

Sobers, Gavaskar attend UCBSA inauguration

S Africa may yet play in W Cup

JOHANNESBURG July 1: World cricket legend Sir Garfield Sobers said South Africa was doing its best to racially desegregate the game and should return to international competition, reports Reuter.

"Your cricket people are doing everything in their power, everything that could be expected of them," the West Indian doyen of the game said before flying out of Johannesburg on Sunday night. Sobers, 54, who set numerous records during a sensational career, was a special guest at the inauguration of the new non-racial United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), formed from rival anti-apartheid and "establishment" cricket groups.

He also visited a project aimed at promoting cricket in the Black township of Soweto and pronounced the facilities far superior to those he used when learning the game as a child.

World Cup cricket co-host New Zealand said on Monday South Africa could still make next year's competition, less than a month after the New Zealanders virtually ruled out a late entry.

"We have to face the fact that if they are admitted to the ICC (International Cricket Conference), then we may be required to incorporate them in the World Cup," New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chairman Peter McDermott told Reuters.

New Zealand and Australia are co-hosting the tournament of one-day matches, which starts in February. Participation by South Africa, who have not played official international cricket since 1970, would be a great crowd-puller for organisers and sponsors.

"I think our government and the Australian government have both suggested it would be a possibility (for South Africa to compete)", McDermott said.

A UCBSA delegation will visit Britain this month to seek readmission to the ICC, the sport's world governing body.

"I can only wish them well and hope that everything goes well for them at the ICC meeting," Sobers told the South African Press Association.

The UCBSA application for

entry to the ICC will be a key topic at the next ICC meeting on July 10 and 11.

NZC, New Zealand's cricketing governing body will support UCBSA's application. The Sri Lanka Cricket Board, a vociferous opponent of apartheid, said on Sunday it too would back UCBSA.

South Africa's last apartheid laws were repealed in June,

clearing the way for an end to sports boycotts and sanctions.

Final entry formalities for the World Cup do not have to be completed until August. Because the tournament is based on a round-robin format rather than groups, an addition to the eight Scheduled participants would not unduly upset the balance.

Acceptance into the ICC could lead to the late inclusion of A Springbok team in the World Cup. A unanimous vote at the ICC has been seen as unlikely because the West Indies have expressed reservations about South Africa's early re-entry.

Australia were the last to play an official Test in South Africa in 1970.

MANDELA'S VIEWS

Meanwhile, an AFP message from Johannesburg adds: Black leader Nelson Mandela reckons South Africa will be back in Test cricket very shortly.

Mr Mandela, deputy leader of the African National Congress (ANC), told Indian cricket writer R. Mohan that many black South African sportsmen wanted to drop the sports moratorium.

Sport is sport and politics is quite a different matter, though we maintain a link," Mr. Mandela told him, according to a brief extract of the interview reported by the South Africa Press Association (SAPA).

South Africa's non-racial United Cricket Board of South Africa, launched at a gala celebration on Saturday which featured such all-time greats as West Indian Sir Garfield Sobers and India's Sunil Gavaskar, is to send a four-man team to the International Cricket Conference (ICC) meeting at Lord's on July 10-11.

South Africa has not played Test cricket since 1970 after former premier John Vorster's refusal to allow Cape Town-Born coloured (mixed-race) player Basil D' Oliveira tour with England in 1968.

Patterson's problem

SOUTHAMPTON, England, July 1: West Indian pace bowler Patrick Patterson is struggling to be fit for this week's third Test against England after aggravating a calf injury, reports Reuter.

Patterson, who missed the second Test at Lord's, has dropped out of a touring match against Hampshire and may miss out on the Trent Bridge Test starting on Thursday.

England lead the five-Test series 1-0. West Indies manager Lance Gibbs said: "Patrick will not bowl again in this match, which is only sensible. He will continue to have treatment and we can't yet rule him out for Trent Bridge because there are three more days to go."

Patterson, who broke down after just two balls at Northampton two weeks ago, has now bowled only 7.2 overs since the first Test at Headingley.

Gibbs insisted that the West Indies have not contacted fast bowler Ian Bishop who has recovered from the back stress fracture which ruled him out of the original tour party. Bishop is in England playing club cricket.

"How fit is Bishop?" Gibbs said "And anyway, we have two other young fast bowlers here in Ian Allen and Hamesh Anthony. Allen played in the Lord's Test and did very well and the two of them deserve their chance — that's what they were picked for."

