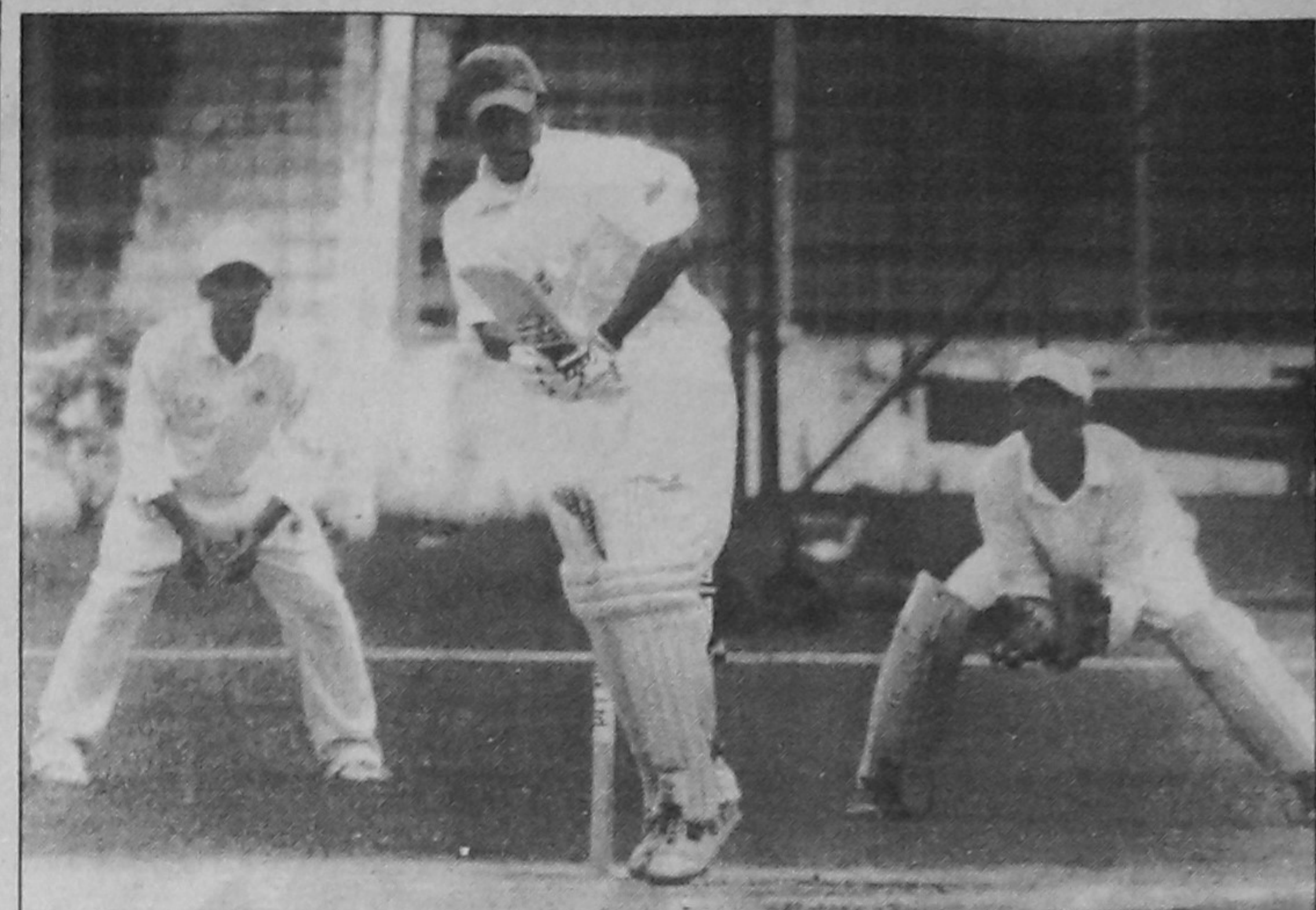
RAJSHAH, June 14: Friends Sporting Club trounced Upasahar Sporting Club 10-0 in the Rajshahi First Division Hockey League at local stadium today.

Mamun opened the account in the 3rd minute and he also scored two more goals in the 23rd and 39th minutes. Tulip netted twice in the 28th and 46th minutes and Rajon in the 52nd and 54th minutes. Ripon, Chandon and Babu slammed home one goal each in the 58th, 62nd and 65th minutes respectively.

Baikali Sangha blanked Cosmos Sporting Club 3-0 in the other match of the day.

Munna opened the account in the 5th minute while Sabur and Ranu slammed home on goal each in the 46th and 53rd minutes respectively.

Baikali Sangha emerged champions earning nine points from five matches while Friends Sporting became runners-up earning eight points from five matches in the A Group.



