

Column One

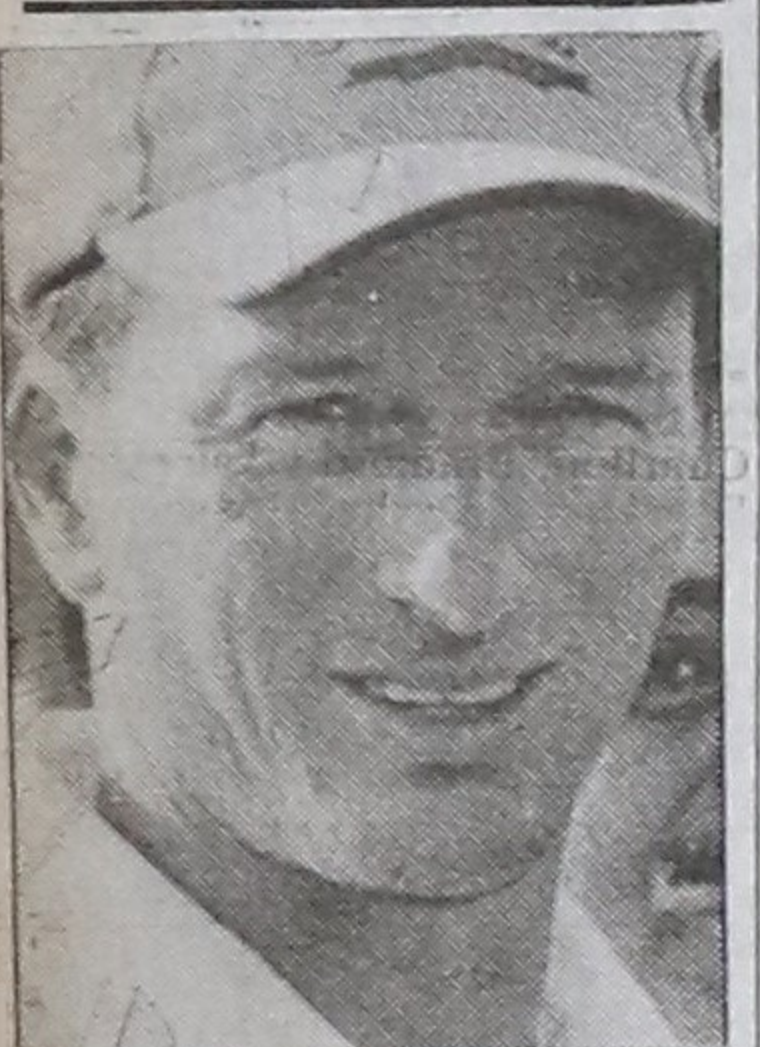
Boost sports WHIZZ KID
Competition-135
Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 1, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- Who scored the first hat-trick in this year's Fed Cup football?
Ritu Kanchan Tanveer
- Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?
Wasim Waqar Moin
- Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?
Amrul Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armanifola Biman Mariners
- Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
Kahn Sommer Reuter

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

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



Steve Waugh
(Australia cricket captain)
"I don't think we sledge"

8 bookies held in Pakistan

KARACHI, Aug 25: A Pakistani court Thursday sent eight gamblers to jail on remand for allegedly betting on the match between Pakistan and South Africa in Singapore this week, police officials said, reports AFP.

The Crime Investigation Agency raided a gambling den and arrested eight persons including its owner for betting on the Pakistan-South Africa match on Wednesday, senior police official Manzoor Mughal said.

"We are also investigating the house owner Tahir Ayub's possible links with the bookies as we have also recovered some papers with telephone numbers of some more suspects."

Pakistan on Wednesday reached the final of the Singapore Challenge 2000 triangular cricket series when they defeated South Africa by 28 runs. New Zealand is the third team in the series.

Former Pakistani skipper Salim Malik and paceman Ataur Rehman have been banned from the game after an inquiry into match-fixing allegations in May.

WI keep on struggling

TAUNTON, England, Aug 25: West Indies trailed Somerset by 250 runs on Thursday after struggling for a second day in their match against the English county, reports Reuters.

The tourists, looking to boost their morale after last week's innings defeat by England in the fourth Test, stumbled to 238 for seven at stumps in reply to Somerset's 488.

