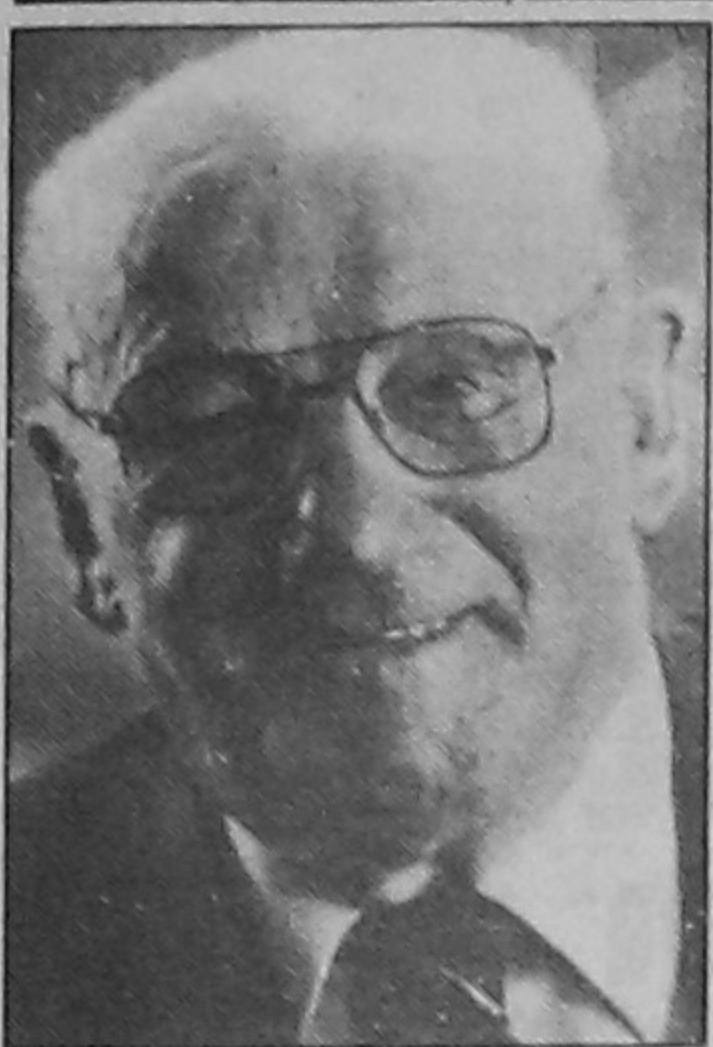


SPORTS TALK



Sir Don Bradman
(Cricket legend)
"I was never coached. I was never told how to hold a bat."

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?
Rita Kanchan Tanvir
- Who is Pakistan's cricket team captain?
Wasim Waqar Mohi
- Who is the captain of Bangladesh cricket team?
Amrul Akra Naimur
- Who won the AB Bank Men's TT title?
Anwarul Biman Marjines
- 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

WECCA formed

Sports Reporter

The inauguration ceremony of Weekend Cricket Club Association (WECCA) was held at a local hotel on September 7, says a press release.

Nine Dhaka-based holiday cricket clubs have formed the WECCA to organise a weekend version of cricket in an organised way.

The clubs are Ramblers, Commonwealth Cricket Club, Sri Lankan Club, Friends United, Renegades, G Team, Cavaliers, Josephites and Millennium Club.

The main purpose of the Wecca is to organise cricket tournaments, set up cricket clinics for youngsters, arrange social events, charity matches for former cricketers, organise overseas tours and friendly matches against foreign teams.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) general secretary Syed Ashraf Hossain said in his message on the founding of the WECCA said: "All those who have been associated with the game for their love of cricket have now joined hands to give weekend cricket a more serious and competitive shape and yet enjoy the game in the spirit that it demands."

The executive committee of WECCA consists of president Fariduddin Khan Rumi, general secretary Hassan Sayed, treasurer Golam Nowsheer Prince and a member from each of the nine clubs.

