

Jr booters to tour Malaysia

Sports Reporter
 Bangladesh national youth under-16 soccer team is likely to go to Malaysia in the first week of August to play some exhibition matches.
 Bangladesh, who qualified for the Asian youth championship to be held from September 4 to 17 in Saudi Arabia, received the invitation yesterday through Paul Many Samuel, General Secretary of the Malaysian Football Association (MFA) who is now in the city.
 Samuel is currently discussing the finer points of soccer administration with 15 local football organisers in the Futuro FIFA-Coca-Cola world football development programme that began in the city on July 6.
 The MFA secretary, who congratulated the Bangladesh youth team for their success, also assured that his association would arrange intensive coaching sessions for the squad.
 So far, Bangladesh, DPR Korea, China, the United Arab Emirates and hosts Saudi Arabia have qualified for the Asian youth finals.
 Another three nations are yet to make the championship. The top-three nations of Asia will play in the world youth under-17 soccer tournament.
 Bangladesh Football Federation, has accepted the Malaysian invitation in principle and will announce a firm decision soon.

Qualifying cricket semis today

Sports Reporter
 DOHS (Jrs) clash with Evergreen Club in the rain-delayed second semifinal of the qualifying meet for next year's Second Division cricket league today at the Dhaka Stadium.
 The winner meet Dhanomdi Pragoti Sangha in a formality final which would have only academic interest left in it as both the finalists will qualify for next year's Second Div league.

Sports delegation leaves tonight

Sports Reporter
 A three-member Bangladesh sports delegation leaves the city tonight for a ten-day visit to Sri Lanka and India.
 The members are the National Sports Council (NSC) Secretary ASM Ali Kabir, the Bangladesh Olympic Association Secretary General Bashir Ahmed and the NSC Engineer (Planning) Abdur Rashid.
 The tour is intended to give the officials first-hand information regarding the holding of the sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games in Dhaka next year.
 The team is expected to return on July 20.

Chess tourney

Sports Reporter
 The Alam-Taj chess tournament under the aegis of the Sunrise Sporting Club will begin soon, says a press release.
 Both male and female chess players are eligible to take part in the meet.
 The champions and runners-up will be awarded Taka 5,000 and 3,000 respectively as prize money.
 Interested players have been asked to contact the club at 285 Outer Circular Road with an entry fee of Taka 100 by July 16.

Schools kabaddi

Sports Reporter
 Defending champions Rifles Public School and College have moved into the Group A final of the 1992 schools kabaddi tournament by registering their second consecutive victory in the meet.
 They now need just another win to move into the four-team semifinals.
 Yesterday Rifles School and College thoroughly outclassed their lowly opponents Haider Ali High School 81-22 at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court.
 The winners, who scored seven losses, led 39-9 at the breather.
 Kamalapur High School beat Dholnagar High School 23-21 in the other match of the day.
 Kamalapur led the first session 15-10.
TODAY'S MATCHES
 KI Jubilee School vs Notre Dame School (5 pm)
 Segunbagicha School vs Gandaria School (5:30 pm)

Football camp

Lalmatia Club, who will play in the forthcoming Third Division football league, will arrange a three-day selection camp to pick players that starts today, says a press release.
 Interested players have been asked to contact the club football secretary and coach (Alamgir) at 7 am in the morning at the Lalmatia Boys' High School ground.

ICC leaves bouncer rule alone

Test status for Zimbabwe

LONDON, July 9: Cricket's controversial bouncer rule is to stay in force — for the time being.
 But world cricket chiefs were urged on Wednesday to come up with "refinements" following widespread criticism that batsmen are being over-protected, reports Reuter.
 The timing of discussion on the subject by the International Cricket Council (ICC) could hardly have been more apt, coming just 48 hours after Pakistani pacer Aaqib Javed was warned and then fined for intimidatory bowling at England last man Devon Malcolm during the third Test in Manchester.
 Aaqib was not guilty of flouting the experimental law which prohibits the bowling of more than one bouncer per over at the same batsman.
 But ICC chairman Sir Colin Cowdrey is likely to have had the Manchester incident in mind when he said: "We want

to hold the line against short-pitched bowling. It's the ugly side of cricket that creates so much bitterness."
 The bouncer law was introduced to



DAVE HOUGHTON...skipper duced last summer on a three-year trial and Cowdrey admitted that all cricket Boards were conscious that aspects of the law were being criticised. "They have been asked to look for improving refine-

ments," he said.
DREAM COME TRUE
 Apart from the lifting of the five-year ban imposed on the rebel England team for their 1990 tour of South Africa, the ICC's major decision on Wednesday was to grant Zimbabwe full Test status. They become the ninth member with immediate effect.
 "It's a dream come true," said Zimbabwe Cricket Union chief executive David Ellman-Brown.
 The resolution has been on the table for three years and we've done a lot of work in persuading people to support us."
 Zimbabwe, who beat England in a World Cup match earlier this year, hope to arrange their first Test for later this year.
 India are likely to provide the opposition in Harare, followed quickly by New Zealand.
 An announcement on the venue for the next World Cup will be made today.