The West Indies slumped to 118 for six before left-hander Mahendra Nagamootoo, coming in at number seven, hit 97 not out to raise hopes of avoiding the follow-on.

The Guyanese leg-spinner shared an unbeaten eighth-wicket partnership with Wayne Phillips (35 not out) to arrest West Indies' steady loss of wickets.

Earlier, Somerset batsman Keith Parsons, resuming on 151, took his score to 193 not out.

Shoeb Mohammedan's hero

A first half goal by forward Shoeb steered aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club into the 16th Federation Cup final against spirited Arambagh Krira Chakra at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

When the nimble striker, playing in the first eleven for last two matches in place of injured captain Alfaz Ahmed, latched on to a corner in the 28th minute it ensured the popular Motijheel based club an unprecedented eleventh appearance in the competition.

The seven-time champions will play their arch-rivals and holders Abahani Krira Chakra or Muktiyoddha Sangsad in Monday's final. The second semifinal today.

Arambagh, who upset Abahani 3-1 in the robin league last week, settled into a rhythm straight-away against their big neighbours and twice had opportunities to take the lead.

In the fifth minute striker Khokon managed to direct the ball into the arms of Mohammedan custodian Nizam after a brilliant pass by Nayan from the right.

Nizam in the 11th minute was guilty of miskicking the ball to Khokon and not the net.

After surviving those close calls, Mohammedan got their act together and achieved the breakthrough after a corner from the right.

Munna, the acting Mohammedan skipper, rose to meet the ball but the Arambagh

defence failed to clear the danger and as a result it fell to Shoeb who made a diving header, much to the delight of 15,000 strong crowd.

Mohammedan then attacked through both flanks. They created at least three good chances in the remaining first half.

After the lemon break, it was Arambagh's turn to launch raids on the Mohammedan goal. Although had more than half a dozen clear chances to equalise, poor finishing by their forwards proved their undoing.

Mohammedan -- on the receiving end for much of the second session -- almost doubled the margin in the 85th minute when an overlapping Ruhul

Amin got the ball inside the danger area from a Rakib cross. But the tiny defender only volleyed over the cross piece.

For once a both teams demonstrated gamesmanship throughout the 90 minutes and so none was cautioned by referee R Alam.

TEAMS
Mohammedan SC: Nizam, Rezaul, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Jewel Rana, Jahangir, Matiur Munna (Pappu), Selim, Rakib, Shoeb (Tito) and Nakib.
Arambagh KS: Pannu, Govinda, Biplab, Barat, Kamal, Shamim (Niru), Bakhtiar (Pranotosh), Nayan, Taju (Apu), Ritu and Khokon.



Mohammedan striker Nakib (L) makes an abortive attempt to score against Arambagh during yesterday's Federation Cup semifinal at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

Kiwis no match for SA

SINGAPORE, Aug 25 (Internet/AFP): South Africa will meet Pakistan in the final of the Singapore Challenge 2000 triangular cricket series on Sunday after beating New Zealand by eight wickets at the Kallang Ground.

Opener Gary Kirsten hit an unbeaten 75 from 103 balls to see the South Africans to 159 for two after just 34 overs.

They had earlier dismissed New Zealand for just 158.

Kirsten hit 10 boundaries in his innings and shared in an opening stand of 94 with Andrew Hall to dash any New Zealand hopes of an unlikely win.

Hall was particularly severe on the Kiwi bowlers, hitting 46 off just 51 balls before he fell to off-spinner Paul Wiseman.

Jacques Kallis continued the assault to lash a quickfire 22 and when he was dismissed South Africa needed only 17 runs for victory.

New Zealand had earlier opted to bat first after winning the toss but the decision to use Daniel Vettori as an opener backfired when he was caught at slip off the third ball of the innings, sent down by Shaun Pollock.

Partner Nathan Astle did not last long either as New Zealand looked to Chris Cairns and skipper Stephen Fleming to steady the innings.

They added 29 for the third wicket but Fleming was run out by Gary Kirsten.

Cairns was eventually caught by Pollock off Kallis for 27 and wickets fell regularly until Chris Harris and Scott Styris offered some resistance with an eighth wicket partnership.

They put on 35 before left-hander Harris was caught behind by impressive newcomer Nic Potthas for 42 from the bowling of Roger Telemachus with the total on 129.