Scene from the trial match for the under-15 cricket team at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Colts on their mettle

Hasan Masood



Cricketers of two age groups -- under-17 and under-15 -- are going through some tough training sessions under the supervision of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Despite the report of the training camps being badly managed, the cub cricketers showed no lacking of enthusiasm and conviction in their trial match held at the Dhaka National Stadium yesterday. While the under-15 boys started playing a rather serious match on the field, their seniors were seen busy practising down the boundary line throughout the day.

The aspiring youths appeared very committed in their approach, showing no intention to let an opportunity to impress the selectors go by. Those who pass the muster would get the opportunity to represent Bangladesh in two international tournaments.

Three BCB appointed coaches -- Wahidul Gani, Golan Faruk Suru and Anwar Hossain Chowdhury -- selected players from across the country. Wahidul, head of the panel, however resigned afterwards.

The inaugural under-15 meet will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from June 30 to July 10 and the 10-day under-17

tournament commences in Karachi from July 15.

Seven teams -- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong -- will take part in the under-15 competition while 10 teams -- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Kuwait, Maldives, Sri Lanka, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia -- will feature in the under-17 meet.

Both camps are being held simultaneously but priority has been given to U-15 training as the meet of this age group begins first.

A total of 46 boys including 15 from the BKSP took part in the under-15 camp that began from May 18. Alok Chakravarty has been appointed the coach and Alam Chowdhury the manager.

After the initial camp at the BUET ground and their subsequent trial matches at the BNS, BCB picked 25 cricketers last night from where they would make final selection of 14 by June 22. They team is expected to leave for Malaysia on June 27.

Meanwhile, the trial matches of under-17 camp are expected to start next week. Forty-seven cricketers including eight from BKSP are taking part in the primary camp, which is being coached by Golan Faruk Suru. Like the case

of under-15 selection, BCB would also shortlist the team after playing trial matches.

Placed in Pool A along with hosts Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives and Kuwait, Bangladesh will take on Pakistan in their opening match at the Karachi National Stadium on July 15.

While inquiring about irregularities at the camps, no players came up with any definite allegation. Seeking anonymity, only three players said about the short-supply of drinking water and non-supply of food.

Alam Chowdhury, who is also a BCB member, admitted that initially they could not provide the boys with food. "It's true that we could not provide them with meals initially. But once the trial matches started on June 10, we are giving lunch and energy drinks to the boys," he said.

Alam however denied any knowledge of alleged shortfall of drinking water. "No one has so far come out saying he did not get drinking water. There was plenty of water for them at the BUET ground. We carried gallons of drinking water from the BCB everyday," said Alam at the Stadium yesterday. He also mentioned the nine boys who came from outside the capital were being provided with accommodations and food from the beginning of the camp.

Bacher himself fixed match?



JOHANNESBURG, June 14 (Reuters/AFP): South African cricket boss Ali Bacher has rejected an allegation in a newspaper that he fixed a match during a rebel tour by a West Indies side in the 1980s.

"It's absolute rubbish," Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), told Reuters on Wednesday.

The accusations are contained in a statement submitted

by Johannesburg lawyer Peter Soller to the King Commission of inquiry into match-fixing in South Africa.

Commission secretary Peter Bacon said the commission had received Soller's statement which was published in the Afrikaans-language daily Beeld.

Bacon said the commission was investigating the allegations but would not comment further.

Soller's document has mystified cricket officials and a sports promoter involved with

the two tours by the West Indian teams, in 1982/83 and 1983/84.

UCBSA spokeswoman Bronwyn Wilkinson told AFP Bacher remembered a dispute over payment during the second tour in 1983/84 but was "upset" at any suggestion the players were paid to lose.

The West Indies had in fact won both their one-day matches at the Wanderers, where Soller claimed he had been with Bacher when a deal was struck for the tourists to "blow the match".

Soller claimed he was called to the Wanderers Stadium by Richard Tessel, who he named as a sports promoter involved with the tour, before a one-day international when the West Indians were refusing to play because of a pay dispute.