Maradona fancies French stint

BUENOS AIRES, July 9: Argentina's disgraced soccer star Diego Maradona said he might continue his professional career in France if Italian club Napoli released him from his contract, reports Reuter.
 The 31-year-old World Cup hero, banned from the sport for 15 months for failing a dope test, told a local news agency that after a stint in France he would like to finish off with Buenos Aires' first division team Boca Juniors, where he originally made his name.
 "Although I still don't know if my body will let me do it, I would like to end my career in Boca," Maradona told the Noticias, Argentinas news agency on a farm 250-kms (160 miles) west of Buenos Aires, where he is trying to get fit.
 "Once I'm out of Napoli I'll be able to plan with my agent where I'll go next before capping my career. My idea is to play a more relaxed game, which is what I wanted to do four years ago and I wasn't allowed to do. And I think France could fit the bill," he said.
 Maradona's ban ends this month.



DIEGO MARADONA their former captain to arrive for a medical checkup and pre-season training on July 17, his agent Marcos Franchi said.
 Maradona said: "I'll be to bump into (Napoli president) Corrado Ferlaino I'd tell him that we are grown-ups, to leave me alone, that he has already recovered what he invested in me. We've made all the money there was to be made, and he certainly had a hand in that, but now he should let me free."
 The mercurial midfielder

added that he could not leave Argentina without a judge's authorisation since he was still under court supervision due to a drug arrest.
 Maradona, who was banned from soccer in April last year after traces of cocaine were found in a urine test after an Italian league match, was arrested later that month in Buenos Aires for cocaine possession.
 He is currently free on bail and finishing a rehabilitation treatment that must be approved by court-appointed doctors before he is let off his charge.
 When asked why he wanted to return to professional soccer, Maradona said:
 "I'm really looking forward to a lot of things... I'm dying to see a full stadium and to be on the pitch."
 Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the 1986 World Cup and to the final of the 1990 competition, has gained 10 kilos in weight since he was banned.
 Noticias Argentinas said he was on a diet of boiled chicken, spinach and salads. He runs in the morning and works out in the afternoon with an instructor. A psychologist and Boca Juniors' doctor are also supervising his recovery treatment.

The pariah returns in glory

DURBAN, South Africa, July 9: South Africa's national soccer squad, tasting international competition for the first time in nearly three decades, beat Cameroon 1-0 on Tuesday in an historic match, reports Reuter.
 Midfielder Doctor Khumalo scored the only goal from the penalty spot in the 80th minute, delighting the 25,000 rain-soaked crowd at Durban's Kings Park Stadium.
 After the game, fans stormed the pitch and mobbed the South African players, hosing them shoulder-high to celebrate the end of their country's isolation due to apartheid.
 Cameroon were World Cup quarter-finalists in 1990.
 Botswana referee Jelas Masele awarded the penalty after Cameroon defender Bertin Ebwede handled the ball under pressure from striker Chitpa Masinga.
 South Africa had a slight advantage in the first 20 minutes, but found it tough going against a defence marshalled by Cameroon's World Cup captain Stephen Tataw.
 Tempers flared in a rough match and Cameroon's dreadlocked midfielder Jean Claude Tagal was cautioned for abuse.
 Shots on goals were limited and World Cup hero Roger Milla was well policed by the South African defence.

The two teams meet again on Thursday in Cape Town and in Johannesburg on Saturday.
 "We are going to set the world in flames — we have arrived," tearful South African coach Stanley Shabalala told reporters after the game.
 "This shows that almost three decades of isolation were not in vain. We were not just sitting and relaxing and waiting for this day."
 Players of both teams wore black armbands displaying the words "Peace and Democracy" and observed a minute's silence in memory of the massacre of 43 blacks in Bolpatong.
 Eight of the South African side were black.
 Another AFP report from Cape Town said: South African fans carried national coach Stanley Shabalala shoulder high off the rain soaked Durban pitch after his team beat Cameroon 1-0 in their return to international soccer.
 But Tshabalala, 49, had his feet firmly on the ground when he arrived in Cape Town to prepare for the second match today.
 "It was a brilliant victory," the former Kaiser Chiefs midfielder said of the shock triumph over a team which included seven of the squad that reach the 1990 World Cup quarter finals.
 "South Africa have been isolated for so long that nobody

