

MSC onslaught continues

Sports Reporter
Pakistani forward Murtaz Haider scored a hat-trick to help league champions Mohammedan Sporting Club score a thumping 6-0 win against lowly Wanderers Club in the lone Green Delta First Division encounter at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

On a rain-soaked muddy field Mohammedans reigned supreme with their three Pakistani players — Murtaz, Zahid Maqbool and Shahidul Islam — combining well. Ashiq opened the account in the very first minute with a field goal (1-0).

Murtaz got into the act in the eighth minute when he sounded the board from a penalty corner (2-0).

Murtaz increased the margin immediately after the resumption again from a penalty corner (3-0).

Sadek, assured his place atop the list of individual scorers with two quick goals.

He finished a fine move in the 47th minute and then completed the tally with yet another field goal four minutes later (6-0).

Mohammedans now have full 16 points from eight matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Ajax SC vs Sadharan Blma
Dhaka Martiner Young's Club vs Bachelors SC

China's much needed win

CHENGDU, China, June 19: China moved into second place in the World Cup football Asian Group A qualifying tournament by defeating Yemen 1-0 Friday with a controversial penalty kick in the dying minutes of the game, reports AFP.

Su Hong scored from the penalty spot after 86 minutes, putting China in second position with 10 points on five wins and two defeats, behind group leaders Iraq who have 13 points from six wins and a draw.

Yemen were left in third with eight points.

The penalty was awarded after China's Gao Hongbo was clowned by a Yemeni defender and fell inside the penalty area.

The victory was a much-needed one for China who earlier lost 1-0 to Yemen. Only one team will go through from the five-nation group.

Earlier on Friday, Iraq smothered winless Pakistan 4-0.

On Sunday, China will play Iraq while Jordan take on Pakistan.

First score first go

GENEVA, June 19: Sudden death goals could decide the European Championships being held in England during June 1996, reports AFP.

The move, which would force deadlocked teams from the quarter-finals onwards to keep playing until one of them scores, was given the green light by the championship commission here on Friday.

However, the plan still needs to be approved by the European Football Union (UEFA) at its next executive meeting, to be held at Limassol, Cyprus on September 18-19.

Friday's session, which was presided by Bundesliga chief Egidius Braun and attended by English Football Association chairman Bert Millihop also decided to make fair-play more important.

A purely honorific "fair-play" award went to Holland during the 1992 tournament in Sweden.

But in 1996, the organisers want fair-play rankings to decide who goes through to the quarter-finals if two countries finish the group qualifiers with identical points and goal averages.

The draw will be made on November 27 in London, with seven groups and a maximum of six teams in each if the tournament attracts up to 42 teams. Above 42 will mean 10 groups.

England, as hosts, and holders Denmark qualify automatically.

Meanwhile, tournament chief Glen Kirton told the meeting the eight stadia to be used for the June 7-31 tournament will be named in October.

Grand theft

SAO PAULO, Brazil, June 19: Thieves have stolen Sao Paulo's Intercontinental Cup, which the Brazilian team won in Japan last December, reports AFP.

The thieves broke in on June 9, the club said on Friday. Sao Paulo, the South American champions, had lifted the trophy after beating European champions Barcelona.

Having won the South American tournament again this season, they were due to exhibit the trophy before this December's tie against Olympic champions Lille in Tokyo.



Victoria skipper Arun dives to his left to collect a ball before Rakib (R) could spell any danger in the Brothers-Victoria tie of the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Brothers drubbed Victoria 4-0, to notch their first win. — Star photo

BU bounce back in style

Sports Reporter



Brothers Union followed the footsteps of their two top-co-rivals when the Gopfbagh club blanked Victoria Sporting Club 4-0 to record their first win in the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After an unscheduled holiday because of the unplayable ground conditions caused by incessant rain, football was set rolling on a slabby ground. Brothers, who got off to the worst possible start among the top three clubs this year, made no bones about the playing conditions as the ultimate result would suggest.

Eager to forget the memories of a shock 0-1 defeat two weeks ago, Brothers took their opponents on with all the seriousness. However, the muddy strip often betrayed the men in orange and this was one reason why their lead was restricted to one-nil during the first half.

Although most of the first half play, was confined to the midfield, Brothers enjoyed a distinct edge mainly because of the presence of the three stronger and heavier, Russian players. Unimpressive on their debut against Wari, Brothers' Russian trio thrived on the heavy ground Boris Spyrin, the stockiest of them, was most impressive.

It was mainly through his efforts that Brothers toned up their aggressive accent and conjured up three goals in last

twenty minutes to leave their rivals in complete disarray.

Brothers took the lead in the eighth minute of the match through a spot kick. Victoria defender Biplab Marma, a member of the Under-16 team, handled the ball inside the box and Russian Vasiliev converted the penalty without any fuss (1-0).

