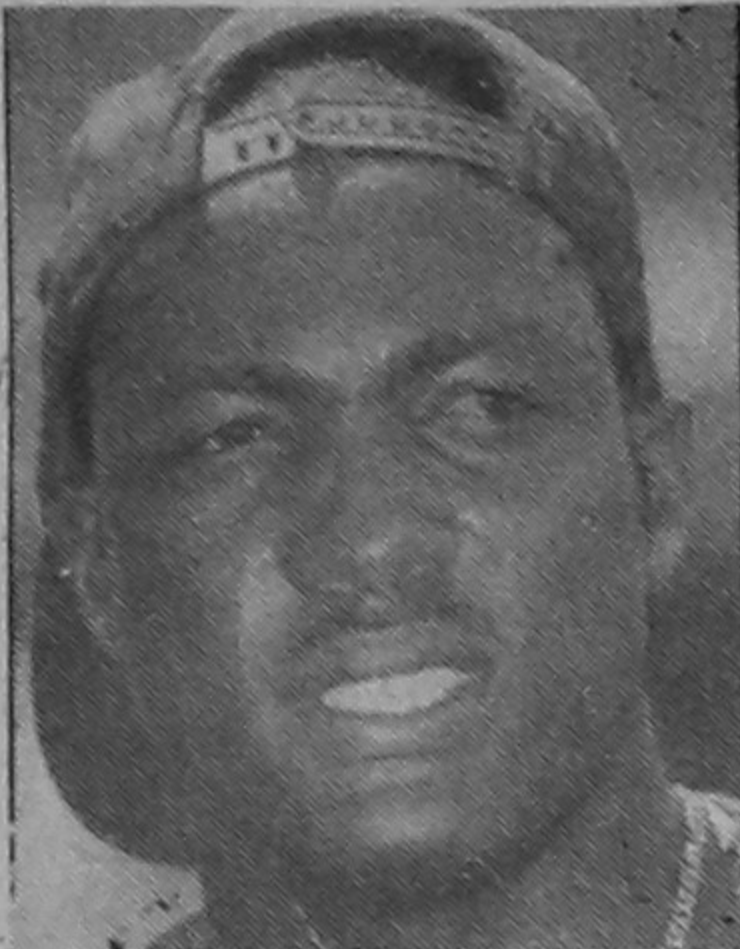


Column One

SPORTS TALK



Brian Lara
(West Indies master batsman)
"I was never handed any money, whether for winning bets or otherwise. In short, I categorically deny all allegations made against me; they are absolute and total rubbish and I am happy to go along with any official investigation."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

Competition-131

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Post to The Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm

June 23, 2000 and draw

shortly afterwards

1 Who is the number one

women tennis player at the

moment?

Hings Pierce V Williams

2 Who won the European

Champions' League?

M United Real Madrid Lazio

3 Who won the UEFA Cup?

Valencia Galatasaray Fiorentina

4 Who lifted national schools

cricket title?

St Joseph M Singh Zila Cig Khastagir

5 Who is the coach of Bangladesh

football team?

Harrison Van Gaal Shakir

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Bangladesh go

down to India

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh conceded a solitary

goal defeat against India in

their second Pool B match of

the Asian Under-16 Hockey

Championship in Singapore,

according to a telephonic mes-

sage received here yesterday.

After a barren first half, In-

dia went ahead midway through

second half.

The defeat dashed

Bangladesh hopes of finishing

Pool B atop. However, they have

still a chance to earn the second

position if they can beat Oman

in their last match tomorrow.

Bangladesh made an im-

pressive start with a 5-1 win

over Japan on Saturday.

CZKS Div II

soccer on

CHITTAGONG, June 19:

Chattagram Zila Krira

Sangstha (CZKS) Second Division

football league began at the

MA Aziz Stadium here today,

reports BSS.

Rangunia Thana Krira

Sangstha beat Ispah Ekadosh

Blues by a solitary goal in the

inaugural match.

Shabuddin Babul scored the

all-important goal in the sec-

ond half.

Thirty teams are participat-

ing in the league divided into

six groups.