Hooper hits another ton

SOUTHAMPTON, England, July 1: Carl Hooper took his first-class tour average to 95.37 with a brilliant unbeaten 149 as West Indies scored briskly in their three-day match against Hampshire on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Rain took 33 overs from the second day's play, but West Indies still managed to race to a 156-run first innings lead. They finished on 358 for four. In his last 10 tour innings, including nought and five in the first Test against England, Hooper has made 663 runs at an average of 132.6.

His tour aggregate is 763 and Sunday's 100, his third of

the tour, follows the 111 he made in the second Test at Lord's.

Hooper's second 50 took only 49 balls and at times he made batting look ridiculously easy.

He hit two sixes, the first over extra cover off pace bowler Cardigan Connor and the second an effortless straight drive against off-spinner Shaun Udal. His 189-ball innings also included 13 fours.

Brian Lara boosted his hopes of a Test call-up with a handsome 75 in a 110-run fourth wicket stand with Hooper.

Unique Sunday crowd turns Wimbledon into Wembley

McEnroe earns shot at Edberg

LONDON, July 1: John McEnroe, cheered on by a decidedly unusual Wimbledon crowd, won the right to challenge defending champion Stefan Edberg with a third-round victory on Sunday, reports Reuter.

With Jimmy Connors bowing out — but hoping to return next year at the age of 39 — McEnroe takes over the mantle of old-stager and sentimental favourite as the rain-delayed championships go into their second week.

Edberg's progress through the draw has been in keeping with the Swede's character — calm, steady and understated. The Swede preserved his record of not dropping a set on grass this year by beating South African Christo Van Rensburg 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

But the tournament almost continued without Ivan Lendl. The world number three, who has won every other Grand Slam title but failed in 11 attempts at Wimbledon, had to come back from two sets down and then 2-4 in the fifth to beat Maliv Washington in the second round.

The day's exciting play was just reward for the fans who had queued all night to get bargain tickets as Wimbledon broke its century-old tradition and threw open the gates on the middle Sunday.

The atmosphere on the show courts was more in keeping with a soccer match than normally-staid Wimbledon as fans did the Mexican wave, wolf-whistled at Gabriela Sabatini and chanted the names of their favourites.

No-one fired up the mostly young crowd more than McEnroe and Connors, given standing ovations on adjoining courts.

McEnroe, champion here in 1981, 1983 and 1984, was two sets and 4-1 up against Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian when rain stopped play.

But after an hour's break, 16th seed needed only seven more minutes to finish off Fleurian 6-2, 7-6, 6-1.

McEnroe's famous temper boiled over only once, at 5-3 up in the second set tie-break, when he made no attempt to reach a shot from Fleurian, convinced that it was long.

When the baseline judge signalled it as good, McEnroe threw down his racket, rushed over and screamed in her face.

The judge stoically ignored him. McEnroe dismissed the incident afterwards.

"It wouldn't have done me any good to put about it because I could have gone on and lost the match," he said. "I felt like I go over it immediately."

The 32-year-old McEnroe sees himself as underdog against Edberg, who has appeared in the last three finals and won two of them.

McEnroe has beaten Edberg seven times out of 11 but the last victory dates back to 1988 and their only meeting on grass, in the 1989 Wimbledon semifinals, ended with a three-set win for the Swede.

Lendl's escape

Lendl was relieved to survive his Court Two trial against Washington, prevailing 4-6, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 for the 200th Grand Slam match win of his career.

Washington beat him in New Haven last year and Lendl had early problems with his serves and volleys. But the Czechoslovak always believed he could win the match.

"If you don't believe in yourself you may as well say: Thank you very much, I'll see you next year," he said.