Styris made 23 but was then trapped lbw by Pollock, who returned impressive figures of three for 24, and Hall ended the innings in the 48th over by bowling last man Geoff Allott for one.

New Zealand and South Africa at the Kallang Stadium on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND
Vettori c Kallis b Pollock 0
Astle b Pollock 27
Cairns c Pollock b Kallis 27
Fleming run out (Kirsten) 12
Twose b Kallis 8
McMillan c Kallis b Klusener 1
Harris c Potthas b Telemachus 42
Parore c Potthas b Hall 5
Styris lbw Pollock 23
Wiseman not out 12
Allott b Hall 1
Extras: (lb-13; w-6; nb-3) 22
Total: (All out in 47.4 overs) 158
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-10, 3-39, 4-54, 5-55, 6-72, 7-94, 8-129, 9-157



S POLLOCK ... m-o-m

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Singapore Challenge 2000 triangular cricket series match between South Africa and New Zealand at the Kallang Ground, Singapore, August 25.

Bowler O M R W
Pollock 9 1 24 3
Telemachus 10 1 36 1
Kallis 5 1 15 2
Klusener 9 1 23 1
Boje 10 0 33 0
Hall 4.4 0 14 2

SOUTH AFRICA
Kirsten not out 75
Hall c Cairns b Wiseman 46
Kallis c and b Styris 22
Cullinan not out 8
Extras: (lb-1; w-3; nb-4) 8
Total: (For 2 wts in 34 overs) 159

Bowler O M R W
Allott 4 0 24 0
Cairns 4 0 18 0
Vettori 7 0 40 0
Wiseman 6 0 30 1
Harris 6 1 23 0
Styris 7 1 23 1

Result: South Africa won by eight wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Shaun Pollock.
Final: Pakistan vs South Africa, August 27.

Woodies to bow out in style

WIMBLEDON, Aug 25 (AFP): Australia's Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, arguably the greatest-ever doubles pairing in tennis, are aiming to cap a phenomenal career by defending their Olympic title.

The Woodies have had a sensational year even by their lofty standards, winning the doubles crowns at the French Open and Wimbledon, but the intuitive partnership is about to come to an end.

Left-handed Woodforde is 34 and is determined to stand down at the end of the year -- a second Olympic gold on home soil would be the icing on the farewell cake.

Just months ago the Woodies collected a sixth Wimbledon doubles title with a straight sets victory over countryman Sandon Stolle and Dutchman Paul Haarhuis.

That was career win No.60, sending them further ahead of the old record of 57 they had shared with South African pair Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan and Americans Peter Fleming and John McEnroe.

Only weeks before the Woodies again downed Haarhuis and Stolle 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 in the French Open men's doubles final.

It had been the only Grand Slam of the four that had eluded them. They have won in 12 countries.

There is something about the way we have been playing this year -- everything seems to be in synch," said 28-year-old Woodbridge.

"Every situation we got ourselves into at the French and

Wimbledon we found a way out of."

With such remarkable success in the twilight of their decade of achievement, Woodforde insists he will not go back on his decision to call it quits.

The flame-headed Woodforde soaked in the prolonged standing ovation from the centre court crowd after their Wimbledon victory, but was later unmoved about his impending retirement.

"I'm looking forward to doing something at my own leisure. I've had a lot of enjoyment but I've played his game long enough," he said.

"There aren't any goals there any more after this year. There are no more carrots dangling in front of me."

The Aussies duo first teamed up at New Haven, Connecticut, in 1990 and despite all their trailblazing success, the pair can

continue their golden year.