Sylhet cricket

SYLHET, June 19: Ronically

Cricket Club defeated Fulbari

Onirban Krira Chakra by 6

wickets and moved into the

semifinal of the Mustafa Al-

lahma Gold Cup youth cricket

tournament at the MC Academy

playground, Sylhet today, says

a press release.

BRIEF SCORES

FULBARI ONIRBAN KC: 72

all out in 17 overs (Islal 12,

Sarzil 9; Kabir 6 wks).

RONICALY CC: 73 for 4 in

10.2 overs (Kabir 26, Rubel 15

BKSP losing ground

Sports Reporter

Is the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) worth keeping? This question is sure to crop up as the trainees of the best equipped sports facility of the country are repeatedly failing to make their mark in various disciplines.

The most appalling scenario is in the junior level where the students of country's lone sports institute is expected to dominate. This downtrend was once again vividly exposed when only three cricketers of BKSP made it into a team of 14 of the Bangladesh squad, which will represent the country in the Under-15 Asian Championship. The tourney involving seven nations will commence in Malaysia from June 28.

Even five years ago BKSP was considered as the breeding ground of future sporting stalwarts. The institute made it a habit of experiencing success in individual and team sports soon after its inception way back in 1986.

BKSP boasted national stars Masud Rana and Hasan al Mamun (football), Naimur Rahman, Al-Shahriar, Sajjad Ahmed (cricket), Mamunur Rashid, Mahfuzul Alam, Alamgir Alam, Zahid Hasan (hockey), Bimal Chandra Tarafdar (athletics) and Karar Mizanur Rahman (swimming) to name a few. All the above mentioned players donned the

Bangladesh jersey while they were still students at the BKSP. But that production line has run dry in recent times.

Critics say that the institute has become a money-spinning machine for the fortune seekers rather than a complete training institute for the aspiring youngsters.

The BKSP is still considered a project whereas all work of this institution was supposed to have finished years ago. A vested quarter is trying their best to keep it as a project for as long as possible as it will bring in government funds, said a BKSP official on condition of anonymity.

The inability of trainees to force their way into the Under-15 team has even raised the eyebrows of BKSP's chief coach of cricket Nazmul Abedin Fahim.

The gray-haired coach however blamed the selection procedure of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) responsible for the nominal representation of his boys in the team.

"I think there are four more BKSP players who deserved to be in the team on merit", said Fahim to this reporter yesterday.

"I believe it is the pre-determined mind set of the selection panel that deprived BKSP of more places in the team", he added.

Former national cricketer Wahidul Ghani echoed Nazmul's impression of favoritism in the selection. Despite their similarities in opinions there is also a touch of irony. While Nazmul has enviable resources at his disposal to train youngsters, Wahid with palpable logistics, runs a free training camp in Dhaka from which four boys made it to the final 14 of the Under-15 team.

In the case of BKSP, the coach is hardly to blame as he is reportedly left with a pack of trainees with little or no talent.

There are allegations of wholesale nepotism in the admission procedure of the students.

One frustrated guardian whose son failed to get admitted in Cricket despite having impressive credentials, said, "It's nearly impossible to get justice in the admission trials unless you have the backing of a Minister or an influential government official".

With more questions than answers the BKSP, which has enjoyed its best days during the Ershad regime, is heading for a crash in the long run. With the rapid increase of private coaching clinics (a recipe for disaster), especially in cricket, BKSP with its current philosophy faces a threat of completely losing its already delicate image.



UEFA president Lennart Johansson (R) talks to reporters while his chief executive Gerhard Aigner listens in Liege, Belgium on June 18. UEFA has threatened England that they would be thrown out of Euro 2000 if they had not taken care of their trouble-making supporters. —AFP photo

PREVIEW

England v Romania: Other worries than the Carpathians

CHARLEROI, Belgium, June 19: England take on Romania here on Tuesday knowing that a draw will see them into the quarterfinals, but that crowd trouble will see them kicked out of Euro 2000 even if they win 10-0, reports AFP.

UEFA have made it clear they will exclude England from the tournament if the hooligan element of their supporters continues to wreak the kind of havoc witnessed here and in Brussels last weekend.

