

**SPORTS TALK**



**Martina Hingis**  
 (Swiss tennis star)  
 "I think I have found out what is necessary to beat the power players."  
 After defeating Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Swisscom Challenge.

**Boost sports WHIZZ KID**

Competition 137  
 Tick the Correct Answers  
 Post to The Daily Star  
 Win attractive prizes  
 Competition closes at 8 pm  
 Nov 3 2000 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who will be the match referee in the Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India next month?  
 Shephard/ Subba Row/ Bucknor
- Who lifted the Princess Cup tennis title?  
 Serena/ Hingis/ Doki
- Who is the new managing director of United Cricket Board of South Africa?  
 Peter Pollock/ Gerald Majola/ Duncan Fletcher
- Who won the Shaheed Major Nazmul Haq International rating chess title?  
 Rezaat/ Rakib/ Rajeb
- Who is new cricket coach of Zimbabwe?  
 Houghton/ Rackemann/ Pycroft

Name .....

Class ..... Roll No. ....

School Address .....

Phone: (if any) .....



**'Lara, Stewart took money'**

NEW DELHI Nov 1. West Indian star Brian Lara was paid 40,000 dollars for playing badly in two one-day internationals, according to an Indian bookmaker cited in a federal report on match-fixing here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Bookmaker Mukesh Gupta told the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) that he was introduced to Lara by Indian player Manoj Prabhakar during the West Indian tour of India in 1994.

"According to MK (Gupta), he paid a sum of 40,000 dollars to Lara to underperform in two one-dayers during the tour," the CBI report said.

The report, however, adds that Prabhakar's attempt to introduce Gupta to another West Indian cricketer, Gus Logie, failed.

"MK has stated that Prabhakar had tried to telephonically introduce him to Logie, who however refused to talk to MK," the report said.



**BRIAN LARA**  
 Lara was among nine former Test captains named in the CBI probe.  
 The 162-page report is largely made up of testimony from Indian bookmakers as well as players and does not amount to the levelling of formal charges against any of those named.  
 Gupta also told CBI that he was introduced to Stewart by Indian player Manoj Prabhakar during England's tour of India  
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## Roquibul, Ashraful hear the music

Sports Reporter



Two senior officials of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) came under fire in last Tuesday's board meeting for their recent contracts, a source close to the board revealed yesterday.

Former national captain and selector Roquibul Hassan, who toured Kenya and South Africa with the national team as an observer, was questioned for his alleged involvement in the team management during the African tour.

On the other hand, Syed Ashraful Haq, the general secretary of the board, was criticised for failing to take over the position as Bangladesh manager.

Of the two, Roquibul appears to be in a more critical position after his controversial role in Africa.

It was learnt that the manager, captain, coach, physio and even Director of Development Eddie Barlow had made complaints against Roquibul in their reports submitted to the BCB recently.

It was learnt that in Tuesday's four-hour long meeting, the discussions mainly focused on those reports.

Roquibul was held responsible for unnecessary interference in team affairs and thus affecting the morale of the players.

As an observer Roquibul was not authorised to take part in any team matters unless he was asked to.

The source also disclosed that Roquibul faced a volley of questions once the reports were placed in front of the members where it was alleged that Roquibul had interfered in team selection before every match in South Africa.

The BCB president Saber Hossain has reportedly asked Roquibul to submit a report in his defense after the inaugural Test against India.

Ashraful was blasted following his refusal to become Bangladesh manager from the beginning of the tour owing to

his commitments at home regarding the inaugural Test match.

But he went to Kenya on October 2, a week after the team had reached there. It was reported that he spent his first two days in Mombassa when the team was in Nairobi.

Ashraful was seen at the Nairobi Gymkhana ground on October 5 when Bangladesh played their ICC knock-out match against England. But he was seldom seen with his team after that.

It was learnt that Ashraful went on a safari in Mathannara for two days after the match while the team was busy preparing for the South Africa tour.

Assistant manager of the team and BCB joint-secretary Mahmud Ul Haq had to manage the entire tour without any help from his senior colleague.

According to sources, who opted to remain anonymous, Ashraful could give any satisfactory answer on his going to Kenya.

## 24 caret toss!

Sports Reporter

A twenty-four caret gold coin will be used in the toss of the historic Test match between Bangladesh and India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

It could however not yet be known who would be the lucky person to toss the precious coin in the morning of November 10. No matter who is going to win the toss, both Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman and his counterpart Saurav Ganguly would be vying to be chosen for the job.

