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Star Sport

DHAKA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2000 Email: dssports@bdonline.com

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SPORTS TALK



Carl Hooper
(Former West Indies vice-captain)

"If the selectors feel I can play a part, then I feel I can play for another three or four years and help the youngsters come through."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID Competition-135

Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 15, 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?
Aminal Akram Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Armanatola Ruman Mariners
- Who was voted Germany's footballer-of-the-year in 2000?
Kahn Sommer Rialter

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)

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EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

NOTICE

Due to some technicalities we could not hold the draw of WHIZZ KID Competition-135 last night. It will now be held on September 15.— Sports Editor

Wessels wants Middlesex post

LONDON, Sept 8: Former South African captain Kepler Wessels has revealed his interest in taking over as coach of English county side Middlesex following the club's decision to remove Mike Gatting and Ian Gould, reports AFP.

Wessels is busy with media work and a job with a security firm in South Africa but he has asked Middlesex to keep him informed when they officially advertise the position, he said on Thursday.

"I am very heavily committed business-wise in South Africa, so it's a difficult situation," said the 42-year-old.

"All I've really done is asked Middlesex that if they do advertise the job to send me a copy of the advertisement so see what it's all about. I've made an inquiry. I wanted to see what it entails."

Middlesex are expected to put out a formal advertisement within the next 10 days.

Arantxa tastes success

NEW YORK, Sept 8: Former world number one Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain won the US Open mixed doubles here Thursday for the first time, teaming up with American doubles specialist Jared Palmer, reports AFP.

The Spanish-American team beat Russian Anna Kournikova and Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-4, 6-3.

Usha run riot

Usha Krira Chakraborty recorded the biggest win of the season thrashing Farashganj Sporting Club 12-1 in the low Green Delta Premier Division Hockey match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Usha's Pakistani centre forward Asif Bajwa and national defender Mamunur Rashid struck four goals each while Moududur Rahman Shuvo scored three goals. National forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal completed the goal-rush for the winners who led the first half 8-1. While Indian forward Sukhinder Walla grabbed a consolation goal for Farashganj.

After suffering defeats against holders Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani, Usha vented their wrath against Farashganj to begin their return leg campaign on an impressive note.

The result surpassed Mohammedan's 10-0 whitewash of Ajax in the first round last month.

When the teams first met Usha managed a 3-2 victory. However on this occasion they went on a eight-goal blitz in the

Sports Reporter

first half.

Skillful Asif Bajwa opened the floodgates after only two minutes.

The lanky Pakistani run down the right and dodged past four Farashganj defenders before unleashing a shot past



Action from yesterday's Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter between Usha KC and Farashganj SC at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium.

— Star photo

Youth booters go down

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh youth team suffered a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Oman in their second group match in the Ninth Asian Under-16 Football Championship at the Danang Stadium in Vietnam yesterday, according to a fax received here last night.

The game was locked 1-1 in the first session.

Bangladesh, who stunned Kuwait 1-0 on Wednesday, made an impressive start when Uzzal struck in the fourth minute.

But the Gulf team got back on level terms six minutes later through Al-Bulushi.

Shikari put the Omanis ahead in the 66th minute. And Azmi sealed Bangladesh's fate with an 85th minute strike.

Bangladesh will meet Iran tomorrow before they face holders Thailand in their last Group B encounter on September 12.

Bangladesh: Munna, Sirajee, Kochi, Mohan, Ruku, Tareque, Polo, Sunon (Kawsar/Masud), Tutul, Uzzal (Surat) and Dalim.

Badda blank Dhanmondi

Sports Reporter

Badda Jagarani Sangsad registered their first win in the National Bank Premier Division football league with a 2-0 win over promoters Dhanmondi Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Forward Tanveer Chowdhury and defender Riad Mahmud scored a goal apiece for the winners who led the first session 1-0.

Badda, who suffered a 1-0 defeat against Farashganj in their league opener last Monday, dominated the match.

Tanveer put Badda ahead with a power packed angular shot after winning the ball from a corner in the 24th minute. Riad sealed Dhanmondi's fate with a 20-yard right footer in the 76th minute after a brilliant solo run down the right flank.

In the other match of the day, Abul Hasan scored a hat-trick to guide Sadharan Bima Krira Sangstha to an impressive 4-1 win over Shantiganer Club in a First Division encounter.

Hasan scored in the 30th, 40th and 84th minutes to become the first man in to hit a hat-trick in the First Division this season. Manun scored the other goal for Bima in the 72nd minute.

Masud scored the consolation goal for Shantiganer.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division
Mohammedan SC v Rahmatganj MFS (5:30 pm)
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

First Division
Mirpur Chalantika v Wari Club (3:30 pm)
(Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium)

YMC Fakirerpool v Muslim Institute (4 pm)
(Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium)

Div II badminton begins today

Sports Reporter

The Sheltech Second Division Badminton League, organised by Bangladesh Badminton Federation, begins at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium at 5 this afternoon.