That warning means that Kevin Keegan's men are now being held to ransom by a small section of their own fans, who have become a second obstacle after Romania to their progress at this tournament.

Aside from the national humiliation, exclusion would also be a devastating blow to the England players after their historic victory here on Saturday over Europe's defending champions ended 34 years of defeats to Germany.

Now Erich Ribbeck's beaten side may yet have the last laugh if the hooligans cannot be persuaded to stop the trouble.

If they can, England must be favourites to take their revenge for a 1998 World Cup defeat to Romania and line up a quarter-final tie with Italy.

Rocked by losing 3-2 to Group A winners Portugal after leading 2-0, Keegan's side are now on a roll after beating their old enemies here and the coach is unlikely to make sweeping changes.

Of the walking wounded in the England camp, only Arsenal defender Tony Adams is unlikely to recover in time, leaving Keegan with just the recurring question of who to play on left - Dennis Wise getting the nod over Steve McManaman on Saturday.

Wise's fighting spirit was precious in the kind of physical battle which England knew they would have to endure against the Germans.

But McManaman's class might be the better choice in a skills contest with Romania, and the Real Madrid midfielder's coolly-taken goal against Portugal will also be fresh in Keegan's mind.

Skipper Alan Shearer has rediscovered his scoring touch. Michael Owen is improving up front and David Beckham's inspired form will also weigh heavily in England's favour.

The England coach paid tribute to Beckham's performance after the Portugal defeat, saying: "If he plays like that for the next two matches, we will qualify."

And Beckham, whose passes have set up all three England goals at Euro 2000, is halfway to making that prediction come true.

Romania's cause will meanwhile not be helped by the sus-

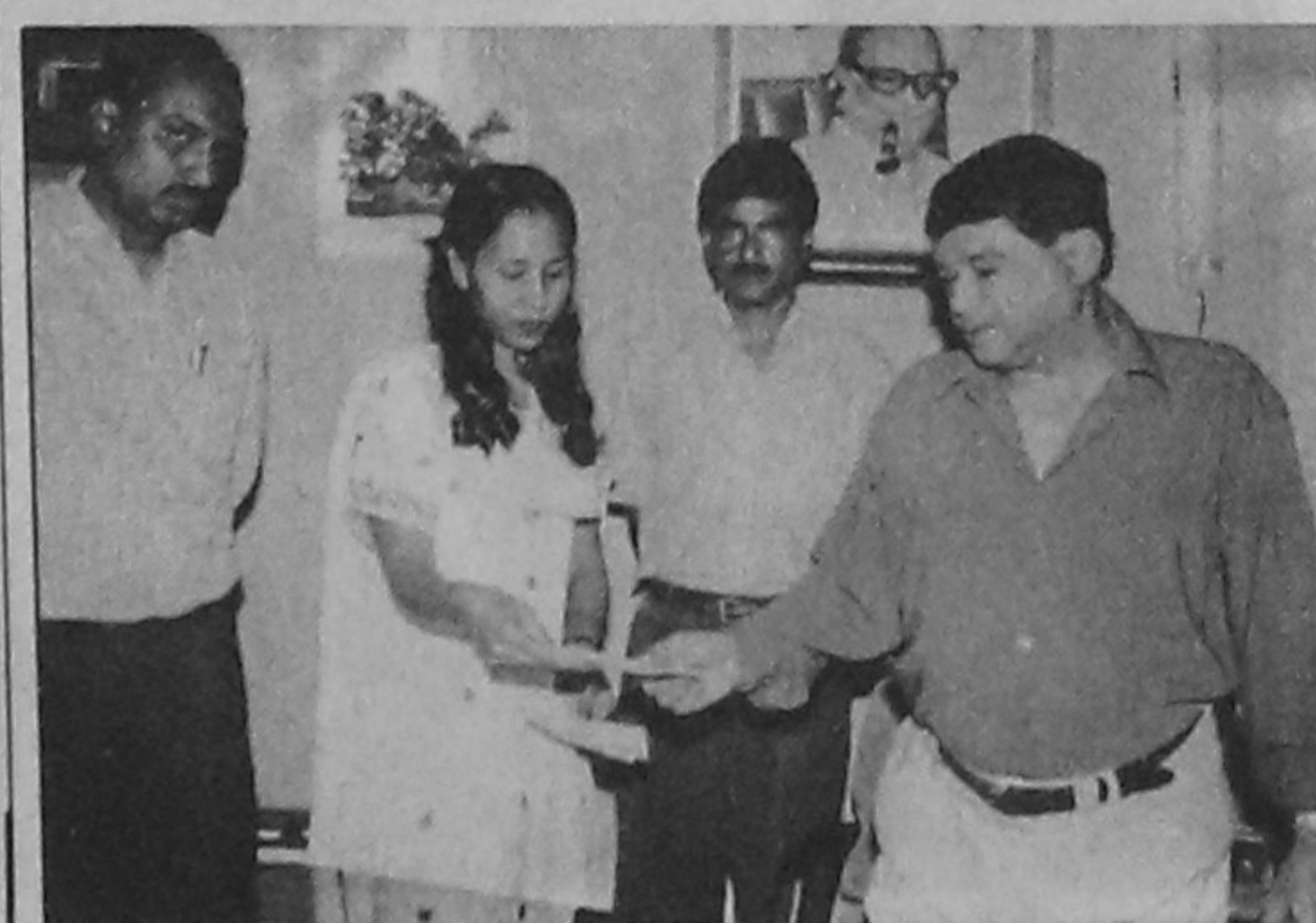
pension of their only star player, creative midfielder Gheorghe Hagi.