This is one of the few things that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has innovated to mark the august occasion.

Having been awarded with the Test status in June this year, Bangladesh has also invited a host of cricket celebrities from across the world.

Former England player Raman Suuba Rao will be the match referee while another Englishman David Shepherd and West Indian Steve Bucknor will be the two umpires for the five-day match.

## Greenidge may be back

Sports Reporter

West Indies great and former Bangladesh cricket coach Gordon Greenidge may return to Dhaka during its inaugural Test match against India to be held at the Bangabandhu National Stadium from October 10 to 14, according to a reliable source in Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Greenidge, who helped Bangladesh lift their maiden ICC trophy in Malaysia in 1997 but was later sacked during the 1999 World Cup in England, was invited to join the celebrations in connection with the Test and the Caribbean legend has accepted it.

## Muktis start on wrong foot

Sports Reporter

NEW DELHI Nov 1. A brilliant hat-trick by striker Dipendu Biswas helped Calcutta giants East Bengal to beat Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra 3-1 in their opening round robin Group B match of the Durand Cup football tournament at the Ambedkar Stadium today, reports BSS.

East Bengal took a 2-0 lead in the first half. The Muktiyoddha started well but visibly demoralised when they conceded the first goal from a disputed penalty awarded in the 33 minute in favour of East Bengal which Dipendu converted easily. Dipendu again scored brilliantly the second goal in the 39 minute off a pass from teammate Bijen Singh. He completed his hat-trick scoring the third goal in the 82 minute.

After the breather, Muktiyoddha mounted pressure but failed to make score lack of finishing. However, substitute Liton reduced the margin through a kick three minutes before the final whistle.

Muktiyoddha will play their next match against Jagit Cotton and Textile Mills on Friday (November 3).

**TEAMS**  
**MUKTIYODDHA SANGSAD KRIRA CHAKRA:** Annuil Haque, Hasan-Al Mamun, Rozouf Kanthi Barman, Mohammad Suran, Prodeep Poddar, (Rezwan Karim Liton), Masud Rana, SK Fushar, Arif Khan Joy, Zulqarnain Minto, (Swarov M Khan), Amin Rana, (Ariful Kabir Farhad), Saur Rahman Mont.

"We are deeply committed to be a partner in BCB's endeavour towards the journey that is going to take the lights and lows in world cricket," said Chatterjee. Coca-Cola is also keen to be the title sponsors in any Test and related one-day match that Bangladesh would be playing in the next three years.

While Chatterjee showed his See page 15



BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury addressing a press conference arranged in connection with the signing of Coca-Cola as the sponsors of the national cricket team at the Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Coca-Cola goes official

Sports Reporter



The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday introduced Coca-Cola as the official sponsor of the national team for the next three years.

"It's a momentous occasion for Bangladesh cricket, and I'm extremely delighted to have Coca-Cola as our partner in development of the game," said BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury minutes before signing the contract with the renowned soft drinks company.

The deal runs up to the 2003 World Cup in South Africa.

"We are grateful to Coca-Cola for coming forward to patronise the fast growing sport in the country," he said during a colourful signing ceremony at the Sonargaon Hotel in the afternoon.

While elaborating the pros and cons of the contract the BCB boss said that Coca-Cola would pay Taka 6 million each

year in cash, but ruled out the possibility of players getting any share of it.

"The national team players are already on the BCB payroll. And such issues had been settled when the contract with the players were signed," said Saber.

Having been told about the financial package of Australian Cricket Board (ACB) where players get a fair share of earnings, Saber promptly countered back saying, "In that case, Bangladesh cricket should have to reach the Australian height first."

Saber however revealed that the amount they are receiving from Coca-Cola would nearly cover the annual salary of the national cricketers.

The deal with Coca-Cola will also bar the national cricketers from signing individual sponsorship deal or using any logo on their bats, except for the case of ICC registered bat manufacturers. It also spells

that former national captain Annuil Islam would no longer be able to sport the logo of Milo.

PK Chatterjee, who signed the contract on behalf of Coca-Cola, termed the occasion as the beginning of a long journey.

"We are happy to be a part of a new chapter in the history of cricket in this country," said the country manager (Far East) referring to Bangladesh's graduation as a Test nation in June this year and the forthcoming historic one-off Test against India. Coca-Cola is one of the major sponsors in sports in India.