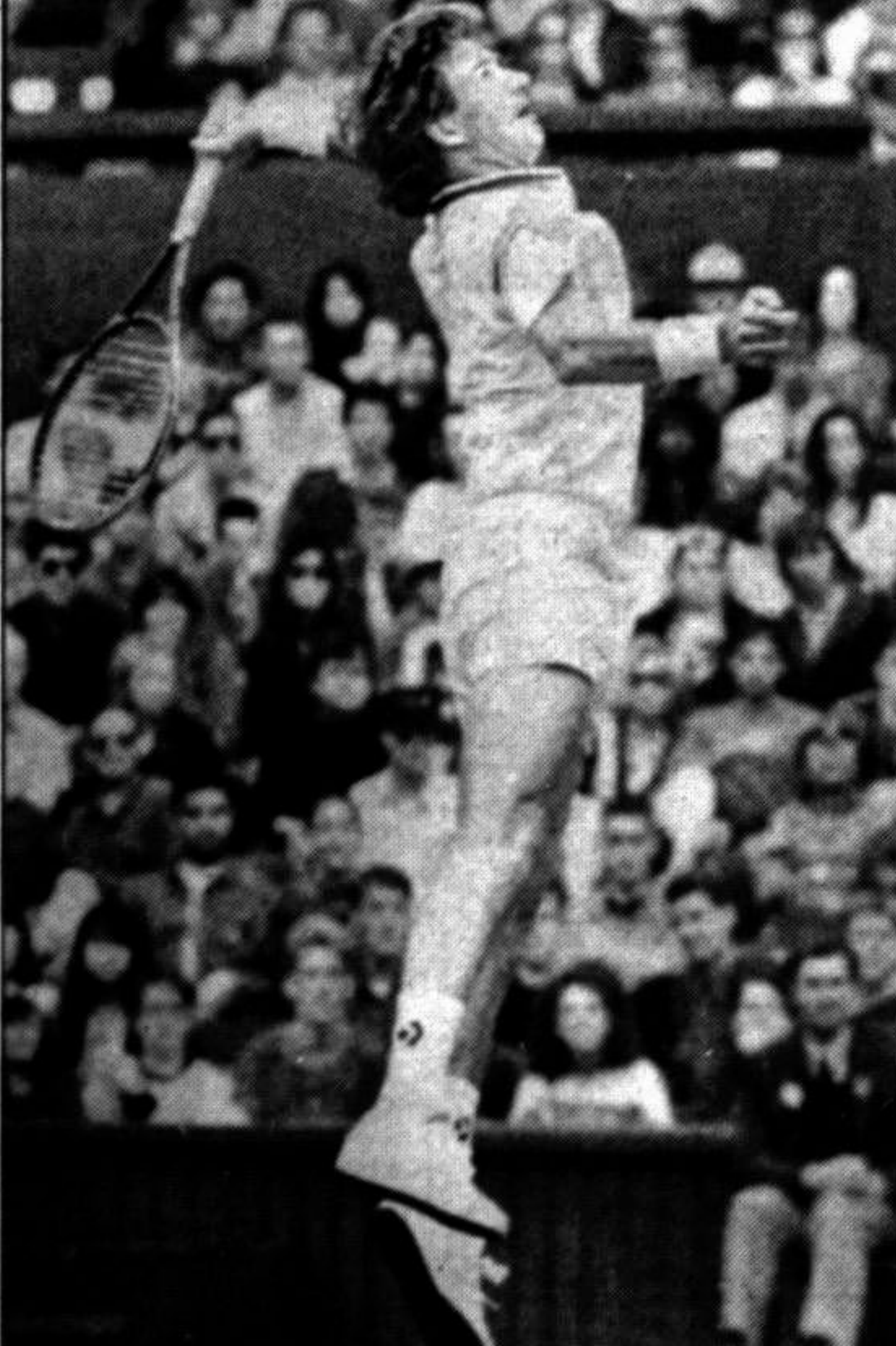
Connors, who took time off from his regular job as a television commentator to make use of a wild card here, enjoyed himself on Centre Court despite being beaten 7-6, 6-1, 6-4 by Derrick Rostagno, the American who knocked out McEnroe in the first round last year.

The former champion saved three match-points before succumbing to a Rostagno volley, then said he fully expected to come back for his 20th Wimbledon.

Nick Brown, who became Britain's big hope when he ignored his world ranking of 591 and upset last year's semi-finalist Goran Ivanisevic in the second round, did not survive another day.

Brown was beaten 7-6, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 by Thierry Champion, the Frenchman who knocked out former winner Pat Cash on Saturday and had never won a match at Wimbledon before this year.

French Open champion Jim Courier, seeded fourth, reached the last 16 here for the first time with an extremely comfortable 6-2, 6-2, 6-0 win over French qualifier Arnaud Boetsch.