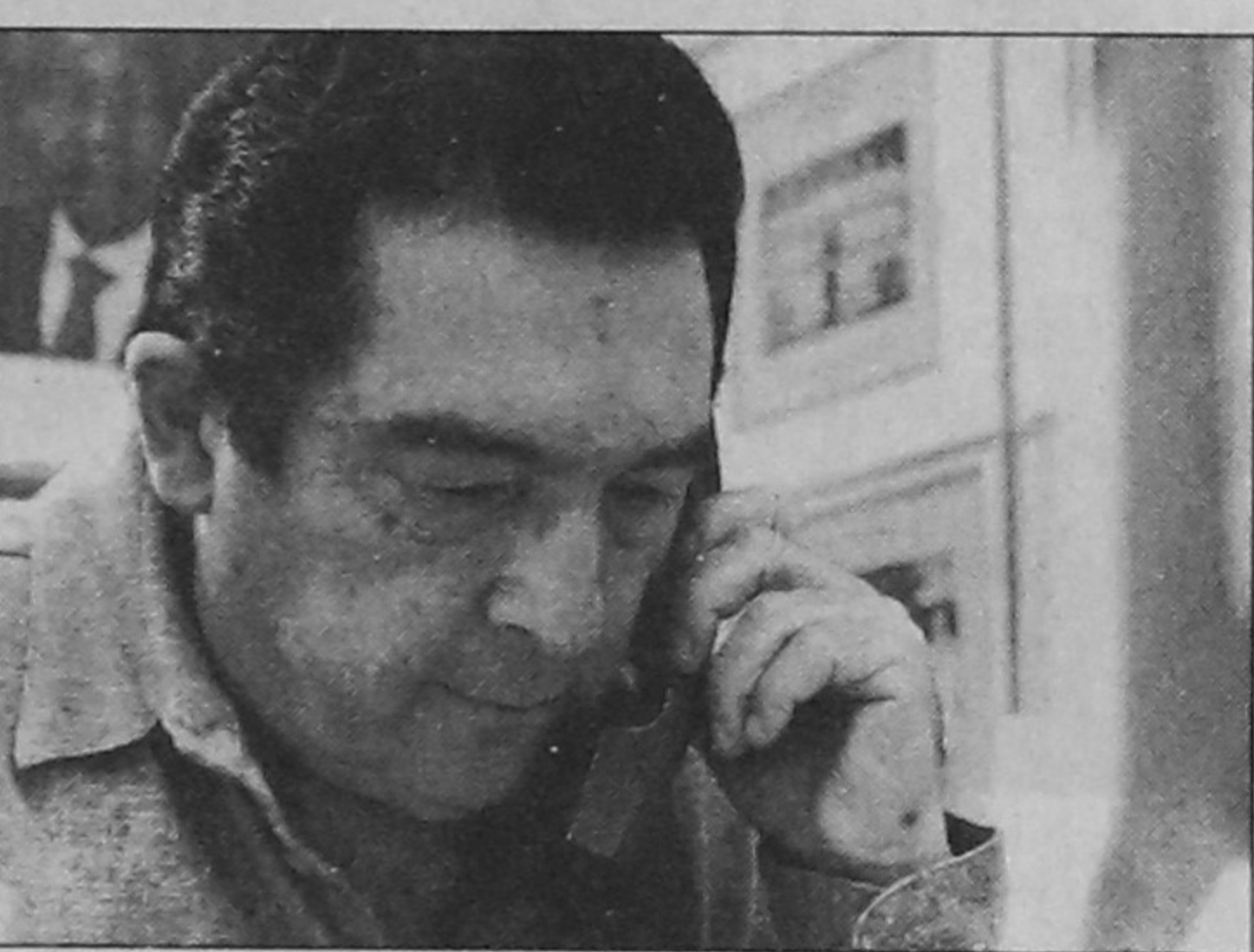
The row was only defused, according to Soller, when Bacher, Tessel and Soller agreed to pay the West Indians extra money provided if they lost.

The report said Soller's statement included an account of how the lawyer was asked to help resolve a pay dispute.

During the lunch interval the West Indians "decided they would not go back on the playing field because they were not being paid enough", the report said.

"At first, Bacher threatened to summon the Windies for breach of contract," said the report, quoting Soller's statement.

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South African cricket chief Ali Bacher on the phone at his Johannesburg office yesterday.

PREVIEW

Sweden v Turkey: Survival at stake



EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, June 14: Sweden and Turkey will face a Euro 2000 abyss when they meet in a Group B match here Thursday, in a match which would mean near certain elimination from the tournament for the loser, reports AFP.

Sweden fell 2-1 to hosts Belgium in their opener and Turkey went down by the same score to Italy funning over a harsh penalty decision which cost them the match.

Filippo Inzaghi's spot-kick after 70 minutes proved decisive although his fall under a challenge from Ogun Temizkenoglu to win the penalty was at best theatrical.

Relaxed Sweden have been training at their Oisterwijk headquarters to the north of Eindhoven in contrast to secretive Turkey who evicted journalists from the Arnhem stadium where they were training.

Charm may not be Turkey's watchword but few doubt their quality, summed up by Hakan Sukur who has gone to Inter Milan after winning the UEFA Cup with Galatasaray.

Sweden's Kennet Andersson told AFP on Monday that Sukur, with 53 caps and 26 goals to his name, was clearly dangerous.

The 28-year-old classic centre forward, known as the Bull of the Bosphorus, can shoot with both feet and was top scorer in Turkey in 1997 (28

goals), 1998 (32 goals) and 1999 (19 goals).

