## 3 Lankans hit centuries in total of 547

# Diminutive debutant Kaluwirthana savages tired Aussie attack

COLOMBO, Aug 19: Shri Lanka piled up their highest Test total yet as their batsmen continued to torment Australia on the third day of the first Test here Wednesday, reports AFP.

On a day which produced 282 runs, wicket-keeper Romesh Kaluwirthana slammed a dream century on his debut to help Shri Lanka declare at a 547 for eight shortly before the close, securing a 291-run first innings lead.

In the 12 overs that Australia faced before stumps were drawn. Mark Taylor and Tom Moody had taken their side to 26 without loss. Australia resume their innings on Friday after Thursday's rest day with a formidable task in hand.

Shri Lanka murdered a tired Australian attack with three batsmen making centuries on a perfect batting strip that is known to be unpredictable on the final two days.

Shri Lanka surpassed their highest Test total of 497 made in the first innings of the Wellington Test against New Zealand in the 1990-91 series.

This was also the first occasion that three Shri Lankan batsmen — skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, Asanka Gurusinha and Kaluwirthana — had scored centuries in a single innings.

Kaluwirthana also became only the second Shri Lankan, after former wicket-keeper Brendon Kuruppu, to hit a Test ton on his debut.

He scored 132 not out after coming in at the fall of Shri Lanka's fifth wicket at 367. Together with left-hander Asanka Gurusinha, the diminutive stumper put up 96 runs for the next wicket.

Ranatunga and Gurusinha paved the way for Kaluwirthana to run amok, slamming 26 boundaries in his power-packed 203 minutes' batting that battered the Australian bowling line-up.

Coming in to bat when off-spinner Greg Matthews was on a hattrick, the 22-year-old Kaluwirthana showed maturity beyond his years, plundering the runs with and getting off the mark with a boundary.

He reached his century with another, pulling medium-pacer Mark Waugh to the mid wicket fence.

Gurusinha scored 137 runs, his highest Test score, in 512 minutes, including 18 boundaries.

Before he became paceman Mike Whitney's first victim, Gurusinha had a hand in three lucrative stands — 92 for the second wicket with Roshan Mahanama, 230 for the fourth wicket with Ranatunga, as well as the sixth wicket bonanza with Kaluwirthana.

Resuming at 265 for 3 overnight, the left-handed pair of Ranatunga and Gurusinha continued their merciless onslaught.

KALUWIRTHANA...debut ton

RANATUNGA...127

Gurusinha for the second straight day proved to be a perfect foil for the batsmen at the other end giving nothing away to the bowlers as he patiently notched up his fourth Test hundred.

Ranatunga played a captain's role smashing his third Test century with three sixes and 17 boundaries before falling to Matthews in the last over before lunch for 127.

Matthews was on a hat-trick after he bowled next man Marvan Atapattu for a duck but Gurushinha and Kaluwirthana took complete control thereafter.

Gurusinha's great innings ended in the penultimate over before tea when he tried to cut a rising ball from Whitney through third man but only succeeded in giving a catch to the prowling out-fielder Dean Jones.

Matthews was the most successful bowler for Australia taking three for 93 from a wicket that offered no life to the pace duo of Craig McDermott and Whitney, both of whom finished with two wickets apiece.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne, playing in his third Test match, was badly mauled, his 22 overs costing 107 runs.

AP adds: Shri Lanka's total control over the match so far signals the coming of age for this tiny Indian Ocean island as a cricketing nation.

Long considered the whipping boys of cricket, Shri Lanka have not won a single match in their last 17 Test appearances since 1986. That year they won a match against India and Pakistan — their only victories yet in the 37 matches they have played since 1982.

Gurusinha and Ranatunga methodically tore apart the Australian bowling in the morning session, putting together a 230-run partnership for the 4th wicket — the second best for Shri Lanka. The same pair holds the record for the highest partnership of 240 runs, also for the fourth wicket.

After Ranatunga's departure at lunch, the diminutive Kaluwirthana blasted every ball that came to him, hitting 26 fours in a 3½ hour knock.

With the courage and confidence of a veteran attacker, the 23-year-old Shri Lankan treated spinners Greg Matthews and Shane Warne and speedsters Craig McDermott and Mike Whitney alike, hitting their balls to the cover, point, square-leg and mid-wicket boundaries.

Kaluwirthana, the 5-foot 4-inch-tall wicketkeeper, got his 100 in 137 balls with the help of 19 fours. He also carved out a 96-run sixth wicket partnership with Gurusinha, who contributed only 17.

In the morning, Ranatunga (overnight 69) and Gurusinha (overnight 87) made runs briskly at an average rate of one run a minute in the opening 90 minutes.

Gurusinha got his century in the ninth over with a push off McDermott to the leg side. In the 16th over, a cover drive off Mark Waugh had the fielders affixed to the ground.

Ranatunga batted more adventurously, often lofting the ball over covers and once over the slips cordon that got him his 100. He hit 15 fours and two sixes for his third Test century — 8 runs short of his best.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the first cricket Test between Shri Lanka and Australia Wednesday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 256

**SHRI LANKA:** First innings

| | |
|---|---|
| Mahanama c Healy b Waugh | 78 |
| Hathurusinghe c Taylor b Waugh | 18 |
| Gurusinha c Jones b Whitney | 137 |
| De Silva lbw b Matthews | 6 |
| Ranatunga c Warne b Matthews | 127 |
| Atapattu b Matthews | 0 |
| Kaluwirthana not out | 132 |
| Ramanayake c Healy b McDermott | 0 |
| Wickremasinghe c Matthews b McDermott | 21 |
| Madurusinghe not out | 5 |
| Extras (b-2, lb-7, nb-13, w-1) | 23 |
| Total (for eight wickets declared) | 547 |

Fall of wickets: 1-36; 2-128; 3-137; 4-367; 5-367; 6-463; 7-472; 8-503.

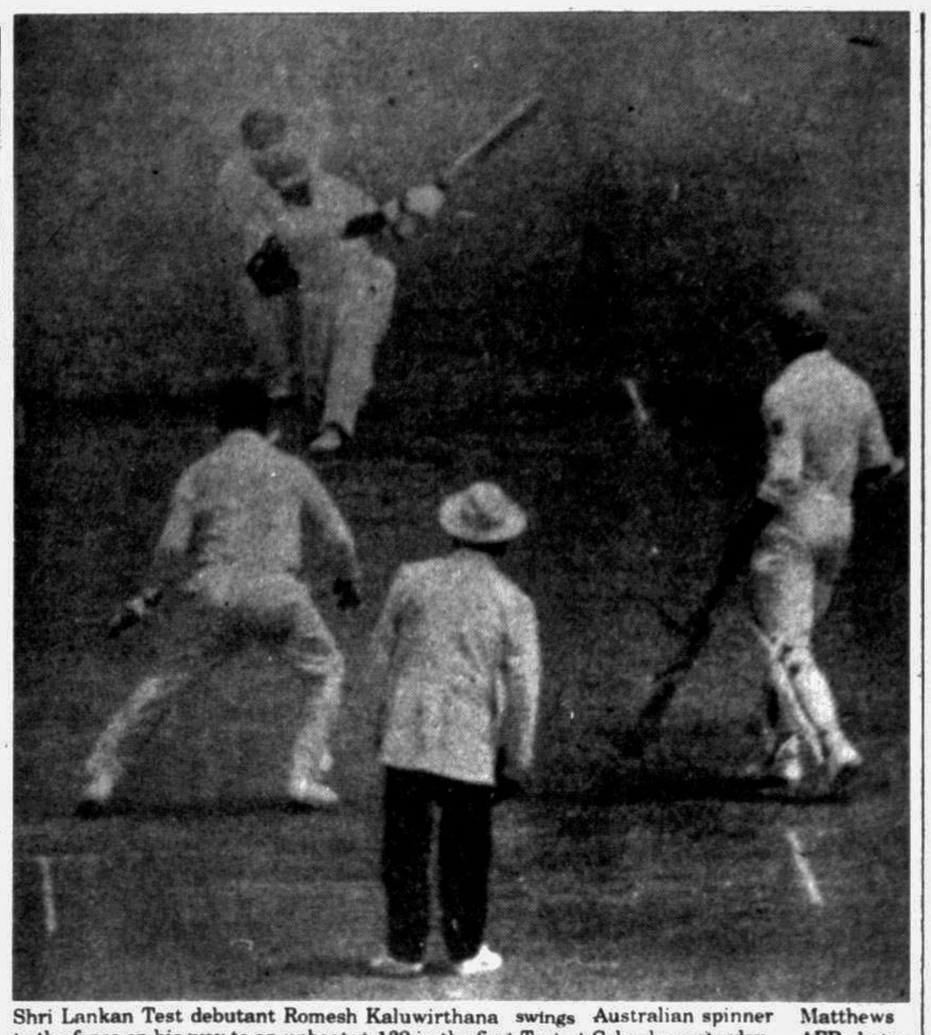
| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| McDermott | 40 | 9 | 125 | 2 |
| Whitney | 32 | 10 | 84 | 1 |
| Moody | 7 | 3 | 44 | 0 |
| Waugh | 17 | 3 | 77 | 2 |
| Warne | 22 | 2 | 107 | 0 |
| Matthews | 38 | 11 | 93 | 3 |
| Border | 4 | 1 | 8 | 0 |