Tapan Chowdhury, the chairman of sponsors Sheltech Private Limited, will inaugurate the eight-team league as chief guest.

The participating teams are: Sheikh Russell Mancha, Kathal Bagan Badminton Club, Jagarani Jubo Sangha, Uttarar Krira Sangha, Shahbagh Badminton Club, Mirpur Badminton Club, Shuttlers Club and Victoria Sporting Club.

King inquiry winds up next month

JOHANNESBURG, Sept 8: The King Commission of inquiry investigating allegations of cricket corruption will finish its work in October, officials said today.

"We want to wrap it all up in October and the final report should take between a month and six weeks to be made public," Commission secretary John Bacon told Reuters.

The hearings are due to resume on October 2.

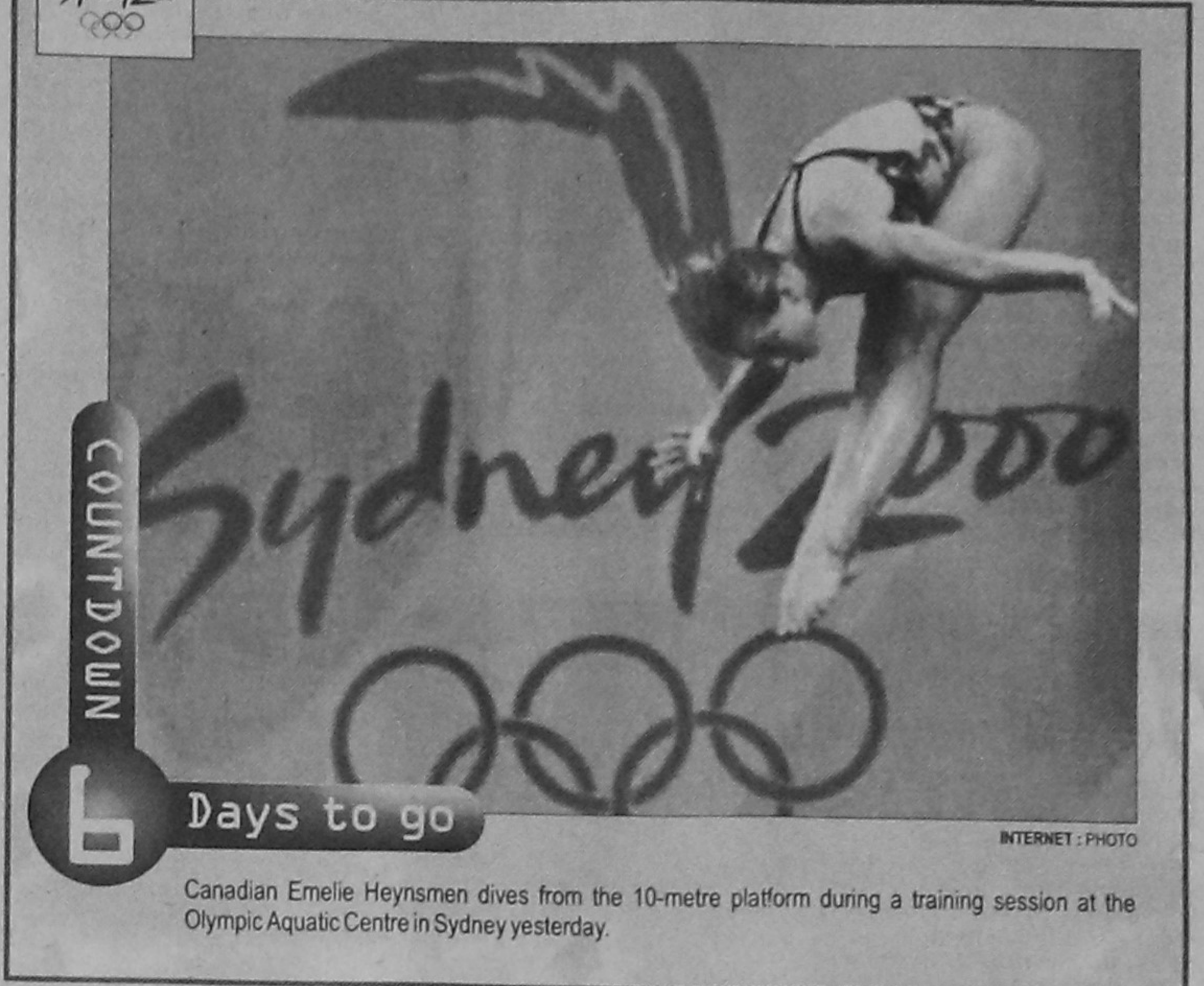
The Commission's lead advocate, Shamila Batohi, was today named as the new head of the KwaZulu-Natal branch of the elite Scorpions police unit. She is due to take up her new position in November.