Veteran Jimmy Connors jumps high for the ball during his 3rd round match against Derrick Rostagno on June 30. Connors lost 6-7, 1-6, 4-6. — AFP photo

Super Sunday for Sabatini

LONDON, July 1: Gabriela Sabatini voted Wimbledon's one-off Sunday admission policy a resounding hit after being cheered into the last 16 of the women's singles by the most raucous crowd seen on the famous Centre Court, reports Reuter.

The Argentine second seed brushed aside Andrea Strandova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-3 in the third round on a day when the normally re-

served atmosphere at the championships gave way to the screams of 11,000 gleeful spectators, many of whom had queued all night to buy a precious cut-price ticket.

Walking on court to play the first match on the middle Sunday in Wimbledon's long history, Sabatini and her 19-year-old opponent were greeted like pop stars and treated to the first "Mexican wave" most people could remember in the hallowed stadium.

"It should be like that ever day," Sabatini said. "I've never experienced such a special feeling before. They were very excited."

Nine-times champion Martina Navratilova, an equally comfortable 6-2 winner over Italian Laura Garrone, agreed she had seen nothing like it in all her years at Wimbledon.

"I was really jealous. It was awesome," said Navratilova, posted out to Court Two. "I told Gaby 'You're one lucky woman to be going out there'."

The atmosphere was an unexpected bonus for the All England Lawn Tennis Club committee, most concerned with catching up on the backlog of matches caused by the recent wet weather.

Despite early-morning rain, play began on time at noon and seven women's seeds including Sabatini and Navratilova were safely in the fourth round within two hours.

Eighth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria beat Canada's Patricia Hy 6-3, 6-4

Thailand trounce Bangladesh 4-0

Sports Reporter Thailand trounced Bangladesh 4-0 in the opening match of the pre-Olympic Asian Group D second-leg football qualifiers in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur yesterday afternoon, according to EFF sources in Dhaka late last night.

A telephonic message sent by Khairul Anwar Pearu, the Assistant Manager of the Bangladesh team, said the Thais led by a 36th minute goal at halftime.

Bangladesh, who had lost the first leg encounter 2-3 to the Thais in Seoul last May, reportedly played well for the first 20 minutes of the match before surrendering to the superior game of the Thais. A fairly large number of Bangladeshis living in Malaysia who had come to the Merdeka Stadium to watch their team play went back totally disappointed after our boys gave up without a fight, especially in the second session. According to Pearu, the boys complained of fatigue and several pleaded to be substituted in the second half. The Thais ran all over Bangladesh and scored at will again in the 66th, 70th and 85th minutes.

In the other match of the day, favourites South Korea beat hosts Malaysia by two goals to nil. The teams had drawn goalless in the first leg in Seoul.

Bangladesh stand still unknown

Sports Reporter A two-member Bangladesh delegation led by Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) General Secretary Manzar Taher and Joint Secretary B A Mamun leaves today for London to attend the annual International Cricket Conference (ICC) meeting scheduled to be held July 9-11 at Lord's, world cricket's headquarters.

The key topic in this year's ICC meeting will be the re-entry of South Africa.

The BCCB Secretary told reporters yesterday that the Foreign Office will inform the BCCB by July 7 what stand Bangladesh should take on the South African question.

Mr Taher also said that Bangladesh will try to convince the Pakistani, Indian, and West Indian officials attending the ICC meet to accept invitations for a triangular charity cricket tournament in Dhaka next November to raise funds for the April 29 cyclone victims.

Hick back among the runs

LONDON, July 1: Graeme Hick ended his run of three successive ducks by hitting 84, his best Sunday league score of the season, as Worcestershire coasted to a seven-wicket win over Leicestershire, reports Reuter.

After going nine days without a run since his latest failure for England in the Lord's Test, Hick found his touch in a second wicket partnership of 157 in 28 overs with Tim Curtis.

Hick's 84 off 82 balls included two sixes, one of which smashed the windscreen of a parked car at Worcester's New Road ground.

Worcestershire passed Leicestershire's 203 for four with 10 balls to spare.

A 154-run opening partnership between Chris Broad and Derek Randall helped league leaders Nottinghamshire to a crushing victory over Surrey at the Oval.

Notts won on a faster scoring rate after rain reduced their target to 162 off 35 overs. Broad made 79 from 88 balls after being dropped when 25 and 40-year-old Randall hit an entertaining 67.

Referees' clinic

Sports Reporter A five-day long referees' clinic, organised by the Bangladesh Amateur Basketball Federation, began yesterday at the wooden-floor basketball gymnasium.

Two Indian basketball referees — Milan Dutta and Subhash Mitra — are conducting the course.

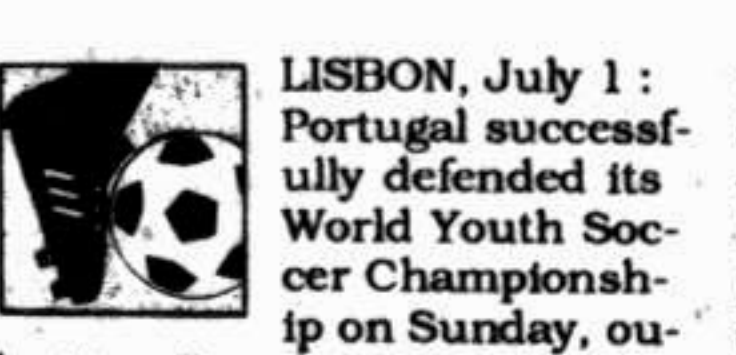
Fifteen referees from services and club teams are taking part in the course which will be followed by written and practical examinations.

B'ball nationals postponed

Sports Reporter The fifteenth national basketball championship, scheduled to begin from July 5, has been postponed indefinitely, according to a Bangladesh Basketball Federation press release issued yesterday.

Fresh dates for the tourney will be announced later.

Portugal keep title as Brazil bungle penalties



LISBON, July 1: Portugal successfully defended its World Youth Soccer Championship on Sunday, outlasting Brazil 4-2 on penalty kicks after 120 scoreless minutes and probably renewing the debate for another way to decide tied games, reports AP.

Portugal goalkeeper Fernando Brassard clinched the victory by diving to his left to stop the penalty shot of midfielder Marquinho after Brazilian striker Elber Souza hit the bar on his attempt.

"It was a tremendously difficult game," said Portuguese coach Carlos Queiroz. "The fact that we played against a great Brazilian team increases the value of the victory."

The game, played before a championship record

120,000, saw both sides create several scoring opportunities — and numerous fouls — but a lack of patience and precision passing by the midfield and strikers resulted in an inability to score.

It was the third game in the tournament to be decided on penalty kicks, including Saturday's third-place game, won by the Soviet Union 5-4 over Australia. Debate within FIFA has arisen since last year's World Cup in Italy, when many games beyond the first round were decided on penalty kicks, and Sunday's under-20 championship final result likely add to that discussion.

Brassard came up with his first big save of the day, knocking away Djair Brito's tight-angle shot in the 20th minute.

Seven minutes later, Brazilian striker Souza stormed past several defenders but shot

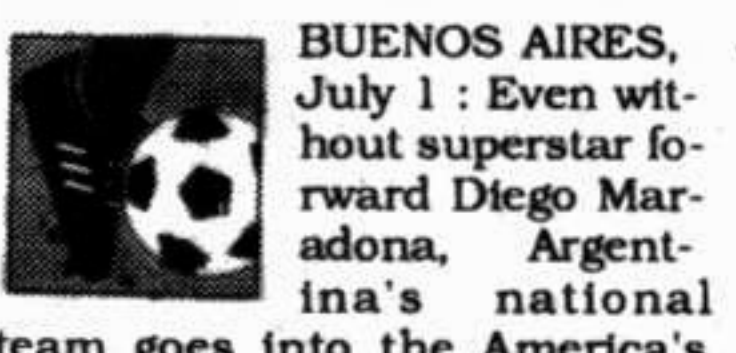
wide. Souza broke through again in the 69th minute, forcing Brassard to produce another fine save.

Portugal nearly broke through in the 20th minute of extra time. Striker Nelson Gil leaped to head a cross from midfielder Rui Costa just inches over the cross bar.

Long before the kickoff, fans with their faces painted in their team's colors gathered in downtown Lisbon and made their way to the Stadium of Light, home of Portuguese champion Benfica. Supporters stayed on in the stadium long after President Mario Soares had handed captain Pinto the cup, the celebrate and enjoy a special laser show.

The Soviet Union took third place in the tournament by beating surprise team Australia 5-4 on penalties Saturday after drawing 1-1 at the end of normal playing time.