Gaekwad new Indian coach

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Former coach Anshuman Gaekwad has taken the charge of the Indian national cricket team after legendary Kapil Dev had resigned from the office, an official said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

"I spoke to Kapil's predecessor Gaekwad at his office in Baroda and he has accepted, though reluctantly, to be the coach for an interim period lasting until October," Jaywant Lele of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) told this news agency on Tuesday by telephone from Baroda.

Gaekwad had coached India at the 1999 World Cup in England.

Lele said Gaekwad was "hesitant" but relented after BCCI president A C Muthiah put in a special request.

MSC lesson for Brothers

Sports Reporter



Ahmed scored two goals and set up the other for his partner in the up front Imtiaz Ahmed. Mohammedan Sporting Club to a resounding 3-0 victory over Brothers Union in the lone National Bank Premier Football League match at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The inspirational Mohammedan captain set the course of the match in the 22nd minute with a close range shot before Nakib striking the second six minutes later to settle the issue even before the match reached the halfway mark.

Alfaz then drove the last nail in Brothers' coffin twenty minutes away from the final whistle when he let loose a spectacular right-footer past a bemused custodian Milon. Alfaz's second goal, a curler from acute angle

into the far post, was a testimony to his class. The facile victory, Mohammedan's fourth from as many games, took them atop the League table with maximum 12 points. They are however closely followed by their bitter foes Abahani Krira Chakra, who recorded three straight wins so far.

Suspensions of the Mohammedan fans were also blown away with yesterday's outcome where the black and whites reigned supreme. In the previous match, Mohammedan had a close shave against Rahmatganj where they struggled to win the match by a solitary goal.

However, it could have been a bigger margin victory for Mohammedan had not both Alfaz and Nakib engaged themselves in a competition of spoiling easy chances at the leg of the lop-sided affair.

Alfaz missed his hat-trick

heading a Munna cross from the right wide off the mark soon after firing in his second goal.

Nakib, the top scorer in the League with six goals, got a helpless Milon at his mercy on at least three occasions, but wasted those chances hitting the ball straight to the goal-keeper.

Brothers, the aspirants-turned-pushovers once again showed their vulnerability in the defence. The four-man defence wall of Emadul, Shahjahan, Polash and Chanchal was so fragile that Mohammedan faced a little resistance to run over it, especially when the match grew older.

The Gopibagh outfit had also their share of problems in the striking zone. They got an early opportunity to send Mohammedan on the back foot when Parvez lobbed a perfect cross to an unmarked Nepalese Basanta Thian. But the myopic forward headed the ball wide off the mark from a hand-shaking distance.

Basanta got another chance in the 26th minute when he blasted a right-footer from inside the box, but only to be denied by the metal work.