Johnny MSC's chief coordinator

Sports Reporter

Imtiaz Sultan Johnny has been appointed chief coordinator of Mohammedan Sporting Club's football team, says a press release.

The Greatest Ritual of Sports



Canadian Emelie Heynsen dives from the 10-metre platform during a training session at the Olympic Aquatic Centre in Sydney yesterday.

Tardelli's young Italy up for the challenge

MEJBOURNE, Australia, Sept 8 (AFP): Marco Tardelli, the coach of a talented Italian squad that is one of the favourites for Olympic football gold, is confident his young lions are ready to step into an intimidating Olympic arena here next week.

The Italians' clash with hosts Australia is the pick of the four matches which will kick off the football tournament on Thursday, two days before the Games' official opening.

Tournament director Peter Hugg said Friday he expected a 90,000 sellout crowd to pack into Melbourne Cricket Ground for the match.

Tardelli's men will be able to count on some support from Melbourne's large Italian community. But after months of Olympic hype, the atmosphere is still certain to be fiercely partisan under the lights of the giant MCG stadium.

"I have never played in or coached a team in front of such a big crowd," admits the Italian coach.

For many of his players, most of whom have played the bulk of their football in the lesser glare of Serie B, Italy's Second Division, the experience will be unlike anything they have ever encountered.

But Tardelli refuses to admit to any nerves about how his proteges will react.

"They are lucky to be in such a situation," he says. "They are so proud to be here. I know they will give full commitment."

With defending champions Nigeria weakened by the withdrawal of a number of top players, including African player of the year Nwankwo Kanu, Tardelli believes the Australians could provide the toughest opposition in group A, which also includes Honduras.

But he has no qualms about facing the hosts in the first match.

"It could be good to have a hard match to begin with," he said. "It helps players to concentrate knowing that Australia are a strong team. They won't relax as they might against a weaker team."

As a player, Tardelli provided the midfield steel in the Italy team that lifted the 1982 World Cup.

He took over the national under-21 squad at the end of 1997 and coached them to victory in this year's European championships in Slovakia.

For the Olympic campaign, Tardelli has stuck to the same group of players, foregoing the option of calling on the likes of Roberto Baggio as one of the three over-23 players allowed under the tournament's rules.

Italian football chiefs have done their bit for the campaign by delaying the start of the domestic season until October 1 to avoid the kind of club-versus-country battles that have undermined the Nigerians' preparations.

There has been concern however that the players could find themselves short of match sharpness.

That however is discounted by Internazionale's Andrea Pirlo, the playmaker in Tardelli's side. "In a tournament like this, even if you are not in peak condition, you can still find your best."

READERS' ZONE

Stay on right track

Do you have any observation regarding sports and its management in Bangladesh? Do you feel certain issues need to be addressed before time runs out? Then, hurry up and send us your burning questions, critical views and thoughtful suggestions not in excess of 400 words. They may be the next contributor of our just introduced READERS' ZONE.

— Sports Editor

Despite not having convincing credentials under our belts, we got the opportunity to play Test cricket only because of the ICC policy of spreading cricket across the world. We still feel embarrassed whenever our team play against any Test-playing country or even a non-Test-playing country like Kenya.

Should we remain in the same place? NO, never. But, the question is how can we grow up to that desired standard? Let's ponder a bit. Do we have any good wicket? No. The first thing we need is to have 7/8 good wickets. Unless and until we could make lively wickets we should give up the hope of producing quality bowlers as well as playing good cricket. Unfortunately though, we are good at playing with wicket, not making wicket (the clash between the Football Federation and Cricket Board). If the sincerity is there, there will be no problem in making plenty of cricket grounds across the country. The stadiums of Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Mymensing, Comilla can easily be upgraded right away.

In most cases, our players could not do better because of their lack of basic knowledge. We do bring coaches, but their training could do a little help to the participants as majority of them has already reached at an age where very few can learn a new thing, let alone rectifying any technical flaws. Without proper foundation how can one play better? A good number of tiny cricketers now participate in school level tournaments. Selectors can pick players of future from those tournaments and bring them under long-term coaching. Sponsors can also play very vital role in the development of cricket by setting up academies like MRF in India.

If we really want to improve our cricket, organisers can easily take those steps by prevailing over their personal benefits.

—Mahbubul Alam
19/14 Rupnagar R/A, Dhaka-1216

Tragic

SYDNEY, Sept 8: Nigerian and Olympic flags were lowered to half-staff in the athletes' village to mourn the death of a young runner struck by a car, reports AP.

Hyginus Anugo, 22, a promising 400-metre runner who had been training with Nigeria's Olympic team but failed to make the relay squad, was hit as he crossed a street in southwestern Sydney Thursday night.