Hagi's decision to come out of international retirement was crucial for Romania's qualifying campaign and his absence here on Tuesday night after picking up a second yellow card against Portugal will clearly be a setback.

Romania, suckered by an injury-time goal after holding the Portuguese to a deadlock for the first 90 minutes, also need to pick themselves up from the psychological setback of that defeat.

Only a victory over England will give Romania a chance of qualifying. If Germany also beat Portugal, Romania will need a bigger winning margin than Ribbeck's men to reach the last eight.

Romania's progress in the tournament is no longer solely in the team's hands. But then, after two days of hooliganism, neither is England's.



Afzalur Rahman Sinha (R), deputy managing director of Acme Laboratories, handing over a cheque to the widow of national hockey player Rabiuddin at his office yesterday.

Nat'l booters camp starts

Sports Reporter

Primary camp of the national football team began at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday under the supervision of coach Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu.

Thirty players are taking part from which a final twenty will be selected for an exhibition match against India in Leicester, England, on July 29.

Meanwhile, Samir Shakir, whom Bangladesh Football Federation decided to turn to after learning that their British coach Mark Harrison would not return, is yet to take over.

Samir, who is a coach of BKSP, is likely to go home for a week from tomorrow.

According to BFF joint-secretary Badal Roy, Samir might assume responsibility after he returns from Baghdad.

Sonali Bank beat Railway

Sports Reporter

Sonali Bank moved into the next round of the Ragib Ali Gold Club Cup hockey tournament when they came from behind to beat Bangladesh Railway 2-1 at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Trailing by a Nurul Anwar goal in the 20th minute, the bankers staged a brilliant comeback in the second session scoring two goals in ten minutes.

Raihan levelled the margin in the 53rd minute while Shimul scored the decider in the 63rd minute.

Sonali Bank will next face giants Abahani Krira Chakra who received a bye in the first round. The winners will move into the 'super-four'.

Meanwhile, Sadharan Bima earned a walk-over against Bachelors' Club in the day's first match as the latter did not turn up.

Bima will now meet favourites Mohammedan Sporting Club in the next round on Friday.

IT carries Nixon to Australia

Sports Reporter

National hockey player Mahfuzul Alam Nixon will fly to Australia to attend a two-year long Information Technology (IT) course in Sydney starting on July 10.

The Usha Krira Chakra's star defender was allowed admission to the Australian IT Career Institute in Sydney after completing a one-year diploma course at the NIIT in Dhaka.

Nixon, a student of BKSP first batch, also completed his Masters from the Department of Public Administration in the Dhaka University.



NIXON

Talking to reporters at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday, the former Mohammedan captain, revealed that his orientation course will begin from June 27.