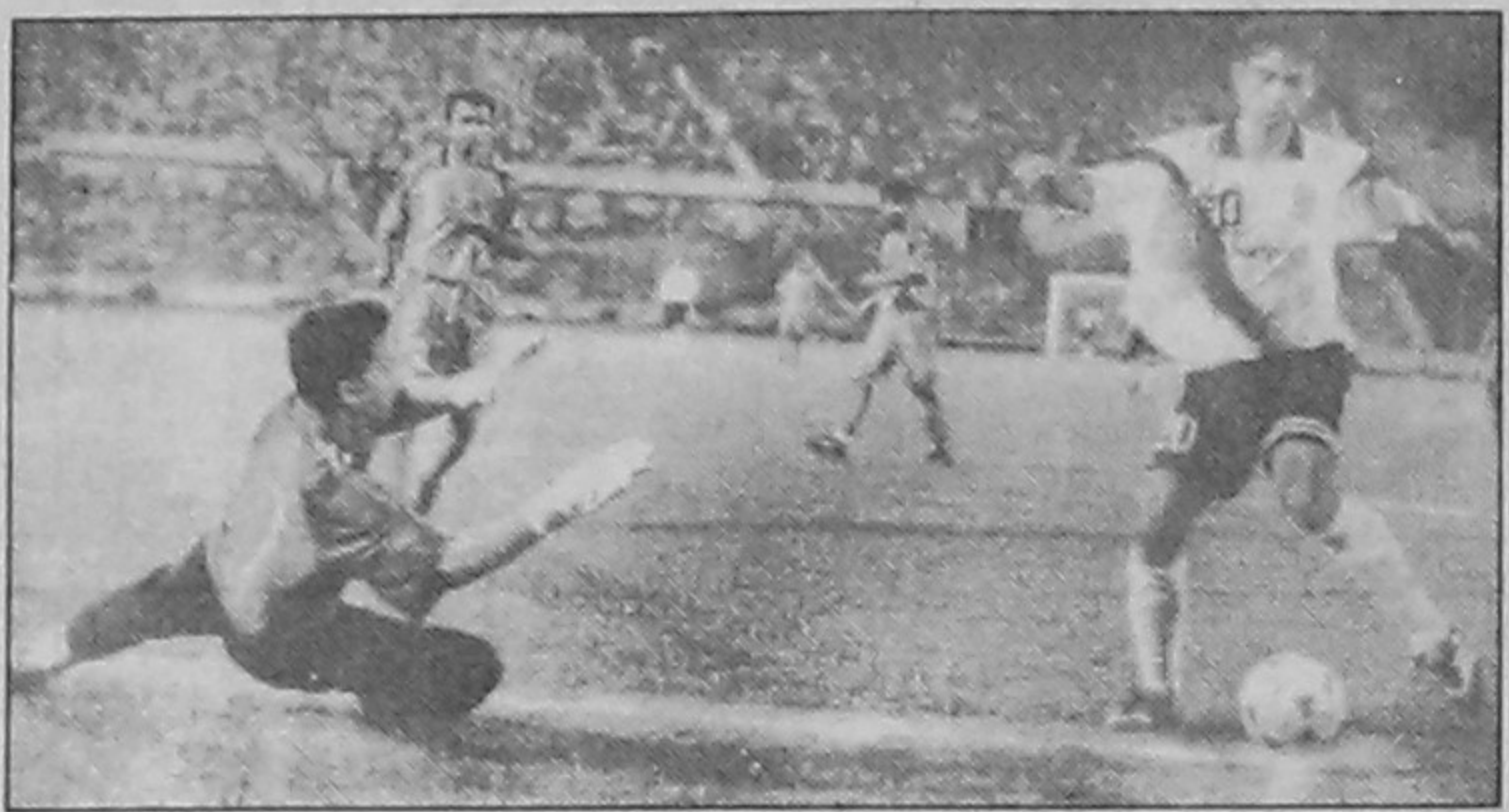
It was Brothers' third defeat in a row after their upset victory against Badda Jagorani in their opening match.

Yellow cards: Jahangir and Titu (Mohammedan)

TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Ponir, Rezaul, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Jewel, Bipul (Jahangir) (Pappu), Motur Munna, Selim (Titu), Rakib, Alfaz and Nakib

Brothers Union: Milon, Emadul, Shahjahan, Polash, Chanchal, Proshanta (Dipu), Bal Gopal, Salahuddin (Momin), Parvez, Basanta Thiapa (Amin Khan) and Hari Khadka



Mohammedan striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib (R), who scored one goal, here creating an opportunity against Brothers Union during their National Bank Premier Division Football League fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

34th Chess Olympiad

BCF expects better results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Chess Federation (BCF) hopes Bangladesh would improve on its ranking in the forthcoming 34th Chess Olympiad to be held in Istanbul from October 27 to November 13.

BCF general secretary Syed Sajjadul made this declaration at a press briefing yesterday.

Newly-appointed national team coach Latvian Grand Master Igor Rousis and International Master Ziaur Rahman, who will lead the Bangladesh men's team, were also present.

Sajjadul said that Bangladesh, who finished 53rd out of 110 nations in the 33rd Olympiad held in Elista, Russia in 1998, are aiming for a top 40 finish this time around.

The men's team consists of IM Ziaur Rahman, IM Rezaul Karim, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib, Fide Master Enamul Hossain Rajib, Ruhul Kabir Shiplu and Sajjadul

Loveli while the women's team includes: International Women's Master Rani Hamid, Tanina Parveen, Syeda Shabana Parveen Nipa and national women's champion Nazrana Khan Iva.