"We are both shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely death," Nigerian team chief Fidelis Kibiri Kaigama said Friday. In a statement, he added that Anugo was a "runner of national standing who was well known to all of us and a close friend of many members of our team."

Sydney's Channel Seven television said Anugo was killed while running to catch a bus, but the Japanese news agency Kyodo reported Anugo was killed while heading back to his room at Southern Cross Bible College.

New South Wales police confirmed a man had been struck by a car and killed, but would not release any more details until relatives had been notified. Kaigama's statement did not provide details of the accident.

PM may open Fatullah Stadium

Sept 16

The first phase construction work of Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium at Fatullah, has been completed, reports UNB.

The country's exclusive and biggest stadium of international standard for cricket is expected to be opened by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 16.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaiddul Quader and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Saber Hossain Chowdhury visited the stadium yesterday.

A total of Tk 25 crore was spent to complete the first phase. At present 30,000 spectators will be able to witness game and after completion of the entire work, the capacity would be increased to 80,000.

'Our battles are just as intense as England playing Australia'

Sports Reporter

Hasan Masood, back from BKSP

Former Pakistan captain Mushtaq Mohammad still hopes India will whip his country in December.

A fine all-rounder during his playing days Mushtaq, who is now in Dhaka along with four other ex-Test cricketers to impart training under the Fast Track Coaching scheme of the International Cricket Council Development Programme, also said that India's reluctance would not only do harm to the sport in general but more importantly deprive millions of cricket lovers in the subcontinent of watching their heroes in action.

"I hope that India will agree to come to Pakistan because it's good for cricket. Both teams need to play regularly in order to keep their ancient rivalry going," Mushtaq told The Daily Star Sport at Bangladesh Krira Shikha Protisthan (BKSP) on Thursday.

"But if it doesn't take place, Bangladesh should get an opportunity to play a Test series against us (Pakistan)."

The wily Pakistani who scored 3643 runs in 57 Tests

with ten centuries between 1958-1979, also said that playing against India is the dream of every Pakistani cricketer.

"In a way our battles are just as intense as England playing Australia. There is no love lost between them. Usually India-Pakistan matches are made of some special ingredients."

India whose last tour was a decade ago will decide at the end of this month whether to accept an invitation to visit Pakistan in December, though the general feeling in Delhi suggests the offer will be turned down owing to the impasse over the Kashmir issue.

Commenting on his second trip to Bangladesh in four months, Mushtaq said he found the job of guiding the youngsters quite interesting.

"It was a great pleasure to work with these young chaps aged between 13 to 17. They are very talented. What we are trying to accomplish here is unearth at least two or three players who will be assets to the national team in future. I'm sure Bangladesh cricket will benefit from this programme," he said.

Mushtaq was full of praise for leg-spinner Ashraf, a member of Bangladesh under-17 team.

"He is already in the national camp at such a tender age. He bowls good leg-breaks and is a very useful middle-order batsman. Another boy who comes to mind is Shaon. Those boys are very promising. Mushtaq added.

Akram sees no hope

KARACHI, Sept 8: Famed all-rounder Wasim Akram said Friday that England stand no chance in the upcoming series against Pakistan as the tourists will find the conditions tough.

"I think England stands no chance in Pakistan and we can easily beat them as the conditions will be alien for the English players who are coming after a gap of 13 years," Akram, 35, told AFP.

England's cricketers are due in Pakistan in October to play three Tests and three one-dayers.

"English players have their limitations in this part of the world and I think Saqlain Mushtaq holds the key for the series," Akram, one of two survivors from the controversial 1987-88 series, said.

Ijaz Ahmed is the only other survivor of that infamous series which was marred by a row between then England captain Mike Gatting and Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana in the Faisalabad Test, and which nearly led to the cancellation of the tour.

The current England team has no survivors from that series.

"Saqlain gets seven eight wickets in an innings for Surrey in the English season and he will be a tougher and different bowler in Pakistani conditions," he said.

"The Pakistan Board must evaluate our strong points and England's weaknesses and then prepare spin tracks," he said.

Akram said Saqlain and back-up spinners Mushtaq Ahmed and Arshad Khan will give Pakistan the winning combination.

Pakistan beat England 1-0 in the 1987-88 series with leg-spinner Abdul Qadir taking a record 30 wickets in three Tests.

Akram's contribution in two Tests was two wickets.

King inquiry winds up next month

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Johnny MSC's chief coordinator

Sports Reporter

Imtiaz Sultan Johnny has been appointed chief coordinator of Mohammedan Sporting Club's football team, says a press release.

According to the release, the football activities of the club will be under direct supervision of the former national defender.



Badda Jagarani midfielder Nurul Islam (8) wins the ball from Dhanmondi defender Hanif (L) during their Premier Division football league encounter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo