

## Footballer Dies From Polio Attack

BIRMINGHAM, April 4.

Jeff Hal, 29-year-old Birmingham city footballer and England right back, died in hospital here today from polio.

Hall, one of the smallest full backs to play for England in post-war football, was taken critically ill 10 days ago.—Reuter.

## England - Bound Cricket Team Fit And Happy

By Our Cricket Correspondent

Although cricketers have been having a very strenuous season this year, England-bound players, who attended the training camp at Khadakwasla spoke highly of the camp and the untiring efforts of coach Kamal Bhandarkar, who enforced strict discipline.

The players had physical training exercises and net practice regularly, and looked quite fit when I met most of them in Bombay.

There was unity among players and the senior cricketers, including the professionals, spoke highly of new-comer Jaisimha, who impressed both with bat and ball.

Skipper Gaekwad was by far the best fielder in the 17-member team, due to leave for London on April 16, by Air-India International.

The senior players are confident that the youngest side to leave the shores is bound to be popular, and with the fine team spirit they display already, they should shape well in England.

They were happy that cricket fans are happy at the young side. The people of Poona gave them a grand reception and wished them godspeed and good luck.



set a State record for intermediates when at the Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium last week. In style. (Right) Marie D'Souza, of St. Agnes under 18 years as well as 16 years class, seen receiving the Lenzohm Shield for team Mr. A. S. DeMello, who presided.

The All-India Football Federation is expected to hold its next annual meeting here some time in May, according to the Honorary Secretary of the Assam Football Association.—NAFEN.

Hubli Plate.

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Hoar (rath) 8-10; Luck (Sad) (Kar) Blue Royas Island Br

## A Silver Lining

THERE is a silver lining to every cloud, and India's band of cricketers to tour England from this month, damned and demoralised by the pinpricks and brickbats of a host of armchair critics, could not have asked for a better silver lining than the one they saw on the dark horizon on April 2 in Poona.

Meher Baba, the Zoroastrian holy man, reversed by all castes and creeds in Western India, succeeded in doing something for the team that neither the training camp at Poona nor the pep talks of harassed officials could achieve—close-knit team spirit and confidence.

Many of the seventeen bound for England when told that Meher Baba wanted to see them before they left Poona for their respective homes were rather sceptical, and only went to see the holy man to humour him.

But the sceptics felt otherwise when they left his presence.

Meher Baba, who has kept his vow neither to speak nor write for more than 30 years, embraced everyone of the cricketers, and with signs, through an interpreter, blessed them and gave them the following message:

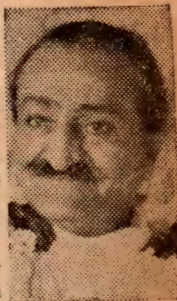
"In going to England to represent India in the field of sport you have the unique opportunity of practising and conveying to the people there the great spiritual lessons of concentration and love.

"When you take the field, if you play as eleven men with one heart, each enjoying the excellence of performance in another player as he would in himself, whether that player is of your side or of the opposing team, and so eliminating feelings of jealousy, anger and pride, which so often mar sport, you will not only be entertaining the spectators but be demonstrating the real spirit of sportsmanship.

"True sportsmanship is concentrated ability enlivened by sincere appreciation of the performances of others. And when this is manifested, everyone, both players and spectators, receive spiritual upliftment as well as good entertainment.

"Some of you are all-rounders. I am a spiritual all-rounder. I feel equally at home with saints, yogis, philosophers and cricketers as well as with sinners and scoundrels. I give you my blessing that in all your actions you show the spirit of love."

Meher Baba, who is genuinely interested in cricket and watches play whenever he has the time, presented each cricketer with a copy of his book "Life At Its Best" before they left Guruprasad, Poona.



Baba

## INDIANS EXCEL

NEW DELHI, April 2.

The Indian contingent serving with the U.N. Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip in Egypt claimed the top position in the fourth U.N.E.F. Olympiad, which concluded at Deir el Ballal yesterday, according to a report from Gaza. Final positions: India 173 points; Brazil 75; Sweden 46.

## TITLE DEFENCE

NEW YORK, April 2.

Rloyd Patterson's world heavyweight title fight with European champion Ingemar Johansson, of Sweden, will be in the Yankee Stadium here on June 25, promoter Bill Rosensohn announced today.

Patterson will first defend his title against Britain's Brian London in Las Vegas on May 1.—Reuter.

## Reception To Cricketers

Players from Bombay who have been selected for the Indian Cricket tour to England will be felicitated at a reception held by Shivaji Park Nagariki Sangh, Byramji Pavilion, Shivaji Park on Sunday at 5-30 p.m. Members of the Bal Mohan School, winners of the Giles Shield in their maiden attempt will also be felicitated.