Sajjadul however added that the participation of former national champions Tanina and Nipa was unsure and that has created doubts regarding the participation of the women's team.

"We have sought clarification from FIDE on whether we can replace the ladies in question in case they fail to make the trip. If FIDE allows us, two new names will be included otherwise we might withdraw from the women's event," Sajjadul said.

Introducing the Latvian coach to the press, Sajjadul said, "We have brought Rousis to raise the standard of our chess. He is spending two hours everyday with the local talents. Our players are definitely going to benefit from this."

The general secretary also disclosed that the National Sports Council (NSC) has allotted Taka six lakh for the team's participation.

Rousis has been appointed for five months initially with provisions for extension for a salary of 1,500 dollars per month.

Sajjadul also revealed that, Rousis has agreed to sacrifice his place in the Latvian national team for the Olympiad as he considers his new assignment more important. He was a mamba of the Latvian team that finished tenth the last Olympiad.

Rousis had participated in the Dhaka First Division Chess League for Leonine Chess Club a couple of years back. The 38-year old former doctor who turned into a professional chess player ten years ago, earned his Grand Master title in 1992.

'Cricket has been murdered'



NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Indian cricketing titan Kapil Dev breathed fire on the game's administrators in his letter of resignation as national coach, and said he was walking away from a sport which had been "murdered", reports Reuters.

"The game that gave me everything has now taken its pound of flesh from me," the former India captain told Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president A C Muthiah in his letter dated September 11 and released the day after, which was published in The Times of India on Wednesday.

"I now go without looking back and will be happy if the board would not associate me in any way with its future plans of events connected to cricket."

Kapil, embroiled in a match-fixing scandal that has rocked the game from South Africa to South Asia, quit on Tuesday, less than halfway through his two-year contract as coach.

That brought to an end a dazzling career during which he captained India to their 1983 World Cup win, held the record until March as the most successful bowler in Test history and won acclaim as one of the game's greatest all-rounders.

Kapil was questioned last week by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) following allegations of match-fixing made against him by former India all-rounder Manoj Prabhakar.

Kapil, who denies the allegations, sobbed uncontrollably during a television interview after the scandal broke earlier this year and said he would

commit suicide before taking a bribe.

During his resignation letter with emotion, Kapil said cricket had given him so much but then taken a great deal away "on the mere hearsay of a third party".

But he reserved most of his bitterness for the BCCI, which he said appeared to have put no faith in his ability and had given him the feeling that he was being "put down on every occasion".

"I have taken what came to me but I would request the Board to be kinder to the next coach and give him his due respect if they have the welfare of the game at heart," he said.

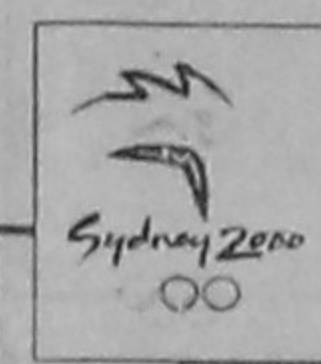
"This is not a battle of flexing our muscles. The game which has been murdered has to slowly be brought back to life."

Kapil said the government should release its findings soon so as to end what he called "trial by media".