Argentines best bet despite Maradona's absence



BUENOS AIRES, July 1: Even without superstar forward Diego Maradona, Argentina's national team goes into the America's Cup tournament as the team to beat, reports AP.

In seven international matches this year under new coach Alfio Basile, the squad is undefeated.

Basile, who replaced Carlos Bilardo following Argentina's second-place finish to West Germany in last year's World Cup, opened up the offence. The result: more goals.

"You have to keep going with what brought you victories, but I want the team to play the way fans like," Basile said.

For 12 years, Maradona was the heart of the team. He scored more often than anyone — 31 goals in 79 matches — and made the offence click by his deft passing.

The 30-year-old won't be on the field when the 10-team South America nation's championship opens in Chile on Saturday, however. He was suspended for having tested positive for cocaine before an Italian League match last March.

A month later, he was arrested in Buenos Aires and charged with possession of cocaine.

Maradona, one of the greatest stars in the history of the sport, is irreplaceable and will be missed. But the team has adjusted to his absence.

Since January, the squad has defeated Hungary and the United States, and tied Mexico, the Soviet Union and England, And Brazil, twice.

Basile, 47, made his mark early. He dropped stars of previous years like goalkeeper Nery Pumpido, defenders Ricardo Giusti and Jorge Olarticoechea, and midfielder Jorge Burruchaga — all Bilardo favourites.

Only four players from last year's World Cup — goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea, defenders Oscar Ruggeri and Nestor Fabri, and forward Claudio Can-

gias — are on this year's America Cup squad.

Ruggeri, 29, is the lone holdover from the team that won the 1986 World Cup. He has replaced Maradona as captain.

New faces include high-scoring midfielder Diego Latorre, 21, who plays for Boca Juniors in Argentina's first division, and Dario Franco, 22, a defensive specialist on Newell's Old Boys.

If there's a star, it's Caniggia, 25. The speedy, blond forward — his nickname in the Italian League, where he plays for Atalanta of Bergamo, is "the golden arrow" — returned last week and scored what turned out to be the tying goal in a 1-1 tie against Brazil.

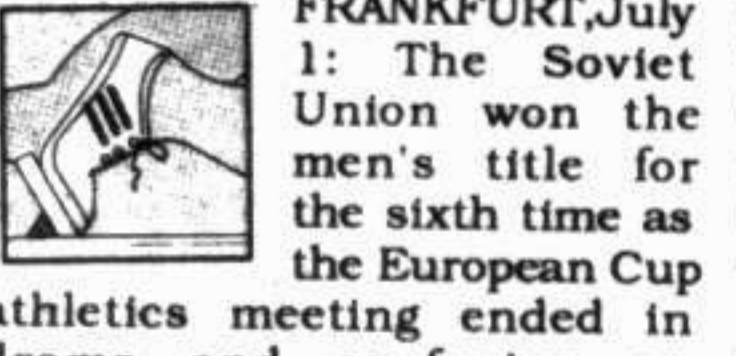
At the World Cup, Caniggia's goal — off a brilliant pass by Maradona — gave Argentina a 1-0 victory that eliminated Brazil from the tournament.

Another hero from the last World Cup is Goycochea, who — after stepping in for the injured Pumpido in the opening game — kept Argentina in contention by blocking four crucial penalty kicks. Now 28, he plays for Racing Club in Argentina's First Division.

Basile's team averages 23 years of age — but he's seen that as an advantage. "I have a team of youngsters who are hungry for victory," Basile said.

Penalties will be used to settle drawn replays in the Cup, a competition which dates back to 1872. Under the existing system drawn ties were repeatedly replayed until a winner emerged.

British joy proves premature



FRANKFURT, July 1: The Soviet Union won the men's title for the sixth time as the European Cup athletics meeting ended in drama and confusion on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Britain, the defending champions, were originally declared winners after the Soviet 4x400 metres relay squad were disqualified.

British team members embraced each other on the track when the disqualification flashed up on the electronic scoreboard.

But almost an hour after jury officials had confirmed that Dmitry Golovastov had strayed out of his lane while running the first leg, the Soviets won an appeal against the disqualification.

They were declared champions with 114 points, ahead of Britain with 110.5 with Germany third with 108.

The Soviets completed a

successful day by taking the women's event, holding off Germany who were bidding to match former communist East Germany's victory two years ago.