Maharaj Shri Duleepsinhji will preside.

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The Times of India, April 6, 1959

TEAM BLESSED BY MEHER BABA. "The Times of India," News Service.

Poona April 2, 1959 .

The England bound Indian Cricketers received the blessings of "owatar" Meher Baba at a special function at the latter's temporary residence heretoday.

Meher Baba who had stopped receiving people since yesterday, made a special concession for the cricketers because of his great love for the game. He warmly embraced each player and wished him success.

In a written statement presented to each player along with a book on his life, Meher Baba asked the cricketer to convey to the English people the spiritual lesson of concentration and love. "Play as eleven men with one heart each enjoying the excellence of another player as he would in himself" was his advise to the cricketers. Later Meher Baba joined the players for a group photograph, Skipper Dattaji Gaekwad, who had gone to Baroda to see his ailing wife Muddiah, of the Services, were the only two players who were not present at the function.



# Members Of Indian Cricket Team Felicitated

## Grand M. C. A. Reception At Club Of Maharashtra

POONA, Thursday

THE elite of Poona and several hundreds of cricket enthusiasts were present on the Club of Maharashtra grounds this evening when the Maharashtra Cricket Association held a grand reception in honour of the England bound Indian Cricket team.

Speaking on the occasion which was also meant to celebrate Silver Jubilee of the Maharashtra Cricket Association, Mr. R. K. Patel, President of the Cricket Control Board of India expressed the hope that the team which was the youngest ever to leave the country's shores would put up a good show in their tour of England.

"We have learnt many lessons from the West Indies tour of this country and we hope the cricketers that will play in England will make up for our lost prestige".

"Much has been said and written about our team, the players and the administration, but despite all this we are forging ahead with future plans," he added.

Rear Admiral B. A. Samson, Commandant of the National Defence Academy, who presided over the function said that the Board had done well to select a very young side and from what he saw of the players during the coaching camp at Kbadakwasla he noticed that they had full of fight in them and he hoped that they would put up a fine performance in England.

Principal N. D. Nagarwala welcomed the Chief Guest, the

invitees and the players, while Mr. R. V. Telang, Mayor of Poona, wished the team all luck on behalf of the people of Poona.

Mr. D. P. Thanawala vice-president of the MCA spoke about the great work done by the MCA for the growth of cricket here and congratulated Mr. M. G. Bhaye who has been secretary of the MCA for the last 25 years.

Mr. Divecha, Vice-President of the Board also spoke about the forthcoming visit of the team while Pankaj Roy thanked all those present on behalf of the players. Roy had to deputise for Dattaji Gaekwad the skipper who is away at Baroda.

Silken scarfs were presented by the MCA to all the players.

Professor D. B. Deodhar proposed the vote of thanks while cine-star Shanta Apte sang 'Vande Mataram'.

## Meher Baba's Blessings To Cricketers

Poona, Thursday

"Avatar" Meher-Baba took time off from his spiritual duties to shower his blessings on the England-bound Indian cricketers at a special function at his temporary residence here today. To the players the heartening words of Meher Baba must have come as a great encouragement on the eve of their departure for a hectic tour of England.

Baba had stopped receiving people but he made a special concession to see the cricketers and he waited for more than an hour to receive the cricketers who were delayed because of medical examination.

Meher-Baba and cricket would seem a far cry, but few people know that he was a good cricketer of his days having represented the St. Vincent's School and the Deccan College in competitive matches. Meher Baba was a good wicket-keeper and good old cricketing fans could well remember Baba's exploits on the field.

### Embraces Players

Meher Baba embraced all the players one by one with a special word for Polly Umrigar, Ramakant Desai, Borde, Nadkarni and Nari Contractor.

"Take my love with you" he said "and you will shine well."



# ★ ★ SPORTFOLIO ★ ★

A. DAVID

## An Hour With Meher Baba-A Sportsman And A True Lover Of Sport

**MEHER** Baba, the Holy man who to many of his followers in this country and abroad is a near god, was in the news recently not because of his any wise and philosophical utterances on god, but for his display of the great love for sport. He took time off from his spiritual duties to play host to the England-bound Indian cricketers at a special function at "Guru Prasad" his temporary residence at Poona.

Although the appointment was fixed for nine O'clock in the morning the cricketers were much delayed because they had to undergo medical examination, but the Baba waited patiently in the hall, while his followers and a few pressmen were regaled with a glimpse of his early sporting career.