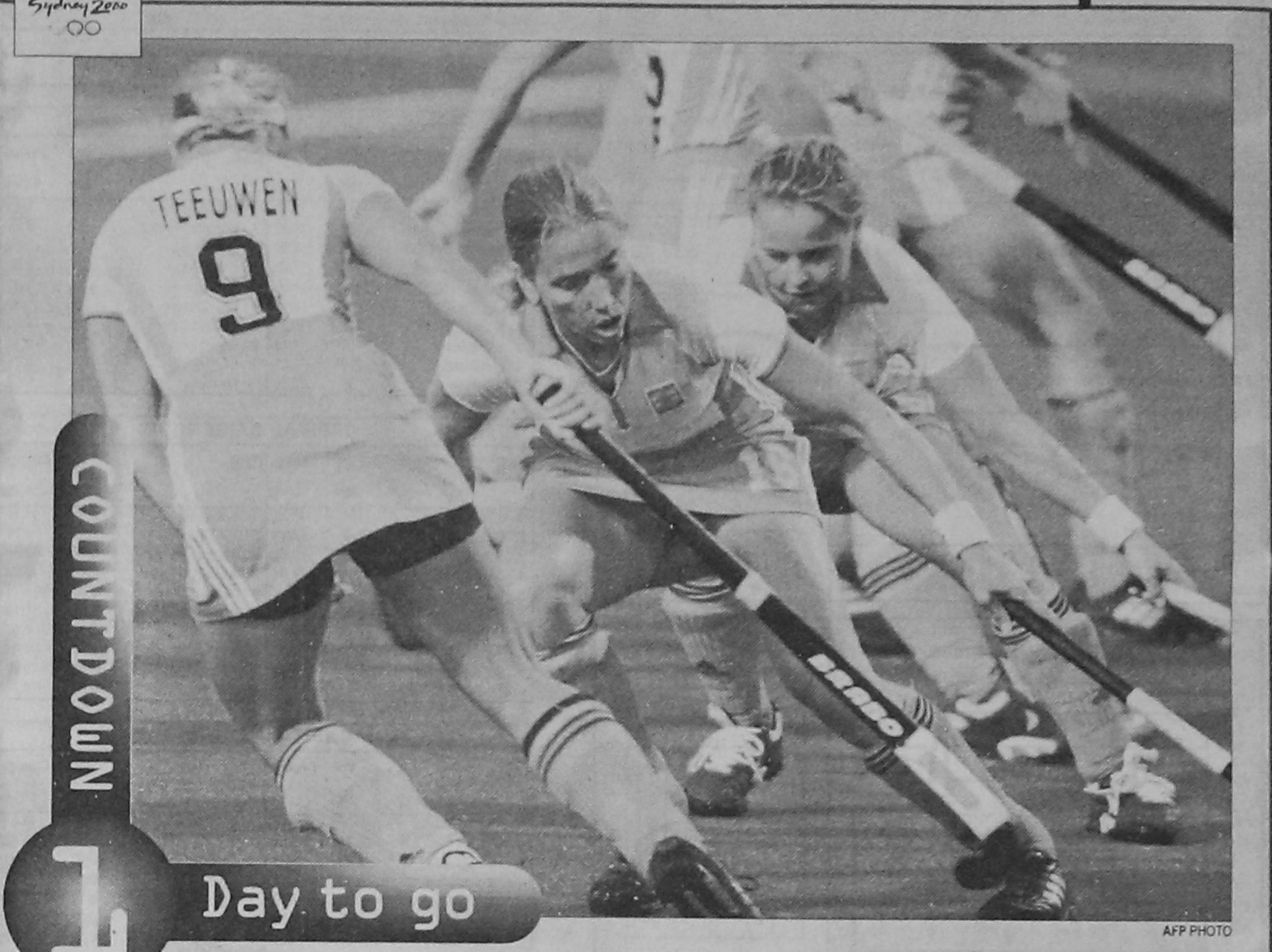
Cricket's match-fixing scandal was sparked in April when Delhi police charged four South African cricketers of "cheating, fraud and criminal conspiracy".

Hansie Cronje was soon sacked as South Africa's captain after he admitted receiving money from a bookmaker for information and forecasting during a one-day series in January.

Tax officials raided Kapil's New Delhi home in July as part of a nation-wide swoop on cricketers, administrators and bookmakers. The CBI is due to submit its final report on its probe into match-fixing to the Sports Ministry by the end of this month.



The Greatest Ritual of Sports



SYNCHRONISED HOCKEY? Dutch women hockey team players practising at the State Hockey Centre in Homebush Bay, Sydney yesterday. Hockey competition begins September 16.

Bangladesh to warm up against SL

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play a practice match against Sri Lanka before taking on England in the ICC Knockout tournament at the Nairobi Jikhan ground on October 5.