Did not bat: D Anurasiri

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings

| | |
|---|---|
| Moody not out | 8 |
| Taylor not out | 9 |
| Extras (w-1, nb-8) | 9 |
| Total (for no wicket) | 26 |

| Bowling: | O | M | R | W |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ramanayake | 6 | 2 | 13 | 0 |
| Wickremasinghe | 3 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Hathurusinghe | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Anurasiri | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |



Shri Lankan Test debutant Romesh Kaluwirthana swings to the fence on his way to an unbeaten 132 in the first Test at Colombo yesterday.— AFP photo

Australian spinner Matthews

# Watkinson waps Warwickshire

LONDON, Aug 19: Lancashire all-rounder Mike Watkinson dented what slim hopes Warwickshire still have of winning the country cricket championship title with the first hat-trick of his career on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Watkinson trapped Roger Twose and Dominic Ostler in his sixth over then bowled Trevor Penney for a duck with the first ball of his seventh on the first day of the three-day match.

He finished with four for 41. The hat-trick was the first for Lancashire since Pakistani Wasim Akram achieved one against Surrey four years ago.

After an opening stand of 111 by Twose (53) and Andy Moles (86), Warwickshire, sixth in the title race but with an outside chance of winning, collapsed to 203 all out. Then Lancashire put on an unbroken opening stand of 70 through Mike Atherton and Gehan Mendis.

Championship leaders Essex collected maximum bowling points when they dismissed Surrey for 292 at Colchester.

Monte Lynch hit 102 before he became Peter Such's first victim in the 73rd over. Such then quickly mopped up the tail to finish with four for 22.

In reply, Essex rattled up 25 without loss in four overs.

In contrast, second-placed Leicestershire failed to pick up a single bonus point as Kent piled up a massive 414 for three at Leicester.

Northamptonshire, in third place, let Gloucestershire off the hook at Bristol. The home side were reeling at 113 for six but then Tim Hancock (82) and Justin Vaughan (99) put on 141 for the seventh wicket before Gloucester were dismissed for 346.

Northants clinched a fourth bowling point when Courtney Walsh (27) was caught off the last ball of the 100th over.

Tony Cottey ignored medical advice to rescue Glamorgan against Derbyshire at Chesterfield.

Cottey broke his thumb fielding on Saturday and was advised to rest but shrugged off the pain to top score with 62 before Glamorgan were shot out for 170. England paceman Devon Malcolm took five for 45.

Skipper Mark Nicholas hit 95 as Hampshire reached 341 for eight against Middlesex in the last ever first class match at Dean Park, Bournemouth.

## Winds of change in Chinese soccer

BEIJING, Aug 19: Deng Xiaoping's love of bridge is well known but he may have caused a revolution in Chinese football, which is kicking around plans to let players get top dollar, reports AFP.

Football is the most popular spectator sport in the country, but fans have bitterly watched the state-backed national team fail repeatedly to qualify for the World Cup and the Olympics.

In a bid to raise the caliber of play, China is considering adopting the British system in which the national team is selected from professional clubs, the China Daily newspaper reported Wednesday.

There is also talk of weaning strikers off state subsidies — the so-called 'iron rice bowl' — and allowing them to take a cut of box office receipts, it said.

"It is high time the 'iron rice bowl' was smashed in sports circles", football researcher Zheng Yefu was quoted as saying.

Seven clubs exist already, but players are paid the same salary by the state. The China Daily said "An income gap between good players and mediocre players should be allowed to help cultivate a sense of competition".

Also in line with senior leader Deng's policy of reform and opening, China has hired a German coach for the national team, Claus Schlappner.

## Brazil beat Bolivia

MEDELLIN, Colombia, Aug 19 : Brazil beat Bolivia 1-0 in a Group B match of the South American under-20 soccer championship on Tuesday night, reports Reuter.

The top three teams in the tournament, which lasts until August 30, will qualify for the world under-20 soccer championship to be held in Australia in March 1993.

Result : Brazil 1 Bolivia 0 (half-time 1-0)

Scorer : Giuliano Tadeu Aranda 15th.

Attendance : 1,701

**Standings:** (Tabulate under layed, won, drawn, lost , goals for, goals against, points).

**Group B :**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brazil | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Ecuador | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Paraguay | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bolivia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

(The two leading teams from each group after the first round will go into the final round ).

## It's man against machine

LONDON, Aug 19: An ageing American mathematician is risking his world checkers, or draughts title fighting a computer he knows must one day beat him, reports Reuter.

Dr Marion Tinsley, 65, confronted a computer armed with the Canadian "Chinook" software on Monday in the first round of a two week man-versus-machine struggle for the world checkers title.

Tinsley has played Chinook 18 times before, winning once and drawing the other matches. Against humans he has lost only eight times in the past 38 years, keeping his title since 1955.

Chinook is already world number two in checkers.

Their first match on Monday was a draw after five hours.

But with the computer programme learning 100 million new checkers positions every day to add to its database of more than 70 billion moves, Tinsley suspects time is running out.

"Will it beat me one day? I'm sure the answer is yes", said Tinsley, sitting at a baize-covered table on which Garri Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov played for the 1986 chess championship.

"It knows all my games", he said.

Chinook has been developed by a Canadian team led by University of Alberta professor Jonathan Schaeffer as a test bed to explore the potential of computer intelligence to learn and cope with more complex tasks.

It can analyse three million potential moves a second. Eventually it may learn all the 500 billion billion (500,000,000,000,000,000,000,) potential checkers moves.

"If it ever reaches that we'll be unbeatable", Schaeffer said, "We will know every position and we will win every time."

# *Luxury lavished on Chinese champs*

BEIJING, Aug 19: At just 13-year-old, Chinese diver Fu Mingxia has won an Olympic gold medal, captured hearts around the world and clinked glasses with top leaders at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, reports Reuter.

Now she is adding up her bank balance.

Like other medalists at Barcelona the pintsized champion has been showered with cash and prizes since she returned home from China's most successful Games.

Chinese newspaper readers, by simply adding the numbers reported so far could work out that Fu has pulled in 463,000 yuan (dollar 86,000) in cash alone for her victory on the platform.

Other gold medalists have earned much more in a country here the average monthly wage is about dollar 30.

Lavish prize money pledged by the government has been supplemented by rewards from rich Hong Kong businessmen. Chinese corporations have chipped in with airline tickets, television sets, clothes and jewellery.

At an age when most Chinese young people are dreaming of their first pair of jeans, the Barcelona champions have been set up for a life of comparative luxury.

The government has handed out 80,000 yuan(dollar 15,000) to each of 16 gold medalists, 50,000 yuan (dollar 9,500) to all 22 silver medal winners and 30,000 yuan (dollars, 5,500) to the 16 bronze medalists.

Hong Kong firm Gold Lion donated 4.2 million yuan (dollar 778,000) to the whole Olympic team, including trainers.

Chinese health drink manufacturer Jianlibao, official supplier of refreshments and sportswear to the squad, gave each gold medal winner a cup made of pure gold worth 40,000 yuan (dollar 7,400), and boasts of its largesse in fullpage newspaper advertisements.

Two medalists who have probably done better than anybody are swimmers Yang Wenyi and Zhuang Yong, both from Shanghai.

FU MINGXIA...reaping the rewards

China Eastern Airlines, an international carrier, has given them free tickets for life, while proud city officials have handed both women keys to their own luxury apartments "to be furnished to their own tastes," a local newspaper reported.

Coca Cola will supply Yang, who broke the world record in the 50 metres freestyle, with unlimited soft drinks until the next Olympics in 1996.

Zhuang, victor in the 200 metres freestyle, was given a blank cheque to wander around the Pierre Cardin boutique in Shanghai and pick out a wardrobe as a 20th birthday present.

She was also made an "honorary worker" by a local electrical appliance maker and will draw a 500 yuan (dollar 93) salary over the next year for doing nothing.

If the Chinese athletes sent to Barcelona are the robot performers western media portrayed them to be, then at least they will enjoy their lives outside of sport.

Most were taken from their families at an early age and shipped off to training camps to be groomed as champions in a world of competition.

Prize money is nothing new for Chinese sports stars, but the size of the rewards this year are unprecedented.

By dangling the prospect of big money, China hopes to attract top-quality trainers from the former Soviet bloc, and encourage budding athletes who come mostly from the poorest provinces of inland China.

The plan fits in well with Beijing's current campaign to encourage capitalist-style reform.

Diver Sun Shuwei, a sensation in the men's team, was presented with the first 29 inch (74 cm) television set made in China by a factory in Guangdong province.

Woman shooter Zhang Shan, who beat a field of male competitors to win the mixed skeet event, was rewarded with her own car — the ultimate status symbol in communist China — by the Chinese weapons maker that supplied her equipment.

The company said the present was "to thank her for not worshipping foreign guns and bullets," one newspaper said. Her two trainers each got a motorbike.

# Larry Bird calls it a day

BOSTON, Aug 19 : US basketball great Larry Bird, saying persistent back injuries forced him from the game, announced his retirement from the Boston Celtics on Tuesday after 13 seasons and three championships with the team, reports Reuter.

"I never wanted this time to come — but it's here," Bird, 35, told a crowded news conference.

"Don't feel sorry for me," he said. "I've had a great life and great times playing with and against the finest basketball players in the world.

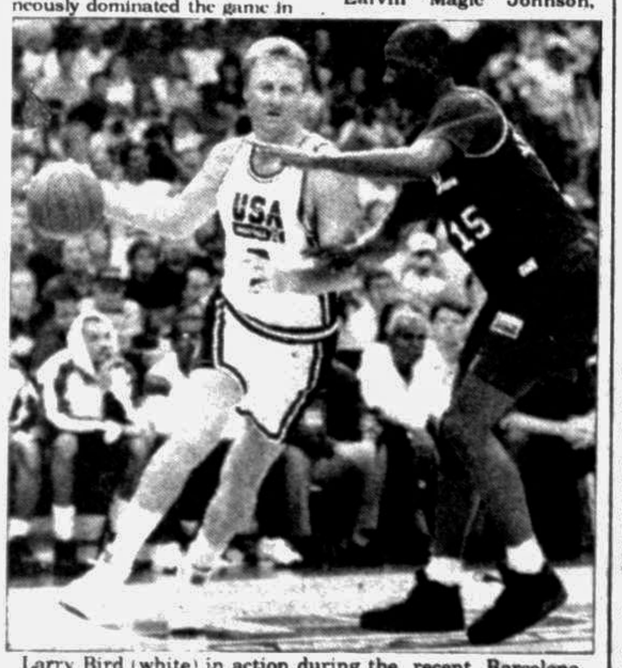
"I couldn't shake my back troubles and I gave all I could of my body and soul to the Celtics," said Bird as he choked back sobs.

Besides this years leading the Celtics and as a star player with Indiana State University, Bird helped the star-studded US "Dream Team" win a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics earlier this month.

"I feel I've been very fortunate. I found basketball is the easiest thing to do. You stay in great hotels, travel in top notch planes and have a great experience," Bird said, adding that while he is leaving the basketball court, he will be staying on with the Celtics in a management role as a special assistant to the team's executive vice-president, Dave Gavitt.

"Getting away from basketball will be tough but I feel good about staying within the Celtics family," he said.

Bird was drafted by the Celtics in 1978 and instantaneously dominated the game in his rookie season.



Larry Bird (white) in action during the recent Barcelona Olympics

"I never doubted that I could be one of the top players in the league after visiting the Celtics rookie camp," Bird recalled.

"When I came into the league I had a vision that I would win five championships," Bird said in acknowledging that he fell two championships short. "It's still mind boggling to me to see 15,000 people come out to watch us play a basketball game," he said.

"I don't like to go out this way," Bird said in listing the back troubles that have slowed him during the last year. "But I must."

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who with Bird was credited with reviving the slumping National Basketball Association, said he would miss seeing his old friend, court rival , and Olympic teammate.

"On the court, Larry was the only player in the league that I feared and he was the smartest player I ever played against. I always enjoyed competing against him because he brought out the best in me," Johnson said in a statement.

## Meeting put back

Sports Reporter

The meeting of the Dhaka Senior Division cricket league committee scheduled for August 22 has been suspended, says a press release.

A fresh date for the meeting will be announced in due course.

# *Can Robson do the trick as Sporting strive to step out of Benfica's shadow?*

LISBON, Aug 19 : Portuguese soccer side sporting are looking to former England manager Bobby Robson to lead them out of the shadow of renowned Lisbon neighbours Benfica and to their first league title in 10 years, reports Reuter.

But most of the 18 teams in the Portuguese First Division which kicks off on Saturday, will be turning east for inspiration.

Some 30 players from eastern Europe will be playing in Frist Division teams this season, 10 of them in Portugal's top three clubs — Benfica, Sporting and current champions Porto.

In the 1960s, Portuguese teams sought reinforcements in the country's African colonies.

These produced stars such as Mozambique's Eusebio, who was top goal scorer in the 1966 World Cup.

But after the colonies gained independence in 1975 and Angola and Mozambique became enmeshed in Civil Wars, Portuguese clubs turned to Brazil for new talent.

Brazil became independent from Portugal 170 years ago, but its citizens still enjoy dual nationality and by 1989 more than 100 Brazilians were playing for Portuguese clubs.

However, a 1972 ruling that Brazilians could play as "honorary" Portuguese was rescinded last year, stemming the influx of South American talent.

Under the new rules, Portuguese teams can recruit up to six foreign players, including Brazilians. Up to four may play in local matches and three in UEFA Games.

There are now fewer than 50 Brazilian players in Portugal, but cheap new talent from eastern Europe is flooding in, encouraged by the collapse of communism.

"Once dual nationality for Brazilians ceased to apply it made sense to get east European players as they adapt more easily to European soccer," said Sporting director Cesar Gracio, a former secretary of the Portuguese Football Federation.

Benfica pioneered the importation of players from the former Soviet Union when it signed up Ukrainian striker Sergei Iuran last year. Russian defender Vasily Kulkov followed him a few months later.

Finally, the former European champions recruited Russian striker Alexander Mostovi, who has declined to comment on press reports that he is hoping to earn Portuguese nationality by marrying a local woman.

If these and other reports of eastern European players taking Portuguese wives are true, clubs could find a back door through which to employ many more foreign players.

Benfica, anxious for a new start after losing the Portuguese title to Porto last season, have replaced former Swedish coach Sven Goran Eriksson with Croat Tomislav Ivic.

Ivic coached Porto to victory in 1987.

Sporting have also invested heavily in imported talent or a new offensive in the coming season.

"This is going to be the year of the lion ( the club symbol), We looked for a trainer with a winning spirit," said Sporting President Jose Sousa Cintra. Robson coached his former club PSV Eindhoven to victory in the last two Dutch Championships.

On Robson's recommendation, Sporting has signed PSV's Dutch defender Stanislav Vlackz, Ukrainian striker Sergei Herbakov and Polish striker Andrezej Juskoviak.