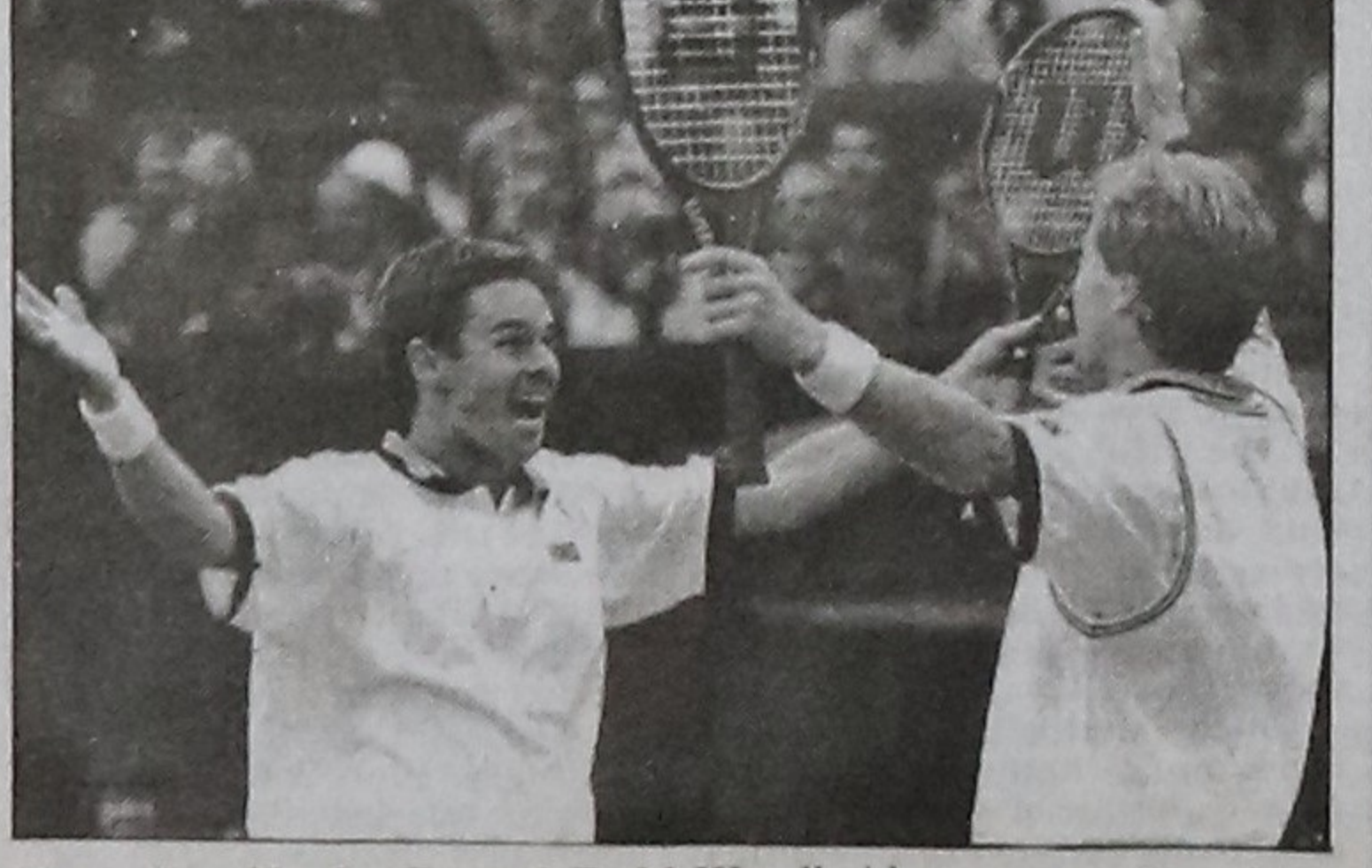
If the Woodies win this month's US Open, just weeks before the Olympics, they will capture their 12th Grand Slam title -- that will equal compatriots John Newcombe and Tony Roche's record of doubles Slams.

They are also seeking to emulate their Atlanta gold medal four years ago with another victory at the Sydney Games and in December there's the Davis Cup final in Spain.

"If we were to win the gold medal again that would be the best possible way we could go out," Woodbridge said.

"We will go out having fulfilled every target we have set ourselves," he said.

And reflecting their telepathic synch on court, Woodbridge and Woodforde are soon to become fathers within weeks of each other.



Mark Woodforde (R) and Todd Woodbridge. —Star file photo

Barlow is back

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) director of development Eddie Barlow returned to the capital from South Africa yesterday.

Barlow, the former South African Test star, suffered a cerebral infarction in Dhaka on April 29.

He was flown to Singapore for special treatment in May. Barlow later returned home to Cape Town where he spent his recovery period.

On arrival, Barlow and his wife Kally was received at the Zia International Airport by BCB officials Ali Ahsan Babu and Ahmed Sajjadul Alam.

It could not be immediately confirmed when would Barlow resume his duties.

Talking to The Daily Star, BCB general secretary Syed Ashraful Huq said last night that he has no clear idea about Barlow's present condition.