Andersson, a man of few words and not given to criticism or praise, said: "Sukur had a great season with Galatasaray, who won the UEFA Cup, and he could be dangerous."

Ironically Sukur bore the brunt of the criticism in Turkey's poor Euro 96 display when they lost their group matches to Croatia, Portugal and Denmark. To be fair to him, Sukur played most of the tournament as a lone striker and service from his teammates was mediocre.

At least Turkey earned valuable experience on the international stage and they cannot be ruled out as potential dark horses since it is the open nature of this June 10 to July 2 event.

Predicting Turkey's line-up is a hazardous business given their desire for privacy but perhaps coach Mustafa Denizli will keep the same starting 11.

That would mean Rustu Recber in goal behind a back four of Umit Davala, Ogun Temizkenoglu, Alpay Ozalan and Tayfur Havutcu. The midfield would be Fatih Akyel, Okan Buruk, Abdullah Ercan and Seren Yalcin with Hakan Sukur and Tayfun Korkut up front.

For Sweden, right back Roland Nilsson, who gave away the first goal and was substituted against Belgium, is definitely out.

Nilsson may be out of the Italy game too. "We will wait and see what the doctors say," said joint-coach Lars Lagerback

on the Helsingborgs player after Monday training.

Former Sheffield Wednesday star Nilsson was one of the heroes of Sweden's run to third place at the 1994 World Cup and is known as Stalmanen, or Superman in Swedish, for his exceptional fitness at the age of 37.

AIK Stockholm's Teddy Lucic is set to come into the right-back position in Nilsson's absence.

Lagerback's only other enforced change against Turkey is also in defence as Patrik Andersson was dismissed after receiving a second yellow card late in the Belgian game.

Joachim Bjorklund, who did not play in the last six weeks of Valencia's season, is set to start in central defence with Real Zaragoza's Gary Sundgren coming in at left back.

Celtic's Henrik Larsson, out for most of this season after breaking his leg in a UEFA Cup game, should start alongside Kennet Andersson in attack.

A possible starting line-up against Turkey would read Magnus Hedman in goal, Lucic at right back, Olof Mellberg and Bjorklund in central defence and Sundgren at left back.

Hakan Mild, Johan Mjallby, Fredrik Ljungberg and Niclas Alexandersson could be in midfield with Larsson and Andersson up front.

Both teams will need to show great character if they want to avoid the Euro 2000 exit door.

Rain interruption at SSC

Even going on Day One



COLOMBO, June 14: Marvan Atapattu made a quick 26 off 35 balls before presenting a simple catch to gully fielder Yousif Khan off a Waqar Younis delivery.

Waqar struck again in the same spell when he had Russel Arnold playing out a delivery at four.

Aravinda de Silva, former deputy skipper, helped Atapattu in a further stand of 53 before he top-edged a sweep off spinner Arshad Khan and Wasim Akram at mid-on made a lot of ground to hold onto the catch.

Mahela Jayawardene, stripped off the vice-captaincy

steady start by putting on 52 for the first wicket after winning the toss.

Jayasuriya made a quick 26 off 35 balls before presenting a simple catch to gully fielder Yousif Khan off a Waqar Younis delivery.

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due to poor form survived 19 minutes in the middle before bad light brought an end to the day's play with six overs remaining to be bowled.

The opening day of the Test nearly became a non-starter when 230 minutes playing time was lost in the morning and afternoon sessions due to wet ground conditions.

Sri Lanka, playing their 100th Test, gave 20-year-old fast bowler Dilhara Fernando his first Test cap making him the 82nd player to be capped for his country.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of a rain-shortened first day of the first cricket Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground here Wednesday.

SRI LANKA: First innings
Atapattu not out 50
Jayasuriya c Younis b Waqar 26
Arnold b Waqar 4
A de Silva c Akram b Arshad 30
M Jayawardene not out 2
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1) 3
Total: (For 3 wickets, 42 overs) 115
Fall of wickets: 1-52; 2-56; 3-108.

To bat: A Ranatunga, R S Kaluwitharana, WPJC Vaas, DNT Zoysa, M Muralitharan, R D Fernando.

Bowler: O M R W
Akram 9 3 15 0
Waqar 9 0 36 2
Razaq 9 0 33 0
Mushtaq 7 1 18 0
Arshad 8 4 11 1

PAKISTAN: Moin Khan (captain), Saeed Anwar, Mohammad Wasim, Yousif Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Abdur Razaq, Arshad Khan.

Umpires: Bulathsinghalage Cooray (Sri Lanka) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies).

TV umpire: Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka).

Match Referee: John Reid (New Zealand).



Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya follows through on a square-drive on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan at Colombo yesterday.

— AFP photo