Acme presents cheque to Rabi's family

Sports Reporter

Acme Laboratories has given Taka 4,89,000.00 (four lakh eighty nine thousand) to the family of late hockey player Rabiuddin Ahmed yesterday.

The amount includes one-day salary of all the employees of Acme Laboratories and the insurance money.

Afzalur Rahman Sinha, the deputy managing director of Acme Laboratories, handed over the cheque to Mahmuda Begum Shilpi, his widow.

Rabi, a promising national player, died on September 22 after suffering a head injury while playing basketball at the Physical Training Institute in Mohammadpur.

He remained in a coma for twenty days at the intensive care unit of Bangabandhu Medical University.



Action from the Ragib Ali Gold Cup hockey tournament encounter between Sonali Bank and Bangladesh Railway at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

PREVIEW

Germany v Portugal: Holders must scale a mountain



ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, June 19: Germany take on Portugal in a Euro 2000 Group A match here on Tuesday with only a slender hope remaining that they can avoid an early exit from a competition they won four years ago, reports AFP.

The Germans are in disarray after the 1-0 defeat to England with the players squabbling, manager Erich Ribbeck admitting he is on his way out, and the press pack snapping at their heels.

Portugal, on the other hand are brimming with confidence after wins over England and Romania and have ensured qualification for the quarter-

finals in first place whatever happens against Germany.

They will play their quarterfinal in Amsterdam, with co-hosts Belgium being the most likely opponents.

Any of England, Germany or Romania could join them with England the favourites, only needing a draw against Romania at Charleroi on Tuesday with both matches played at the same time (1845 GMT).

Should England lose they are out and Germany would have to beat Portugal by a bigger margin than Romania beat England to go through.

If they fail, Ribbeck would become Germany's worst coach in more than three decades of European championships.

Not since 1968, when both

West and East Germany failed, has the nation not managed to be among the top eight teams of this competition and all this comes in the German football federation's (DFB) centenary year.

Yet the head of the DFB Egidius Braun believes Germany could still shake off their recent slump.

"We have got past the worst of it like Italy, France and England have all done in the past," Braun said in an interview with German sports agency SID the day after their defeat.

"We are very capable of getting out of this hole, I am profoundly convinced."

Ribbeck said there was "a strong probability" that he would get the sack if Germany crash out of Euro 2000.

Speculation had been rife that his time was running out even before he tournament began with the press and some players criticising his decision to stick with 39-year-old sweeper Lothar Matthaeus in defence.

Even after the defeat to England, the 63-year-old Ribbeck stuck by his guns.

"I think we are in a period of transition. In my eyes, there are no other young talented players in the Bundesliga capable of playing for the national team except those who are already there. I regret it but that is the situation."

"You could have someone with 20 years experience or a youngster as German coach, but I do not see how that would change anything."

Ribbeck gave no early indication if he was considering changes for the Portugal game, particularly in attack where Ulf Kirsten and Carsten Jancker both had poor games against England.

Portuguese manager Humberto Coelho told his players to take it easy after a headed goal by substitute Costinho four minutes into injury time gave them victory over Romania.

He said that he had no injury worries ahead of the Germany game.

—AFP photo

Portuguese Rui Jorge (L) and Sa Pinto are in pursuit of the ball during practice at Ermelo in Holland on June 18.

—AFP photo

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BCCI protests against Bacher



NEW DELHI, June 19: India's cricket authorities today filed an official protest with the world governing body over South African chief

Al Bacher's claim that India's World Cup win against Pakistan was fixed, reports AFP.

A C Muthiah, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said he had notified the International Cricket Council (ICC) about seeking action against Bacher.

"We are angry that Bacher withheld the information from the ICC when it met in May to discuss the match-fixing scandal," Muthiah said.

"We want the ICC to take action against him for bringing Indian cricket a bad name without providing any proof."

Bacher last week told the Edwin King Commission on match-fixing that two World Cup matches in England last year — India v Pakistan and Pakistan v Bangladesh — were fixed.

Bacher said he had no proof to substantiate his charges, except that he had been told about this by former Pakistani cricket chief executive Majid Khan and an alleged book-maker called "Mr R".

Muthiah wants Bacher's allegation to be included in the

agenda