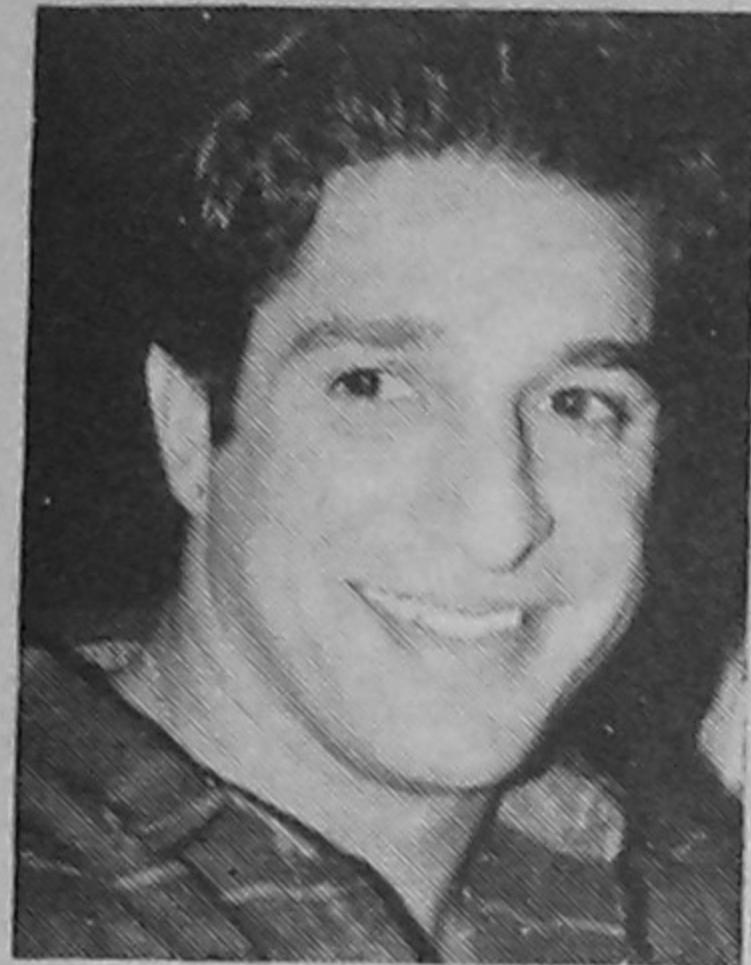


SPORTS TALK



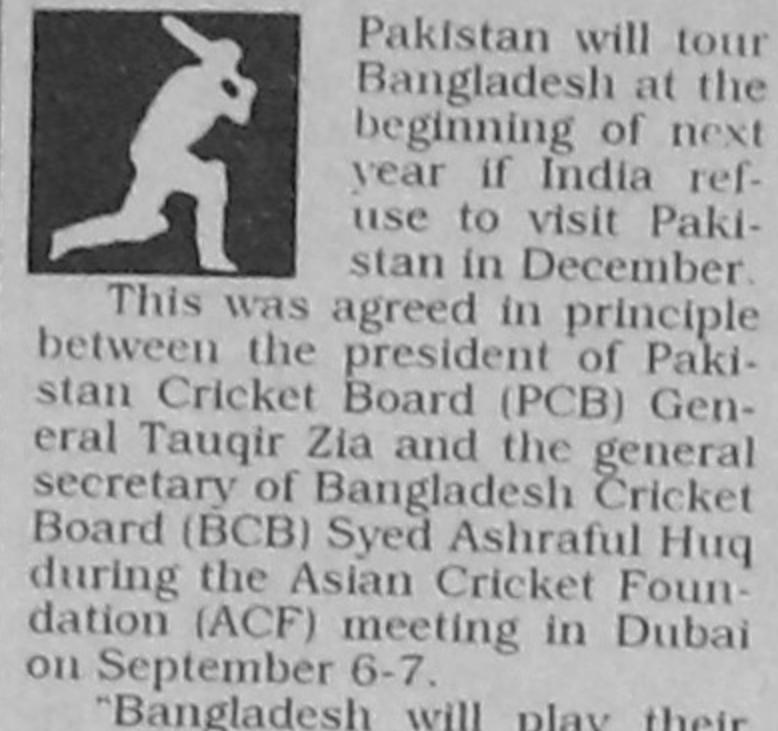
Wasim Akram

(Pakistan star cricketer)
 "It's disappointing that sports and politics are treated with the same stick ... cricket must go on because it eases out tension and promotes relations."

While urging India to tour

Busy Test dates beckon babes

Sports Reporter



Pakistan will tour Bangladesh at the beginning of next year if India refuse to visit Pakistan in December.