"We are deeply committed to be a partner in BCB's endeavour towards the journey that is going to take the lights and lows in world cricket," said Chatterjee. Coca-Cola is also keen to be the title sponsors in any Test and related one-day match that Bangladesh would be playing in the next three years.

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## Kapil hits out at media

Sports Reporter



NEW DELHI Nov 1. Former India captain Kapil Dev, cleared by a federal investigation of match-fixing charges, blamed the media for ruining his reputation, reports AFP.

"The media refused to believe me when I said I was innocent," an angry Kapil told this news agency. "They first tear my clothes off and now offer me new ones to cover myself."

"When I was accused of match-fixing, the papers splashed it on the front pages. But now that my name is cleared, it is buried somewhere in the back."

"I am not interested in what the report says. It can't erase the pain and anguish I went through those days."

The CBI report, to be released later on Wednesday, said it had found no concrete evidence against Kapil, who was accused by former Test player Manoj Prabhakar of offering him 25,000 dollars to play badly during a one-day match against Pakistan in Sri Lanka in 1994.

Kapil, the second-highest wicket-taker in Test history, resigned as national coach in September, saying the scandal had made him lose interest in

the game.

Meanwhile, there were mixed reactions from other Indian cricketers named in the CBI report.

Test star Ajay Jadeja, playing a first-class match in the northern city of Jaipur, told the Press Trust of India (PTI) he was not aware of the CBI's findings, but stressed he was innocent.

"Whatever I've come to know is from the media only. I am innocent," Jadeja said.

Jadeja, in fact, denied he had ever been questioned by CBI or been asked to appear

before it.

"But if the CBI asks, I'll not hesitate to appear before it," he said. "If any charge is proved against me, I will respect law as I am a law-abiding citizen."

Jadeja, who was axed from the national squad after his name was embroiled in the scandal, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had not banned him from playing.

"I was dropped because of my poor performance and when I improve my performance, I will be back in the team," he told PTI.

Jadeja criticised the media for sensationalising the whole issue.

"When allegations were being made against Kapil Dev, the newspapers carried them on the front pages but now that he has been found innocent, he has been relegated to the back pages," he said.

Former captain Mohammad Azharuddin refused to take calls at his home in Hyderabad.

His cousin Abrar Mohammad told PTI, "I have spoken to him and he expressed his unwillingness to make any statement at this stage."

The family of former Indian team physiotherapist Ali Irani, who has also been named in the report, said his whereabouts were not known.

## Captains stand accused



NEW DELHI Nov 1. Nine former Test captains were among a galaxy of top stars named in an Indian federal probe into match-fixing which was made public here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

The Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) report, released by Sports Minister Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa at a packed news conference, identified five Indian and nine foreign players, besides an Indian physiotherapist.

Testimonies from bookmakers and players interviewed by the CBI claim that former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Manoj Prabhakar, Nayan Mongia and Ajay Sharma took huge sums of money for match-fixing.

The foreign players named include ex-Test captains Alec Stewart (England), Brian Lara (West Indies), Hansie Cronje (South Africa), Arjuna Ranatunga and Aravinda De Silva (Sri Lanka), Martin Crowe (New Zealand) and Asif Iqbal and Salim Malik (Pakistan).

Australia's Mark Waugh and former Indian physiotherapist Ali Irani have also been named in the report.

The CBI, however, found no evidence against former Indian captain and coach Kapil Dev, who was accused by teammate Prabhakar of offering him 25,000 dollars to play badly during a one-day match against Pakistan in Sri Lanka in 1994.

The 162-page report is largely made up of testimony from Indian bookmakers as well as players and does not amount to the levelling of formal charges against any of those named.

"I have sent a copy of the report to the law ministry, which will decide if we can press charges against the Indian players," Dhindsa said.

"I am not certain what will happen about the foreign players."

Dhindsa was confident the report would have a good impact on the game in future.

"I hope... I am certain that no player will indulge in match-fixing, at least for the time being."

The report claimed that the mysterious Indian bookmaker "John", who paid Australian Test stars Mark Waugh and Shane Warne for providing information, was the same man who bribed Cronje.

The report claims bookmaker Mukesh Gupta, who emerged as the kingpin of the player-bookie nexus, used the alias of "John" while dealing with international players.

The CBI said Gupta had told their investigators that he had paid 20,000 dollars and pitch information during a one-day series in Sri Lanka in 1994.