After a mud-slinging session of wearisome football Brothers really put their feet down midway through the second half. Spyrin was full of ideas on the right flank and the beleaguered Victoria defence was at its wit's end to contain the rampant Russian. He was justly awarded for his efforts when he raced clear to beat an off-side trap and then chipped the ball into the net over an advancing Victoria custodian Arun in the 25th minute (2-0).

Substitute Uttam sealed the fate of the match three minutes later when he was set up inside the box by Rakib after Spyrin and Kudinov had done the spade work (3-0).

After Victoria had failed to drive home an advantage from an indirect free kick hammered the last nail in the Victoria coffin in the last minute of the match. Jhilon freed Rakib, on the left side and the national youth team striker cut in from the flank to beat an off-colour Victoria skipper, whose faulty covering made the task of the onrushing striker easier (4-0).

Brothers now have two points from two matches, one point adrift from league leaders Abahani and Mohammedans who redeemed faltering starts to collect three points each also off two matches apiece. Victoria are yet to open their account having lost both their matches.

REMARKABLE DRAW

The day's second match, Star First Division football league encounter, between Adamjee and Dhanmondi Club in a two-all draw in a match marked by two penalties and a marching order.

All the goals were scored in the first half.

Akram of Adamjee scored the first goal in the seventh minute of the match (1-0).

Javed of Dhanmondi restored parity in the very next minute in a highly ding-dong affair (1-1).

Dhanmondi's Ata handled the ball inside the box and Akram slotted the ball home from a penalty in the 25th minute to send the jute-men up by two goals to one (2-1).

Sattar scored a predictable equaliser in the 35th minute to strike the balance in a clash of the equals (2-2).

Dhanmondi wasted a golden chance of surging ahead when referee awarded them a spot-kick, following a foul by Hossain on Dhanmondi's Belal inside the dreaded zone. Nira, who later suffered ouster later following a second yellow card, missed the spot kick.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC vs East End (4-30)
Rahmatganj vs PWD (6-30)

Warne breaks England into pieces



LONDON, June 19: England, replying to Australia's first innings score of 632-4 declared, were 193-9 at the close of the third day of the second cricket Test at Lord's today, reports Reuter.

Earlier an AFP report said: Australia pacesman Craig McDermott was rushed to hospital on Friday night with suspected appendicitis to spoil an otherwise glorious second day of the second Ashes Test for the tourists.

They came close to cricketing history as Mark Waugh failed by one run to join Michael Slater, Mark Taylor and David Boon on three figures in a mammoth total of 592 for four against England. But that fact paled in significance when McDermott was whisked away from Lord's in a taxi to the London Clinic and underwent an exploratory operation.

"Craig was in excruciating pain," said tour manager Des Rundle, "he was bent over, perspiring and in pretty bad shape. We can only hope it's not too serious."

Even if the appendicitis fear proves to be a false alarm, McDermott will take no further part in this second Test, thereby reducing Australia's chances of beating England.

Although the 28-year-old Queensland failed to take a wicket during Australia's first Test victory, he remains a vital member of their attack. Without him the tourists are down to only one pace bowler here in Merv Hughes.

All this drama was happening while Australia's batsmen were battering the England attack into submission for the second day running.

If Mark Waugh's legside flick at spinner Phil Tufnell

McDermott will be out of action for two weeks

LONDON, June 19: Australian strike bowler Craig McDermott underwent an operation in London on Friday night and has been ruled out of the current Lord's Test against England and the next one at Trent Bridge in two weeks, reports Reuter.

McDermott was taken to hospital in agony from Lord's on Friday with suspected appendicitis. But specialists discovered that the problem was a twisted bowel and performed a keyhole type operation to release it.

He is expected to spend a week in hospital. We will not be calling for a replacement at this stage," Australian coach Bob Simpson said on Saturday.

"Craig feels fine within himself this morning and now we must monitor the situation over the next few days."

Because major surgery and stitching was unnecessary, McDermott could be bowling again within a couple weeks and is expected to be available for the fourth Test which starts on July 22.

McDermott's absence from the current match at Lord's clearly improves England's chances of salvaging a draw despite Australia's huge overnight total of 632-4.

It means Australia will be reduced to one genuine pace bowler, Merv Hughes, for the rest of the match.

England manager Keith Fletcher said: "We are very upset to hear about Craig's illness and we hope he's quickly back in action."

Australian can choose between three other seamers — Brendon Julian, Paul Reffel and Wayne Holdsworth — for the third Test and, if a replacement is necessary later, there are several options already available in this country.

Chris Matthews and Jo Angel, both of whom have Test experience, are currently playing Lancashire league cricket.

had connected and not bowled him off his pad when he was on 99, Australia would have created a new cricketing record.

Never before, in the 1,223 previous Tests played since 1877, have the first four batsmen in an order all made a century.

In fact, when Boon later went triumphantly to his first Test 100 in England, it was just the fifth time that a Test top three have all reached three figures.