The match will be held in Mombasa on October 1, one day before the tournament starts, general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Board -- Syed Ashraf Hossain, revealed it to the Star Sport yesterday.

The newest Test nation however kicks off their build-up to the high profile meet with a match against Kenya on September 28.

Earlier, the Board announced that Bangladesh would play two practice matches against different selections of Kenya.

Bangladesh cricketers, who are now in the BKSP camp, will leave for Kenya on September 24. Ashraf will accompany the team as manager but will return home early to take preparation for Bangladesh's maiden Test against India.

Who will light the cauldron?

SYDNEY, Sept 13: Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he didn't know who was going to light the Olympic cauldron on Friday but cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman appears to be firming as the people's favourite, reports AFP.

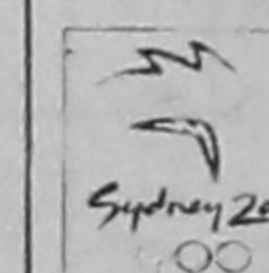
"I don't know (the person) and I don't particularly want to know," said Howard Wednesday, but adding he had an opinion on who should get the job.

While not naming names, it is widely known that Howard is a big cricket fan and an even bigger fan of Bradman.

And the 92-year-old cricket legend scored a hefty 52 per cent in an Australian poll released Wednesday by telecommunications company Opticom.

Next up was swimming icon Dawn Fraser with 22 per cent, followed by track and field gold medalists Betty Cuthbert and Herb Elliott with 17 per cent and nine per cent respectively.

It's the final countdown



SYDNEY, Sept 13 (AP) — Let the Games begin. With only a few last-minute projects and touch-ups still under way, an aura of anticipation pervades this pulsating city on the eve of its two weeks in the Olympic spotlight.

"We're more than ready for this thing to begin," said Melissa Johnson, a university student window-shopping on Pitt Street Mall, where foreign television crews filmed street performers wailing on saxophones and juggling balls. "It's been hard to get really excited with such a long build-up."

Sydney was awarded the 2000 Olympics seven years ago, sparking a three billion dollar construction binge that has revitalised a city devastated by a late-1980s crash in the local property market. All of the 20 sports venues except the water polo site were finished a year ago, and all have hosted major events as trial runs.

"We're quietly confident," said Liz Smylie, a member of the Games' organising committee and a former Australian Olympic tennis competitor. "There always are going to be bumps in the road. It's how you react that counts."

Some Sydneysiders, as locals are known, were blasé about the Games' impending start, but signs of excitement

were visible, too. The arrival of the Olympic torch following a 100-day, 27,000-kilometre (17,000-mile) relay by 11,000 runners around Australia was the focus of attention Thursday. And long lines formed where remaining tickets for Olympic competitions were on sale.

Nearly all of the roughly 10,000 athletes from 198 countries will be in sports-crazy Australia by the time a nearly full moon rises over Olympic Stadium on Friday night. More than 100,000 people will attend the opening ceremony in the vast arena that is all swoops and angles, echoing Sydney's renowned Opera House. Billions worldwide will see the extravaganza on television.

Some glitches have cropped up in the runup to the Games, particularly in transportation, one of the sore spots for the Atlanta Games four years ago.

Officials admitted Tuesday they underestimated the demand for buses and were scrambling to bring in more and recruit extra drivers to move athletes, journalists and fans around the Olympic areas.

Sydney's newly expanded airport has had its share of trouble, ranging from major problems with a computerised baggage-handling system to a gas leak Wednesday that sickened at least 50 people.

But after getting off to a slow

start Wednesday morning, special trains ran every few minutes from downtown Central Station to Homebush Bay, a 760-hectare (1,900-acre) former industrial compound 14 kilometres (nine miles) west of downtown that was redeveloped as Olympic Park.

Security worries were being downplayed, but officials were taking no chances after the Olympic bombing in Atlanta and the recent arrests in New Zealand of a group that allegedly was planning to attack the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor outside Sydney.

Everyone coming into Olympic Park has to go through a metal detector and have bags checked by X-ray machines. Accreditation passes feature special tape designed to stymie counterfeiters.