But the report does not say how much Shane Warne was paid.

Both Waugh and Warne admitted last year to taking money from the person they identified only as "John", which resulted in a fine by the Australian Cricket Board.

Cronje told the South African King commission earlier this year that Gupta had introduced to him by Azharuddin during the series in India in 1996.

The CBI report says Gupta admitted paying 40,000 dollars to Cronje on the third day of the Kanpur Test to ensure a "South African loss and as an investment for future."

Gupta claimed that Sri Lankan veterans Ranatunga and De Silva helped him fix an

Indian victory in the Lucknow Test in 1994, for which De Silva was paid 15,000 dollars.

Gupta also says he paid Lara 40,000 dollars to underperform in two one-dayers during the tour of India in 1995.

Crowe and Stewart of England were named by Gupta as having taken 20,000 dollars and 5,000 pounds respectively for pitch, weather and team information.

However, Gupta stressed both players refused his offers to fix matches.

He also said Dean Jones of Australia turned down an offer of 40,000 dollars to provide information and fix matches.

The most damning indictment is of Azharuddin, who the report says confessed to fixing games with the help of colleagues Jadeja and Mongia, while Sharma and Irani acted as the conduits with bookmakers.

Jadeja, the report says, provided "assessment of matches" and passed on information to another Indian bookmaker Utam Chand. Gupta claimed Jadeja had "offered his services" for fixing matches and received money from him.

According to the report, Manoj Prabhakar, who first blew the whistle on the scandal back in 1997, was very close to bookmakers and punters both during his playing days and after retirement.

There was also evidence, the report says, of Prabhakar under-performing, passing on information and introducing foreign players to Gupta and other bookmakers.



SHIKHEV DHINDSA paid.