This was agreed in principle between the president of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) General Tahir Zia and the general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Syed Ashraful Huq during the Asian Cricket Federation (ACF) meeting in Dubai on September 6-7.

"Bangladesh will play their first home and away Test series against Pakistan if India cancel their proposed tour of Pakistan. We agree that Pakistan will tour Bangladesh in the first week of January," Ashraful told reporters on his return from Dubai yesterday.

"Bangladesh will play their first home and away Test series against Pakistan if India cancel their proposed tour of Pakistan. We agree that Pakistan will tour Bangladesh in the first week of January," Ashraful told reporters on his return from Dubai yesterday.

As the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has so far failed to get the green signal from the government, it prompted the PCB chief to invite Bangladesh as a makeshift opponents.

"India must set us a deadline so that we can make alternative arrangements. We will either play a series against Bangladesh or a World XI in case India refuse to come," Zia told AFP before leaving for Dubai on September 5.

His India counterpart AC Muttiah, who also attended the ACF meeting, on the other hand was quoted as saying, "A final decision (on the matter) would be subject to the views of our

country."

The fate of the India-Pakistan series hinges on the September 29 board meeting of the BCCI.

At the ACF's two-day meeting, some major decisions were taken.

Chaired by former ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya, the meeting agreed to hold the second Asian Test Championship at the end of 2001.

But ACF has proposed shifting of the eighth Asia Cup, to be hosted by Pakistan, from 2001 to 2002. Unlike previous editions two more teams, the winners and runners-up of the ACC Trophy will compete in the traditional four-nation event.

Also according to Ashraful, the umbrella organisation of the Asian Cricket Council will be based in Sharjah.

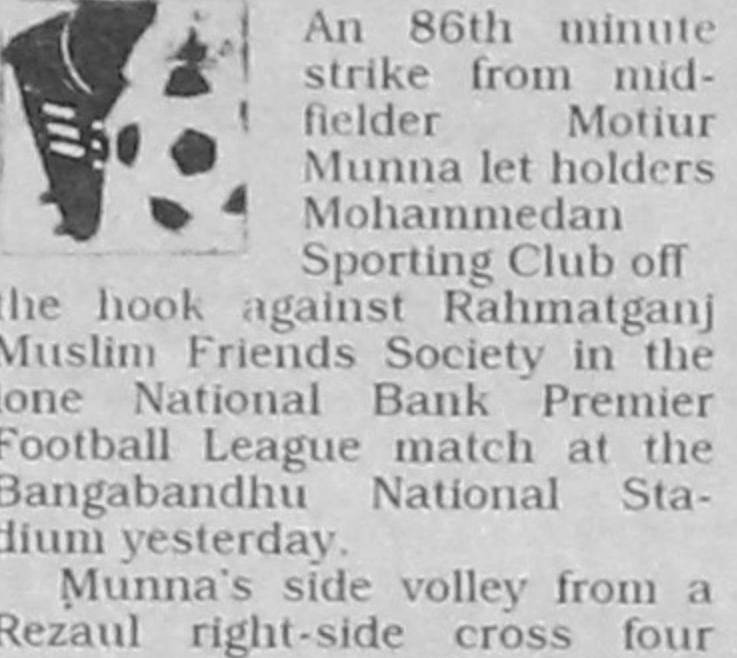
Besides, the ACC will get 65 per cent of the profit, which is expected around 6.5 million dollars, from the second ICC Knockout tournament.

The ACF intends to observe the 'Cricket Week' annually in case the ICC is unable to hold it.

The meeting was also attended by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) president Tilanga Sumanthipala.

Munna bails MSC out

Sports Reporter



An 86th minute strike from mid-fielder Motiur Munna let holders Mohammedan Sporting Club off the hook against Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in the lone National Bank Premier Football League match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Munna's side volley from a Rezal right-side cross four minutes from the final whistle gave Mohammedan a hard-fought 1-0 win against the second-division Milon.

Eight minutes later Alfaz had only to beat Milon, and headed the ball over the bar.

Rahmatganj got their best chance in match shortly after the lemon break, but Moni hopelessly watched his long range shot cannon off the post, with substitute Mohammedan goalie Hakim beaten fair and square.

It was Mohammedan's third successive win that took them atop the table with maximum nine points.

But it was equally a disappointing day for the popular Motijheel outfit because of their off the field animosity among some of their star players came into play in yesterday's match.

To add to their misery, the supporters of the black and whites also played a nasty part in the match -- pelting stones in protest against a ruling forcing the game to be suspended for about five minutes in first half.