"He has just arrived after a long journey from South Africa. Let him have some rest and then we will sit and decide when he can resume his job," Ashraful said.

Sonali Bank down Ajax
Sports Reporter
Sonali Bank recorded a 2-1 win over Ajax Sporting Club in the lone Green Delta Premier Division hockey league match at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Rubel and Afzal scored for the winners in the 9th and 17th minutes while Zahid Biswas reduced the margin for Ajax in the 59th minute.

It was Sonali Bank's second win in seven matches which raised their tally to seven points. On the other hand, it was the seventh defeat against a draw for Ajax in eight matches. They are now glued to the bottom of the nine-team league table with only one point.

In the First Division league, Bachelors Club and Mukta Bhanga Tarun Sangha drew 1-1.

Kapil's future undecided
NEW DELHI, Aug 25: Kapil Dev's continuance as India's cricket coach hung in the balance Friday amid speculation that Australia's Geoff Marsh had been sounded out to replace him, reports AFP.

Indian cricket chief A.C. Muthiah said he had an "open mind" on hiring a foreign coach, even as he met Kapil briefly to probe the former all-rounder's mind.

"We could not talk much because Kapil had some business engagements to attend to," Muthiah told reporters here. "But we will meet again soon. We have a lot to talk about."

Kapil put his job on the line last week when he told AFP that the match-fixing and corruption charges against him and the "unprofessional" attitude of officials had put him off the game.

But Kapil left it to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to determine whether he should serve out the second part of his two-year term as national coach.

The BCCI, which was expected to take action against Kapil during its meeting on Sunday, instead authorised Muthiah to speak to the former star.

Newspapers reported on Friday that the BCCI had approached Marsh, the former Australian Test opener and one-time coach, to take over as the coach of the Indian team.

While BCCI secretary Jayavant Lele denied any such moves had been made, Muthiah said he had an "open mind" on appointing a foreign coach.

Majid rejects benefit offer
KARACHI, Aug 25: Former Pakistani captain Majid Khan on Friday refused an offer of financial benefit from an October series between Sri Lanka, India and Zimbabwe, reports AFP.

"I have played cricket for my country and not to take reward from any other country," Khan told this news agency.

The Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) in the Gulf emirate of Sharjah has given a total of 35,000 dollars in payouts to former cricketers, mainly from Pakistan and India, over the last 20 years.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in July nominated Khan and fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz as beneficiaries for October's tri-series. The CBFS approved the nominations last month.

Nawaz has accepted the offer and will go to Sharjah to receive the benefit cheque.

Khan, also a former PCB chief executive, said he had been nominated without his consent.

"I had announced my name without even taking my consent. Even otherwise I would not have accepted the offer," he said.



Players of Muktiyoddha Sangsad warm up during a practice session yesterday. —Star photo

Muktiyoddha test for Abahani

Sports Reporter
Holders Abahani Krira Chakra will take on last year's runners-up Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in the second semifinal of the 16th Federation Cup football tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium this afternoon.

Ekushey Television will telecast the match live from 5 pm. Radio Bangladesh will also provide running commentary of the match. Today's winners will take on Moham-medan Sporting Club in Monday's final at the same venue.

Abahani, bidding for their third championship in a row, qualified for the last four as Group A runners up behind Arambagh Krira Sangha with two wins and a defeat. They beat Shantnagar 3-1 and Badda Jagarami 2-0 and lost 1-3 to Arambagh.

Group B champions Muktiyoddha on the other hand won all their three robin league matches against Rahmatganj (4-1), Prantik Krira Chakra (2-0) and Mohammedan (1-0).

Abahani have strengthened their side with two Ghanaian booters Ghansha and Kennedy who arrived in the capital on Wednesday while Muktis have

flown in experienced Indian national forward IM Vijayan on Thursday.

Talking to the reporters at their club premises yesterday, Abahani captain Iqbal Hossain said that his team has a good success record against Muktis and it won't be any different today.

The team morale is very high after the win against Badda in our last match and we are now looking forward to meet the Muktis," said Iqbal adding that injured midfielder Arman might miss today's match.

Muktiyoddha skipper Rajani Kanta Barman also sounded confident of knocking out Abahani.

"We have every chance of beating Abahani. We are much stronger side after Vijayan joined us," said the national defender.