The Soviet Union finished with 113 points, ahead of Germany on 109 and Britain third with 81.

It was the fourth time that the Soviets had completed the double in the 26-year history of the competition.

The drama of the disqualification was remarkable climax to two days of competition packed with drama on and off the track.

Britain's men, who won the cup for the first time on home soil in Gateshead two years ago, swept all the individual track events on Saturday before losing vital points after being disqualified for a faulty baton change in the 4x100 metres relay.

They dominated events on the track again on Sunday and appeared to have clung on to their crown when Golovastov erred and their relay squad

won the final event. Immediately after the disqualification, British team captain Linford Christie said: "It was poetic justice that we should win. We were the smartest team out here anyway."

But his joy lasted barely an hour. News of the Soviet 4x400m relay's reinstatement to second place was followed by them being presented with the winners' trophy.

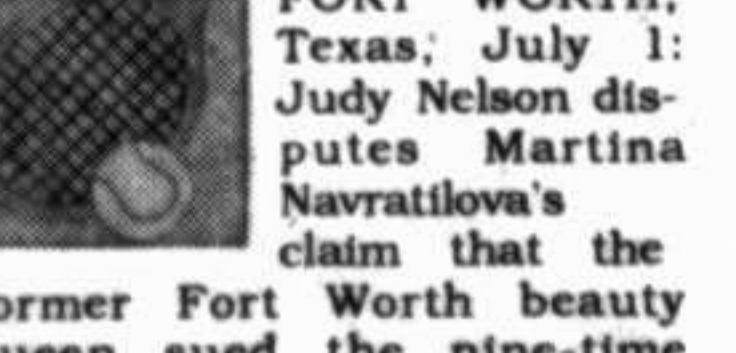
After watching a television recording of the race, Britain's chief coach Frank Dick said he was convinced that Golovastov had run out of his lane for several strides.

"A judge told me he had run marginally on the line but had had no advantage from it," Dick said. "The film is clear. The runner had many strides inside the line."

"We know we have won. They should look at the film. This is the worst thing I've ever seen. It's incredible."

Dick said Britain would not be able to protest as the jury's decision was final.

Nelson denies any malice



FORT WORTH, Texas, July 1: Judy Nelson disputes Martina Navratilova's claim that the former Fort Worth beauty queen sued the nine-time Wimbledon champion just before this year's tournament to pressure Navratilova into settlement, saying the two sides just could not come to an agreement, reports AP.

"There's never a good time for something like this," Nelson was quoted as saying in Sunday's Dallas Times Herald. "I tried everything I could to have it done before Wimbledon. I worked with Martina through her manager, Peter Johnson, but it wouldn't work. I gave some and she gave some but we were not close enough."

Nelson has filed a lawsuit seeking half of the assets earned by the reigning Wimbledon singles champion during their seven-year relationship.

Navratilova, 34, was served with the lawsuit the day before

she left for London, where she is seeking her record 10th Wimbledon singles title. The Czech native contends Nelson maliciously timed the suit to disrupt her concentration and pressure her into a settlement.

In the Times Herald interview, Nelson, 45, depicted herself as a dedicated companion who was rejected without explanation last April.

"I did everything for her: the cooking, the cleaning, designing tennis clothes, cutting and coloring her hair, picking out her clothes, running interviews with the press," Nelson said.

"I made a lot of sacrifices for Martina — my family, my children, my lifestyle, my home," she said. Nelson is married to a doctor.

The relationship, which began in July 1984, began to unravel at Christmas. During that time, Navratilova met former Olympic skier Cindy Nelson, 35, with whom the tabloids have linked her romantically.

never confronted her about the breakup.

The lawsuit, filed in a Fort Worth court on June 4, seeks to enforce a 1986 cohabitation agreement which provides Nelson with half the assets earned during the relationship.

Navratilova has been ordered to give her deposition by Aug 2.

Navratilova contends she signed a fraudulent agreement giving Nelson substantially more than had been offered in handwritten notes. The star said she signed the agreement without reading it because she trusted Nelson and the attorneys.

But Judy Nelson denied the charge. "She was not tricked," she said. "Both of us knew exactly what we were doing. The agreement wasn't written until two years after the relationship began. It wasn't 'Hurry up, let's do this.' It is something both of us wanted and implemented and can't be denied."