Rahmatganj, who gave a testing time to their more illustrious opponents during the Federation Cup, played neck and neck and could have turned the encounter around had their strike duo of Tipu and Moni been accurate in their efforts.

Although Mohammedan lacked firepower in the middle mainly because of Motiur being

totally off colour, they still created some distinctive chances in both halves.

Star striker Alfaz Ahmed came up with a spectacular side volley in the 30th minute, but only to be saved by Deen Mohammedan on goal-line.

Eight minutes later Alfaz had only to beat Milon, and headed the ball over the bar.

Rahmatganj got their best chance in match shortly after the lemon break, but Moni hopelessly watched his long range shot cannon off the post, with substitute Mohammedan goalie Hakim beaten fair and square.

It was Rahmatganj's third defeat from as many matches.

Yellow cards: Selim (Mohammedan), Zaman, Shamim and Tipu (Rahmatganj).

TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Nizam (Hakim), Jahangir, Faisal, See page 9



HAILING THE HERO: Matiur Munna (M), Mohammedan's lone scorer against Rahmatganj in the National Bank Premier Division Football League yesterday, being congratulated by teammates after his strike. —Star photo

A day on the Fast Track

Lenin Gani



On the fourth day of the International Cricket Council's 'Fast Track' Programme, former Test stars Sarfraz Nawaz of Pakistan and Roshan Mahanama of Sri Lanka were imparting training to youngsters at the Dharmaraj playground on Friday.

Sarfraz, a fiery character in his hey days, seemed to have lost none of the passion for the game while showing up and coming bowlers the tricks of the trade.

The 51-year-old ex-Pakistan and Northamptonshire speed demon spoke to the **Daily Star Sport** during the break interval.

"When I began the programme on Tuesday I noticed most of the bowlers had several problems. Basically, they didn't

raise their fitness levels.

"Essentially what they have to do is build leg muscles by running. Perhaps doing ten laps around the Bangabandhu Stadium every morning is a start."

The firebrand cricketer suggested that the BCB should send some youngsters over to Pakistan to attend special bowling clinics held in the winter.

While Sarfraz was supervising in the field Mahanama was in the nets showing his pupils how to cut and pull inside the gymnasium nearby.



ROSHAN MAHANAMA

Brothers beat Azad Sporting

Dhaka Mariner Young's Club defeated Azad Sporting Club 2-0 in the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Issa Miah and Musa Miah scored one each for the winners, both in the first half.

After the day's outcome, Mariner secured 17 points from nine matches while Azad remained at four, also playing nine matches.

Issa put Mariner ahead in the 20th minute from a penalty corner while his brother Musa doubled the margin by a reverse hit in the 34th minute.

BIHANGA 1; WANDERERS 0

Earlier, in the First Division league match, Mukta Bihanga beat Dhaka Wanderers by a solitary goal at the same venue.

Swapan netted the all-important goal in the 46th minute from a penalty stroke.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier League
 Mohammedan SC v Bangladesh SC (4 pm)

First Division
 Wari Club v Victoria SC (2.15 pm)

Africa Cup cricket

Kenya to meet Zimbabwe in final

NAIROBI, Sept 9: Steve Tikolo scored a chanceless 86 led Kenya to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over South Africa in the semifinals of the Africa Cup one-day cricket championship here Friday, reports AFP.

Tikolo, one of four professionals drafted in to lead the Kenyan youth development side, staged a solo effort against the South Africans who only managed 139 after winning the toss and opting to bat first.

Off-spinner Mohammed Toko took three wickets in the tight Kenyan bowling and Tikolo added another two as the defending champions strolled into Sunday's final to meet Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe ended Uganda's magnificent run in the week-long championship when they beat the East Africans by 41 runs in the second semifinal at Nairobi's Jaffrey's club.

Zimbabwe's decision to bat first paid dividends when they set a huge target of 248 for seven in 50 overs. In reply Uganda staged a fightback, but their challenge ended when they were bowled out for 207 in 47 overs.

Div I soccer

Fakirerpool, Wari win

Wari Club and Youngmen Fakirerpool won their respective matches in the Metropolis First Division football league at different city venues yesterday, reports UNB.

Wari tasted their first win in the league, beating Mirpur Chalantha SC by 2-1 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium trailing the first half 0-1. Khokon and Harun netted for Wari while Didar scored for Chalantha.

At the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Youngmen Fakirerpool earned a solitary goal victory over the Muslim Institute. Sohag netted the match-winner in the 40th minute.

Commenting on the state of the batsmen Mahanama, 34, who will also be teaching the finer points of fielding, said he thought there was no lack of talent but still they must work hard to improve.

"I've seen an improvement in some of the players but as most them are new here I feel they are not practising, as they should."