PROBABLE LINE-UPS
Abahani KC: Biplab, Nazrul, Ghansha, Tito, Partho, Zakir, Iqbal, Sentu, Don, Kanchan and Kennedy.
Muktiyoddha: Aminul, Hassan Al-Mamun, Rajani, Pro-deep, Masood Rana, Joy, Tushar, Asif, Mintu, Farhad and Vijayan.

Cronje's plea in favour of Gibbs

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 25: Sacked South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje on Thursday pleaded that batsman Herschelle Gibbs be given another chance to play international cricket, reports AFP.

"In my opinion Herschelle did nothing wrong," Cronje said in an interview with South African pay-television station M-Net.

He added that he felt particularly responsible for the predicament in which Gibbs now finds himself.

The opening batsman has admitted before the King Commission inquiring into the scandal to having accepted an offer of 15,000 dollars from Cronje to throw a match in Nagpur, India earlier this year.

Gibbs, at 26 one of South Africa's most promising cricketers, last weekend pleaded guilty before a United Cricket Board of South Africa disciplinary committee to the allegation of match-fixing, and is now facing suspension from international cricket for what the media have speculated could range from one year to life.

In the one-day international in Nagpur, Gibbs agreed to score fewer than 20 runs but went on to smack 73 runs off 53 balls, saying that once out on the pitch he had "forgotten" to go through with the deal.

"In my opinion, Herschelle should be given another chance to play," Cronje said.

Nothing specific about Hansie

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 25 (Internet/AFP): The fate of former skipper Hansie Cronje still hangs in the balance following the publication of Judge Edwin King's interim report on the South African match-fixing scandal today.

In the 66-page report on public hearings into the Cronje scandal that shocked cricket fans, the retired judge says it was apparent from Cronje's first meeting with bookmaker Sanjay Chawla that Chawla wanted nothing less from the captain than for him "to lose matches and to get others to assist him in this."

These facts ... are not readily reconcilable with the notion of Cronje spinning Sanjay along" as he had repeatedly

protested, the report says.

Cronje admitted in testimony to the commission that he received thousands of dollars from gamblers and bookmakers on five separate occasions between 1996 and 2000.

Cronje was offered immunity from prosecution providing he made a full disclosure to the King Commission hearings in Cape Town, but the report makes no recommendations as to whether the offer should be made good.

Judge King does, however, cast doubt on the reliability of some of the evidence from Cronje and other key witnesses.

The Commission will reconvene on October 2 and the report concludes: "It will be appreciated that until all the evidence has been heard, no aspect of the inquiry can be regarded as fi-

nished."

The report reveals how Cronje first insisted that the allegations, which surfaced in April, were "completely without substance" but four days later called security consultant Rory Strydom to a hotel room in Durban and told him: "These lies cannot go on anymore."

The admission began a process which led to his removal as national captain, and the setting up of the King Commission, and Cronje has accepted that he will never play representative cricket again.

The report states: "It is interesting that the first time Cronje was approached to fix a match, he was prepared to do and did entertain the suggestion."

Referring to matters in India earlier this year, also involving teammates Herschelle Gibbs, Henry Williams and Pieter Strydom, the report says Cronje always adopted a joocular manner when making approaches to teammates.

"It seems that this was Cronje's modus operandi. He would sound out his colleagues in a way which would enable him to say later, if the need arose, that he had only been joking," it adds.

In his testimony, Cronje claimed he had deceived bookmaker Chawla by telling him he was prepared to lose a game during the triangular one-day series, also involving England and Zimbabwe, earlier this year.

But Judge King says: "From time to time, Cronje protested that he was 'spinning Sanjay along', agreeing to do what Sanjay required of him, accepting the latter's money, with no intention of complying fully with what Sanjay asked of him."

Judge King disputes evidence by businessman Hamid Cassim, who claims he acted as an intermediary between Cronje and Chawla, but was not involved in any deals.

Cronje pre-empted the report's release by giving a TV interview in April after admitting receiving money from bookmakers for providing match information.

Gibbs, Strydom and Williams will learn their fate on Monday.

Cronje has, however, urged the United Cricket Board to be lenient with Gibbs, who is regarded as one of the country's best young players.



WELCOME BACK: Bangladesh Cricket Board's director of coaching Eddie Barlow coming out of Zia International Airport in a wheel chair yesterday. —Star photo