expected us to do so well. Football fans around Africa now know we are a formidable football nation."
 "However, we cannot rest on our laurels — we have to do it all over again," warned Tshabalala.
 Cameroon captain Stephen Tataw admitted to AFP that his side were taken by surprise, but warned South Africa that "it will be different next time."
 "We were tired, but South Africa beat us fair and square," he conceded. "South African football is a lot better than we expected and given time will be a force to reckon with."
 The Indomitables Lions displayed many neat touches on the slippery surface, but seldom threatened to score.
 Even Roger Milla, 40, Cameroon's World Cup hero, could not recapture the form that turned him into an international star at Italia '90.
 Newlands rugby ground had been favoured for the second of three games being staged to celebrate South Africa's return to world football.
 But it was unavailable due to the All Blacks forthcoming rugby tour of South Africa. Football stadiums in Cape Town could not accommodate the expected 35,000 crowd.
 The final match on Saturday will be at one of the most modern grounds in Africa, the 80,000-seat FNB Stadium in Johannesburg's black township of Soweto.

Angolans flattered to face US

FLINT, Michigan, July 9: The coach says they'll lose by 30 points and the point guard says 50. But that hasn't dented the Angolan national basketball team's enthusiasm about playing the United States at the Barcelona Olympics, reports AP.
 Angola qualified for the Olympics by winning the African zone championship in January. Team USA qualified by beating six opponents by an average of 51.5 points at the tournament of the Americans.
 There's not much argument that the Americans, led by Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan, are the best basketball team ever assembled. An Angola was the unlucky team that drew the US in the Olympic opener on July 26.
 The Angolans lost 93-80 Wednesday night to the Sam Ragnone AAU team, he three-time national champions.

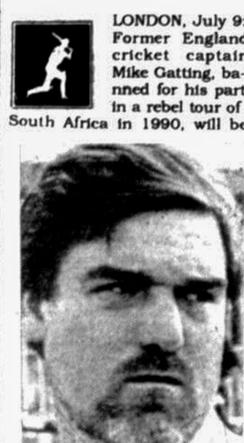
"When we won the championships of Africa we said we wanted to play the USA because there's the most powerful team in the world," coach Vitorino Cunha said earlier. "We know we'll lose by 30 or 40 points, no problem."
 Players said they were proud to represent their continent.
 "We will probably lose by 50 points but we will play hard," point guard Panto Maccodo said through a translator, teammate Nelson Sardinha.
 When asked who he was looking forward to playing the most, Maccodo quickly replied "Michael Jordan," then grinned and looked down at the Air Jordans on his feet.
 Angola is an extremely athletic team that pushes the ball up the floor and plays man-to-man pressure defense. Their best player is 6-foot-6 (1.98 meter) forward Jean Jacques

Conceicao, one of five Angolans who play professionally in Portugal.
 Angola shoots a lot of 3-pointers, in part because their biggest player is 6-7 (2-meter), 286-pound (130 kilogram) center Ivo Alfredo.
 The 24-year-old Alfredo, who started playing basketball 18 months ago, is a massively muscled but graceful man whose basketball skills are, well... still developing.
 During one drill at Wednesday's practice, Alfredo got the ball in the low post, spun past his man with a textbook drop step, and then nearly fell on his back when he clanged a dunk off the front of the rim.
 When asked which US player would cause his team the most trouble, Cunha simply pointed into the air.
 "The big guys will be very hard," he said, shaking his head.

Border hails decision

BRISBANE, July 9: The lifting of Test cricket bans on England's 1990 South African rebels would boost the strength of English cricket, Australian captain Allan Border said here today, reports AFP.
 The International Cricket Council Wednesday removed the bans from October 1, opening the way for former England skipper Mike Gatting and other rebels to play again for England.
 "I think it was a fairly obvious move," Border said.
 "Things have totally changed around. Now that South Africa is back in international cricket, it seems ridiculous to ban blokes who have toured there for something that happened ages ago."
 Border said the ICC decision was a boost for England cricket.
 "There's several players who could play for England again, Mike Gatting's the obvious one. He's a class act."
 "Probably he, Neil Foster and Chris Broad would be candidates to return to the Test side. John Embury would be another one."
 "It gives England more scope for selections."
 The ICC's decision means they will have served only half of their original ban and opens the way for the rebels to be selected for England's tour of India scheduled after Christmas.

Reprieve for Gatting's gang



MIKE GATTING

able to play for his country again from October 1, reports Reuter.
 The International Cricket Council (ICC) voted unanimously on Wednesday to lift suspensions on Gatting and his 15 fellow rebels who toured South Africa in 1990 when sporting sanctions were in force against the republic.
 The party, led by Gatting, were banned from international cricket for five years.
 The lifting of the ban gives some of the rebels, notably Gatting, Chris Broad and Neil Foster, the chance of being selected for England's winter tour of India and leaves the selectors with a moral dilemma.
 The return of men who abandoned England's Test team for a big payday in South

Africa could wreck almost three years of harmony and team spirit carefully built up under Graham Gooch's leadership.
 Many county professionals — including some who have played for England since the rebel tour — are adamant that the 16 should have served their full sentence.
 A year ago when the ICC first considered lifting the ban following South Africa's reintroduction to the official world game, Ted Dexter, chairman of the England selectors, said: "If we felt there was a danger of upsetting team spirit, we might have to think most carefully about reintroducing a reprieved player, even if his form merited it."
 Gatting, averaging more than 100 in first-class cricket this summer, would walk into the England team on ability alone.



CHRIS BROAD

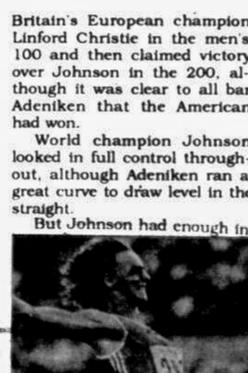
about it to them.
NO REGRETS
 But Gatting made no attempt to soften any ill-feeling by confirming he still had "no regrets" about joining the rebel tour.
 Sir Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the ICC, said the decision to reprieve the 16 had been taken unanimously by world cricket chiefs at their annual meeting at Lord's.
 The resolution was proposed by New Zealand and seconded by Australia.
 The 16 are: Gatting, Broad, Foster, John Embury, Chris Maynard, David Graveney, Greg Thomas, Alan Wells, Paul Jarvis, Tim Robinson, Bruce French, Kim Barnett, Chris Cowdrey, Bill Athey, Richard Ellison and Graham Dilley.

ICC increases WC quota

LONDON, July 9: Cricket's world governing body agreed Thursday that 12 nations would contest the 1995 one-day World Cup, but put off naming a venue until January, reports AP.
 The International Cricket Council gave England and South Africa until December 1 to submit detailed proposals for their bids. It is expected to announce a decision January.
 The last World Cup of 50-over-a-side games in Australia and New Zealand early this year involved nine nations. Pakistan defeated England in the final at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
 The ICC's decision would allow three minor cricketing nations, such as the Netherlands or Scotland, to compete alongside Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies, and Zimbabwe.
 The ICC did not name the three extra nations.

Drechsler, Johnson tune up

LAUSANNE, July 9: Germany's European champion Linford Christie in the men's 100 and then claimed victory over Johnson in the 200, although it was clear to all bar Adeniken that the American had won.
 World champion Johnson looked in full control throughout, although Adeniken ran a great curve to draw level in the straight.
 But Johnson had enough in



HEIKE DRECHSLER

Young ran a smooth powerful race to win in 47.97, leaving Zambia's world champion Samuel Matete and Britain's world bronze medalist Kriss Akabusi struggling in his wake.
 The American number one said Wednesday's race was his last on the European circuit before the Olympics.
 "I've got some technical problems I'm trying to eliminate but I'm in good shape," he said.
 Farmer-Patrick, the world number one this year, also ran her second fastest time with 54 seconds straight.
 An explanation for her exotic attire was given in a solemn transcript of an off-track interview by the organisers.
 "She is dressed up like her mind and it reflects her relationship with the public," the transcript recorded.
 Sergei Bubka, whose appearance money here was paid by the International Olympic Committee, tried to give full value with three unsuccessful attempts on his own world record of 6.11 metres.
 Kenya's Yobes Ondieki also failed with an attempt on the world 5,000 metres record while Algeria's Hassiba Boulmerka was never in the hunt in yet another world record bid, this time in the women's mile, eventually finishing a distant fourth.
 World champion Ondieki, who trains in Davos, Switzerland, blamed poor pace-making and said he would not run any more 5,000m before the Olympics.
 "I might run a 1,500 in Nice next Wednesday," he said.