Weather was a minor concern. Recent days have been warmed by the early-spring sun, but nights remain downright chilly with a delay in the warm northeasterly winds that normally arrive around the first of September to end the Southern Hemisphere winter.

George Street, Sydney's main downtown boulevard, is lined with blue Olympic banners. Television screens 6.4 metres (21 feet) wide have been erected at a six prime sites around Sydney so people can watch the Games live from 8 am to midnight each day.

SYDNEY SIDELINES

SYDNEY, Sept 13 (AFP): The man widely regarded as the greatest living Australian sent a message of support to the host nation's athletes just two days before the Sydney Games get underway.

Legendary cricketer Sir Donald Bradman, now 92, sent the message to John Coates, Chief of Mission of the Australian team.

Bradman, dubbed "the Don" during his heyday, said: "Always remember that it is the fact that you are competing that is important and not whether you win or lose."

Whatever the outcome I am confident that you will all represent Australia with distinction."

Bradman shuns the lime-light nowadays but remains Australia's ultimate sporting icon and is hailed in the world of cricket as the sport's greatest ever exponent.

FOR KANGAROOS

The Olympic Games always prove a magnet for protesters — and the Sydney Games are proving no exception.

Aboriginal rights and environmentalists have been leading the protests until now but just two days before the opening of the Sydney pageant animal lovers joined the fray, drawing attention to the plight of the marsupial that is synonymous with Australia, the Kangaroo.

"No medals for Australia for killing Kangaroos," was the message on the back of a huge billboard driven past the Media Village at low speed early Wednesday morning.

RAINBOW NATION

Modern Australia is a multicultural society — and the men's handball side provides ample

evidence of that.

As well as seven Australians the team includes players that originate from Denmark, Romania, Papua New Guinea, Yugoslavia (three), Spain and Germany.

Daryl McCormack explained: "We're all from different backgrounds. But what unifies us is that we are all handball players and we want to succeed for Australia."

OWENS ON TOP

One leading Australian newspaper named its top 50 Olympians of all time here Wednesday.

American Jesse Owens was voted greatest Olympian ever followed respectively by compatriot Carl Lewis, Finland's Paavo Nurmi and two more competitors from the United States, swimmer Mark Spitz and discus thrower Al Oerter.

But there was one surprise omission from the list — reigning American 200m and 400m champion sprinter Michael Johnson was nowhere to be found.

PINS BONANZA

The Olympic Games is always a huge draw for collectors of pin lapel badges.

The national pins of the 200 competing Olympic nations are hot property for collectors, many of whom have travelled from around the world to the Games for the four-yearly bonanza.

And Sydney organisers have tapped into the market by producing their range in every conceivable shape — Kangaroos, the Sydney Opera House, a boomerang and the map of Australia to name just a few.

But pin-seeking fans of Australian swim legend Dawn Fraser can really hit the jackpot

if they want a truly individual memento of their heroics.

A set of six pins are on limited edition sale embedded with her personal DNA.

PM EXEMPTED

The Olympic Charter decrees that the Games should be opened by the head-of-state of the host country but with Queen Elizabeth II not attending the Sydney Games that honour will fall to Australia's Governor General Sir William Deane at Friday's opening ceremony.

But Sir William and his wife had to wait their turn for accreditation just like anyone else when they turned up on Tuesday to collect their passes.

But security chiefs relaxed their vigilant policy for Australia's Prime Minister John Howard. The head of government was not required to attend in person to pick up his pass.