The Baba was in a joyful mood and with the help of signs which were interpreted by one of his followers he gave several examples of the good old days when sport flourished in the country.

### Team Captain

As a boy Baba led his teams in School in many games. At that time he said the boys were attracted to him and when he

seems more busy with his "work with God".

That does not mean that Baba is cut off from sport.

Although he has not been a competitor himself, he is a unique admirer of all sports especially cricket.

Even when passing the Club of Maharashtra or the Deccan Gymkhana ground, if he finds that the match is on, he stops his car and from there he watches the match.

### Still Enthusiastic

He rarely missees a good test match at Bombay and he went all the way to Delhi to see the final test against the West Indians.

Last year he went to Ahmednagar to see a Ranji Trophy match.

There the DSP spotted him and came and requested him to sit in the pavilion. Meanwhile a big crowd collected and instead of seeing the match, people were more interested in seeing him.

To avoid embarrassment to

the organisers he quickly slipped away, disappointed in not being able to see the match.

Meher Baba is not interested in big matches only.

Even now sometimes when he passes by in his car and if he spots little children playing cricket with a plank of wood as a bat and some time as wicket, he stops to admire the sporting spirit of the kids.

At times he joins them in a game of marbles.

### Cricketers Arrive

It was more than an hour that Baba was chatting to those assembled, when the Indian cricketers arrived.

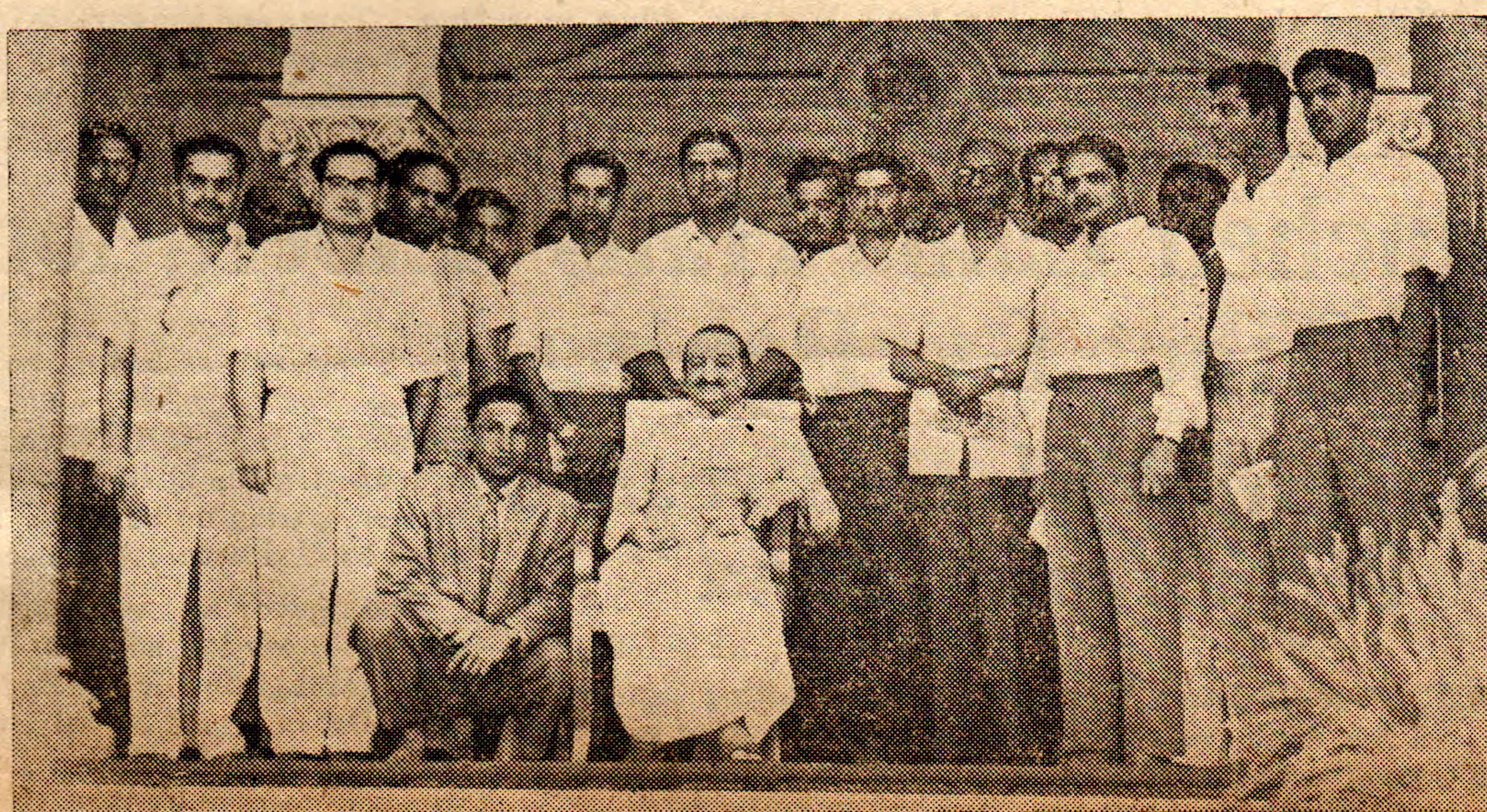
He embraced each one of them and infused in them the necessary words of encouragement and love.