Six-Test Ashes series next yr

LONDON, July 9: Australia will play six Tests and three one-day internationals during their cricket tour of England in 1993, reports Reuter.
 Australia will be defending the Ashes they won on their last tour to England in 1989 and retained in Australia in 1990-91.
 Major dates announced by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) are:
 May 19 (reserve day 20) — First one-day international, at Old Trafford, Manchester.
 May 21 (May 22) — Second one-day international, Edgbaston, Birmingham.
 May 23 (May 24) — Third one-day international, Lord's, London.
 June 3-7 (no rest day) — First Test, Old Trafford.
 June 17-21 (no rest day) — Second Test, Lord's.
 July 1-6 (rest day 4) — Third Test, Trent Bridge, Nottingham.
 July 22-26 (no rest day) — Fourth Test, Headingley, Leeds.
 Aug 5-9 (no rest day) — Fifth Test, Edgbaston.
 Aug 19-23 (no rest day) — Sixth Test, the Oval, London.
MCCD and Jazz WIN

NEWPORT, Rhode Island, July 9: American amateur Brian MacPhie sent top seed David Wheaton home to Minnesota on Wednesday when he scored a stunning second round upset at the 1,75,000 dollar Hall of Fame tennis championships, reports Reuter.
 MacPhie, ranked a lowly 871 in the world, was the beneficiary of a miserable performance from the service line by the 41st-ranked Wheaton and advanced to his first career quarter-final with the 6-4, 7-6 win.
 The only men's tournament played on grass in the United States lost another seeded player in second round action when seventh seed Luis Herrera of Mexico fell to Australian qualifier Neil Borwick 6-3, 6-7, 6.
 Herrera went out after losing a tight third set tiebreak 8-6 to the 275th-ranked Borwick, who next plays MacPhie. Christo van Rensburg was the only seed to reach the quarter-finals on Wednesday. The fourth-seeded South African defeated American Robbie Weiss 6-3, 6-3 to advance.
 Wheaton made his professional debut here in 1988 and reached the Wimbledon semifinals in 1991, but it was the amateur MacPhie who looked more at home on the grass courts of the Newport Casino.

MCCD Club and St Joseph's Jazz Club registered exciting win in their respective Second Division basketball fixtures at the Outer Stadium wooden floor gymnasium yesterday.
 MCCD edged out Kurmitola Young Star 68-64 in the first match of the day, leading 41-38 at the breather.
 For MCCD, Atiq scored 22 and Harun notched 16.
 Apu and Sazzad scored 19 and 14 points respectively for the losers.
 MCCD and Young Star have 10 and 8 points respectively from 7 matches.
 In the other match of the day, Jazz Club eventually came out winners after trailing 31-32 at the lemon-break.
 The final score was 66-59.
 Sejad with 21 and Ullas with 19 points led the charge for the winners while for Flame Boys' Club, Evans and Mamun scored 22 and 14 points respectively.
 With this win Jazz Club took their points tally to 11 from 6 matches while Flame Boys' have 12 points from 8 outings to their credit.
TODAY'S MATCHES
 Young Stars vs Fleet Club (4.30 pm)
 Mitford Friends vs Rising Force (5.30 pm)

Wheaton's shock exit
 MacPhie blazed 13 aces and won 42 of 49 first serve points, while Wheaton double faulted 15 times, dropping his serve in the fifth and ninth games of the first set.
 Wheaton fended off three successive match points after falling behind 6-1 in the second set tiebreak. But the Californian qualifier, a first round loser in his previous two tournaments on the ATP tour, converted his fourth match-point to take the tiebreak 7-4.
 "It's hard to win serving 15 double faults," Wheaton said. "The way I was serving today, I'm not going to beat too many people."
 The 36-year-old thrower, who first competed at Montreal in 1976 when she finished ninth, is one of 392 British competitors at the Games, eight more than at Seoul four years ago. But, after the withdrawal of decathlete Daley Thompson through injury Thursday, she is the only one on the track and field team who has won a gold medal.
 As defending titlist at Seoul, Sanderson failed to qualify for the final stages.

Voeller signs for Marseille
KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, July 9: Rudi Voeller, the German striker who retired from the national team after breaking his arm at last month's European Championship, has signed with French champion Marseille, German news reports said Friday, reports AP.
 Voeller, 32, announced his retirement from the national team after Germany lost the European Championship final to Denmark 2-0. He was named captain for the tournament.
 Voeller's last game for Germany's opening game against the Commonwealth of Independent States and missed the rest of the tournament.
Houllier succeeds Platini as coach
PARIS, July 9: Michel Platini's deputy Gerard Houllier was named on Thursday by the French Football Federation (FFF) to succeed him as national team boss, reports Reuter.
 The former English teacher had been widely tipped to take over the French team since Platini's resignation last week after almost four years in charge.
 Houllier, regarded as a soccer intellectual and an expert on tactical theory, was trainer of French club Paris St Germain from 1985 to 1988. He took the side to their only championship title in 1986.