BRITS ON THE WAGON

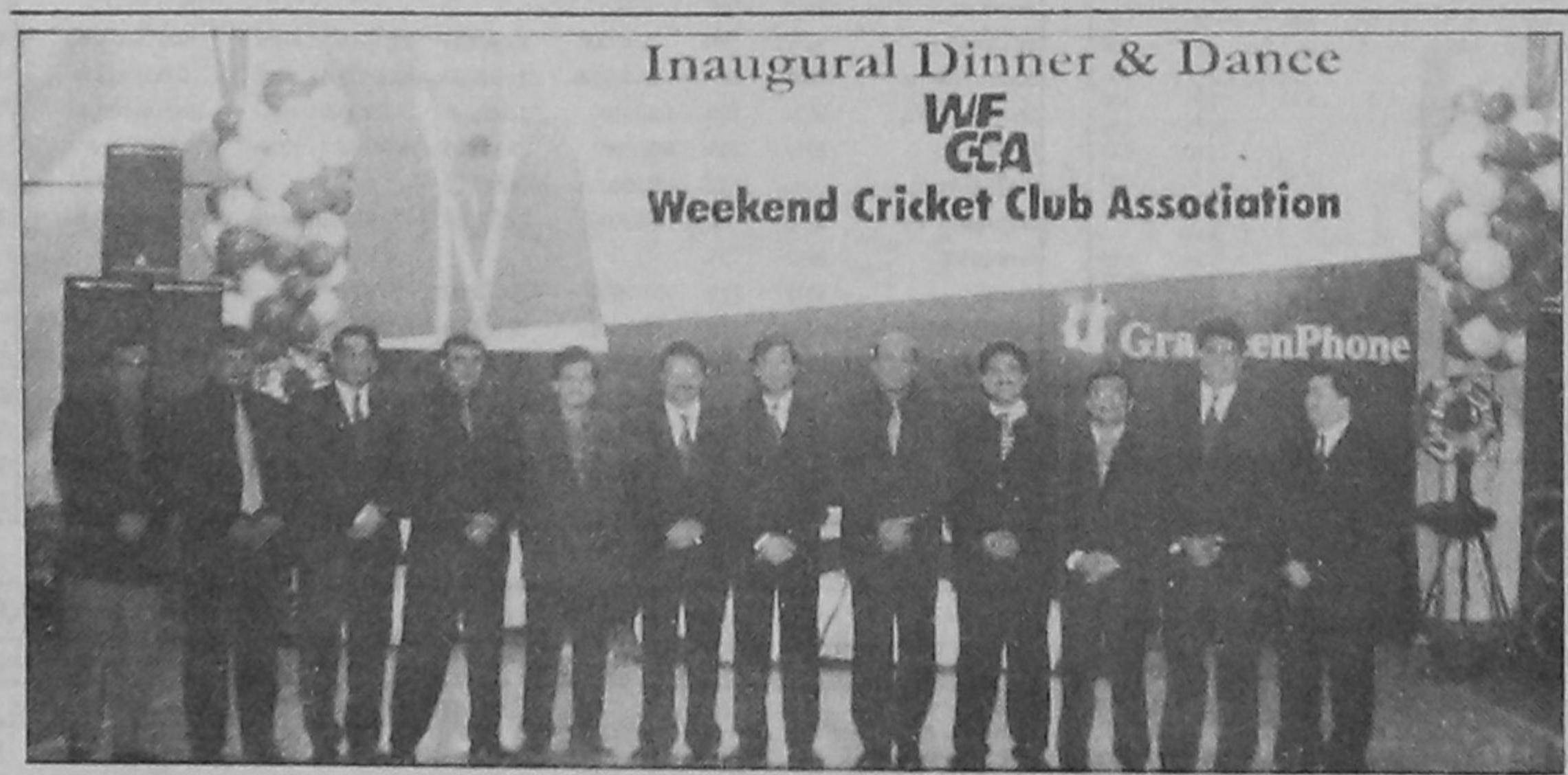
Britain's Olympic bosses have banned alcohol from the pre-Games camp on Queensland's Gold Coast.

The multi-bars at the team hotel have been swept clear of all alcoholic drinks while only soft drinks are allowed in the bar.

The booze ban even applies to Britain's coaching staff and was imposed to protect the younger, under-age competitors in the team.

Javelin thrower Steve Backley backed the decision — but added he and his fellow javelin throwers had found a way round the problem.

"I agree with the idea of having a dry camp," said Backley. "But having the odd pin is a vital part of a javelin thrower's preparation for a major championships."



The Executive Committee members of the recently floated Weekend Cricket Club Association (WECCA).