"You did not do well against the West Indies" he said "but if you carry my love I am sure you will shine in England."

He again embraced the cricketers and presented each one with a book and a statement.

Some of the cricketers who came for the function in a light hearted way went back impressed by the Holy Man who talked "cricket" in the real sense.

## BLESSINGS TO CRICKETERS



grew up God also was attracted by him.

He was also the strong boy of the school and the weak boys were always protected by him.

Talking about his school which is none other than the St. Vincent's High School of Poona, Baba said that he used to play for the junior and senior cricket teams and was reputedly a sound opening batsman and wicketkeeper and many a time shone in both departments.

He later joined the Deccan College and also represented it in competitive matches.

Baba said that he was adept at playing marbles in school and that he could still do so even today.

Meher Baba recalled many incidents in his sporting career but an outstanding one seemed to be with the famous Poona all rounder Yusuf Beg.

A match was on at the Poona Club and the batsman at the crease was Yusuf Beg.

Hearing of Baba's exploits "behind the wickets", he challenged him to stump him. Baba accepted the challenge and donned pads.

### Challenge Won

The first four balls, Yusuf played carefully but by the fifth one he was lured out of the crease just by inches. In the twinkling of an eye the balls were off and Yusuf learned to his great mortification that he had been stumped and that Meher had won the challenge.

He went up to him and congratulated him for his fine performance.

With the passing of days Baba's mind wandered away from the field of reality to the supernatural field.

And with that he ceased to be an active participant as he

### Dhunjishaw And Hockey !

My good friend Mr. Nanooji Dhunjishaw seems to have been bitten by my remarks regarding his taking over hockey from his friend Noshirbhai Nagarwala.

It seems he pulled a fast one at me the other day to a friend of mine remarking "what the hell does he know of hockey", and I believe he is prepared to challenge me regarding my knowledge of hockey.

What Nanooji's knowledge of hockey is, we exposed a year or two back when I had written about P. Aspat and H. Nimal both Kirkeeans, but who wanted to get a transfer to some Calcutta Club. I had recommended the move as a very wise one but my friend Nanooji who was then President of the Kirkeeans Club strongly opposed it saying that the players who go to play for Calcutta Clubs are not in the least satisfied and do not benefit by it.

Of course I silenced his guns, by giving examples of several players like Shankar the footballer etc.

The truth of my argument has come to light now.

Because Nimal and Aspat left Maharashtra to join some other Bombay clubs they are doing extremely well. Nimal is knocking on the doors of the Olympic Hockey side as one of India's redoubtable wing halves.

And well if Nanooji still wishes to throw the challenge I accept it in all humility.

For better information on Nanooji's exploits in the sports line where he has landed more "by accident", readers please contact Mr. A. F. S. Talyarkhan,

### Response To Chandu Borde Fund Not Very Encouraging

Public response to the Chandu Borde Fund sponsored by sports-cribes of Poona has not been as good as expected. It has been our desire to present him a sizable sum but we have not achieved the target.

In order to enable us to come at least somewhere near the target we appeal to Poonaites to contribute a little towards the fund for this elegant cricketer from whom we can expect many things in future.

All contributions may be sent to Mr. G. Coelho 2009 West Street Camp Poona.

If you have not given anything please do so today.

### Iran's Strong Man Khalil Oghab To Perform At Poona

Khalil Oghab that famous strong man from Iran who has been described as another Samson will give a show of physical strength at the Shivaji Akhada on Thursday 9th April at 6 p.m.

Khalil performed successfully in Bombay and his stunts were much appreciated there.

He is a real Hercules and many of his feats are really astounding and unbelievable.

He lifts a jeep, heavy mill stones and performs several other feats of wonder.

It would be a show worth seeing.

that veteran sports critic who will be able to tell you much more about Nanooji's knowledge of sports.