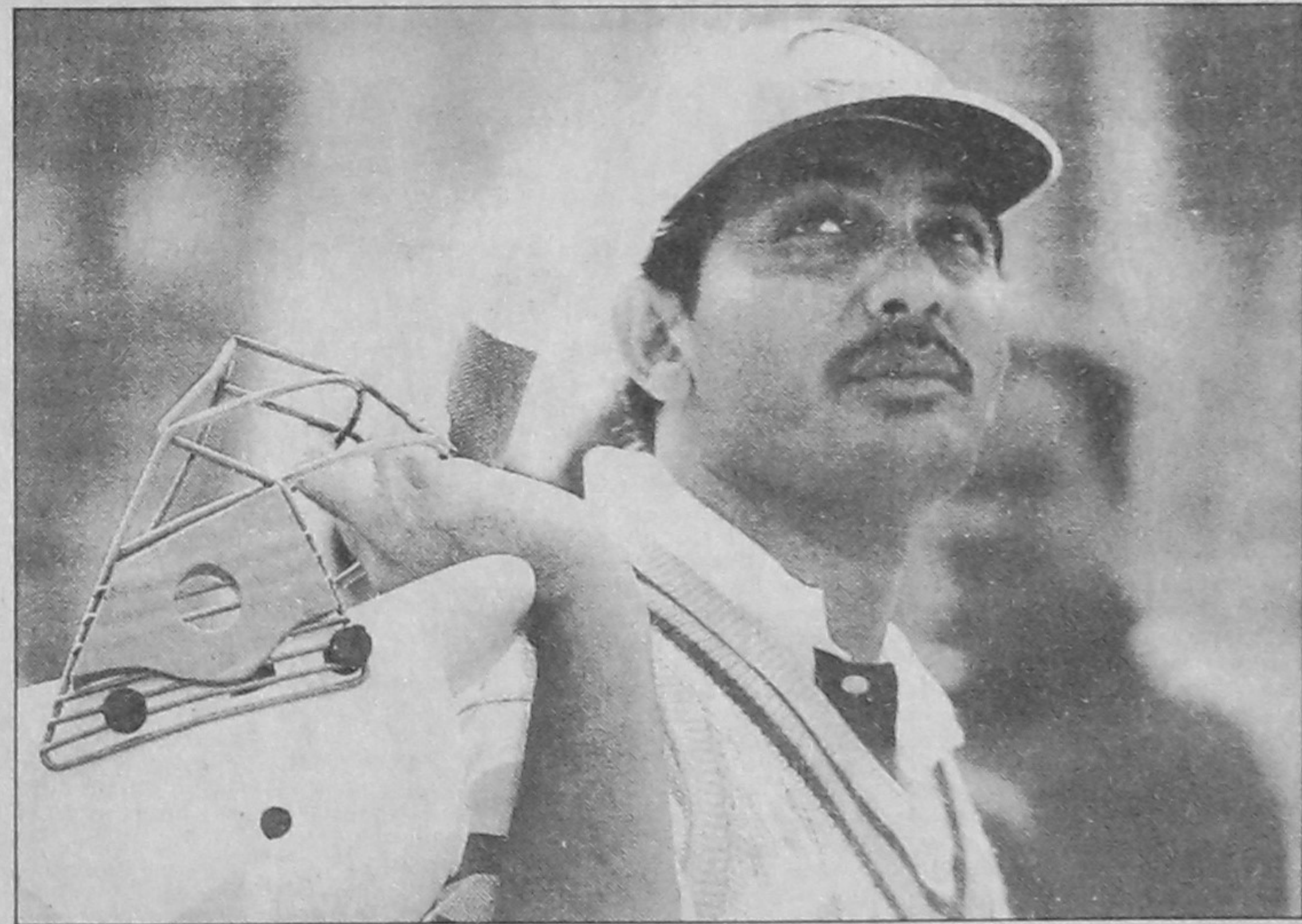
## Rajshahi soccer

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI Nov 1. Shubganj Sangskritik Parishad defeated Mania Smitri Sangha 4-1 in the Chapainawabganj District football league at the district stadium yesterday.

Bengali, Ananda, Jhali and Dablu of the winners scored one goal each and Asaduzzaman scored the lone goal for the losers.

Eight clubs are taking part in the league.



ONLY HEAVENS CAN HELP: An AFP file photo of former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin.

## Azhar in thick of things



NEW DELHI Nov 1. Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin received a huge sum of money for fixing matches on behalf of two bookmakers, a federal report into cricket's biggest scandal claimed Wednesday, says AFP.

Azharuddin, 37, who led India for a decade in his 16-year career, was also named by batting star Sachin Tendulkar during his testimony to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The report quoted Tendulkar as saying he suspected Azharuddin's involvement with bookmakers.

"On being asked whether he suspected any Indian player of being involved in match-fixing, Sachin said that during his tenure as captain, he suspected that Azharuddin was not putting in 100 per cent effort as he suspected he was involved with some bookies," the report said.

Tendulkar had resigned as captain before the home series against South Africa earlier this year when he was told by the selectors that Azharuddin was being taken back in the team.

"It is clear Azharuddin contributed substantially toward the expanding player/bookie nexus in Indian cricket," the CBI report said.

"The enquiry has disclosed that he received large sums of money from the betting syndicates to fix matches, which resulted in this malaise making further inroads in Indian cricket."

"The evidence against Azharuddin clearly establishes the fact that the underworld had also approached them to fix matches for them," the report said.

The CBI quoted testimony from Indian bookmaker Mukesh Gupta, who met Azharuddin through another former player Ajay Sharma in 1995.

Gupta said he gave Azharuddin five million rupees (111,000 dollars) as an advance which would be adjusted against the matches the then captain would "do" for Gupta.

"Azharuddin, in his statement, has confessed receiving money from MK (Gupta) to fix some matches," the report says.

"But he has stated he did only two matches for Gupta — the Titan Cup match against South Africa at Rajkot in 1996 and some match in the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka in 1997."

"The admission of Azhar that he 'did' only two matches for Gupta during this period appears a dilution of the actual facts in the context of the amount of money he had received from Gupta," the report said.

According to the report, Azharuddin also confessed fixing the 1999 one-day international between India and Pakistan at Jaipur for another Indian bookmaker Ajay Gupta.

"Azharuddin said he received one million rupees (22,300 dollars) from an unknown person on behalf of Ajay Gupta for that match," the report said.

"However, in view of the large amount of money Azhar had received from Ajay Gupta and the hospitality he has enjoyed through him, it is very difficult to believe that he 'did' only one match for them."

Azharuddin also reportedly revealed his connection with the underworld during his interrogation.

"Azhar stated that Abu Saram (an underworld figure in Dubai) had rung him up on a couple of occasions to fix matches but he had refused," the report says.

Physiotherapist Ali Irani, in his statement, has said that Azharuddin had told him once that he was doing matches for Anees Ibrahim (another underworld don) and hence he cannot do with anyone else.

Azharuddin, who has played more one-day internationals than any player in the world, was axed from the national team last month.