"It's not possible to teach everything in such a short period of time - each course lasts five days. So it's up to individual players to use the techniques while training at home."

Expressing his disappointment at the duration of the camp Mahanama thought the instructors were being rushed. Within the allotted time frame efforts have been made to demonstrate necessary drills, for

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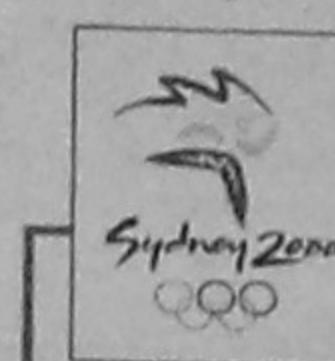
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The report by the CBI, who have recently visited Britain in connection with their investigations, is likely to be treated seriously by the England and Wales Cricket Board as they were the organisation who first revealed information implicating Cronje in match-fixing.

Andrew Walpole, the ECB's media relations officer, confirmed: "We have had no official contact from the Indian police on this matter and until we do, there is not a lot we can say on the matter."

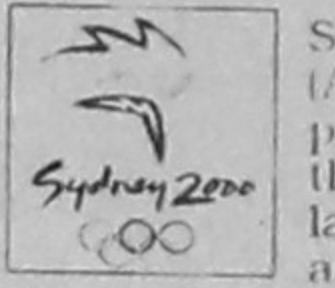
The Greatest Ritual of Sports



5 Days to go

WATER LILIES? Belarusian synchronised swimmers Natalia Sakharuk (L) and Krisina Nadezhina perform part of their routine during a training session at the International Aquatic Centre in Sydney yesterday.

SYDNEY SIDELINES



SYDNEY, Sept 9 (AP):

The anticipated squeeze at the Olympic Village should be avoided, meaning all athletes and officials will get a bed.

Pere Miro, director of National Olympic Committee relations, said 7,000 athletes and officials representing 153 NOCs had already moved into the village.

Organizers expressed concern when the anticipated 10,300 Olympic athletes appeared it would escalate to almost 11,000 as increasing numbers of competitors met qualifying criteria.

Sydney organizers had budgeted initially for a total of about 15,000 athletes and officials in the village, but Miro says on the most crowded days the village could house 16,000 people.

Some days ago people were concerned about overcrowding because the figures were a bit higher than forecast, but it's not creating any problems for the managers of the village," he said.

BIGGER, BETTER

The Sydney Games will be the biggest on record, outgrowing Barcelona in 1992 and

Atlanta in '96. Pere Miro said all 199 National Olympic Committees would be represented in Sydney and would be joined by four independent athletes from East Timor, who'll be competing under the IOC flag.

IOC estimates show about 10,600 athletes will compete in Sydney in 28 sports.

Olympic Roads and Transport Authority spokesman Paul Willoughby told the Australian Associated Press that "human error" was responsible for the major transport bungle.

Samaranch and other IOC executive board members waited at the Regent Hotel in downtown Sydney for a bus, provided by the Sydney organizers, until giving up in frustration when asked to wait another 10 minutes.

Willoughby described the incident as a "misunderstanding." He said the bus was sent to the headquarters of the Sydney organizing committee instead of to the IOC hotel.

Sydney has been plagued by transport problems in the last two weeks after a series of delays and accidents on the rail network and dozens of Olympic buses getting lost or failing to pick up passengers.

An excellent series against England in June during which he averaged 89.00 with a highest score of an unbroken 148 opened the eyes of the Australian state selectors. But getting noticed and getting selected are two very different things in a country blessed with a glut of talented batsmen.

A pre-season clash next week in Pethia against Queensland could be his chance, as Adam Gilchrist and Damien Martyn will be away on national team.

Goodwin is hoping he can pick up his Australian domestic career where he left off in 1996: scoring a lot of runs for the Western Warriors based in Perth.

Goodwin rocked Zimbabwe cricket earlier this year with his announcement that if Western Australia offered him a contract, he would return to his adopted country. He left behind him a superb Test career, scoring 1414 runs at 42.84 in 19 Tests, with a top score of 166 not out.

According to a report by the AFP news agency, a "highly-placed source from the federal agency" claims the CBI's interim report is likely to list corruption charges against two English and three Pakistani cricketers and "will contain an impressive picture of corruption in the game."

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Andrew Walpole, the ECB's media relations officer, confirmed: "We have had no official contact from the Indian police on this matter and until we do, there is not a lot we can say on the matter."

He reportedly contacted the chief executive of Zimbabwe cricket asking for details on his new contract, specifically asking about a pay increase to match his native country's 65% inflation, but the reply came too late: Goodwin's move back to Australia was underway.

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