Captain Allan Border, coming in at Waugh's dismissal, gleefully rubbed further salt into England's wounds in a 139-run stand with boon for the fourth wicket as Australia took total command.

Scoring badlight and occasional drizzle late in the final session, Border reached 77 and was another in sight of a century when he dragged an expansive off-drive against Chris Lewis into his stumps.

Yet among all the runs and the records the one thing on Border's mind will have been the desire to turn his side's massive advantage into victory and claim a 2-0 lead in this six Test series.

He is likely to declare this morning and see if England's batsmen, whose future are all on the line with the exception of skipper Graham Gooch, can

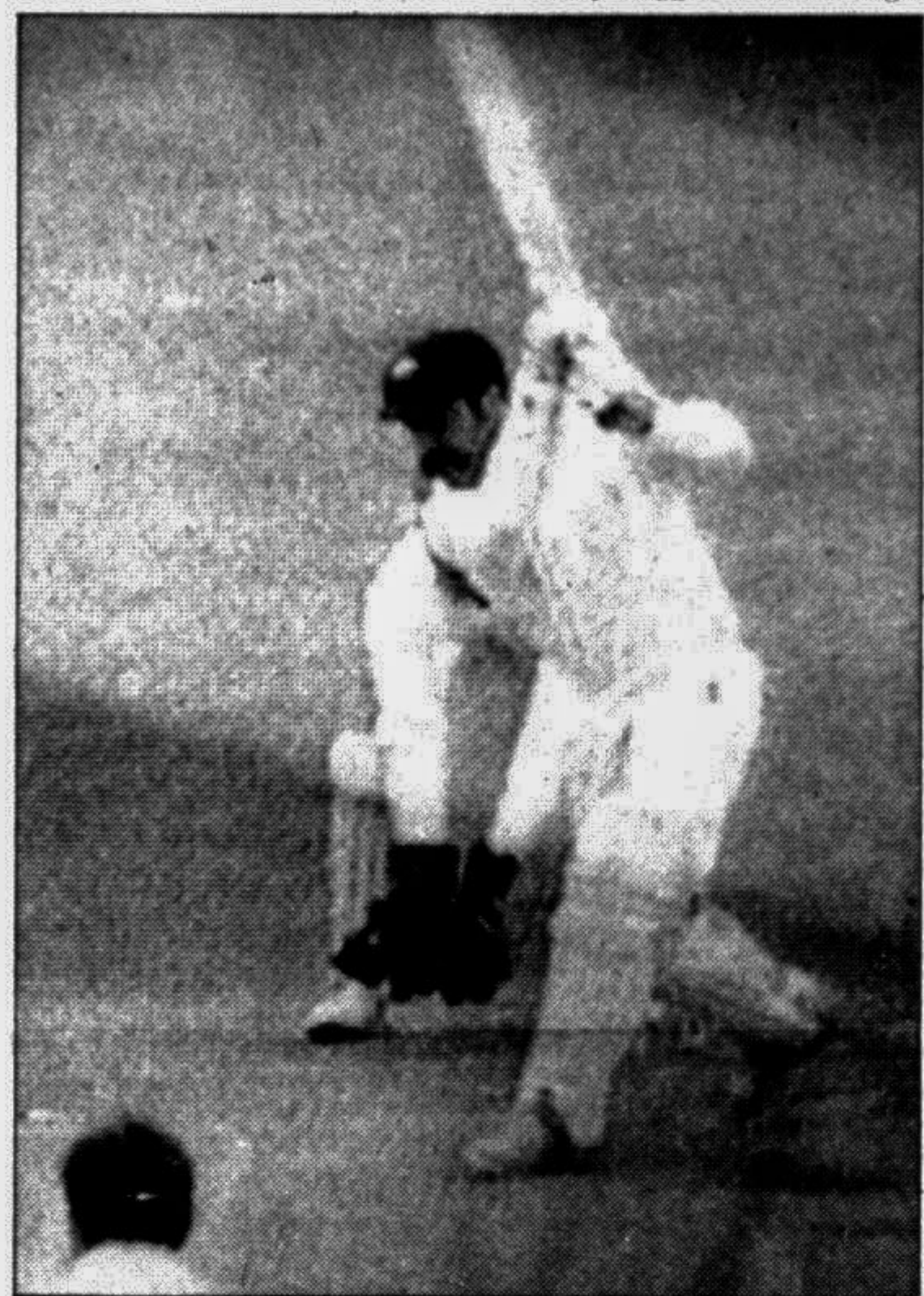
Thursday, it was 2.50 pm before Tufnell bowled Mark



WARNE ... 4 for 54
Waugh through his legs.

For the second day running it was torture in the field for England, but once again they gritted their teeth and endured it.

Lewis bent his back throughout the day and severely bagged Border right



David Boon launches into an exquisite cover drive during his delightful ton against England in the second Test at Lord's on Thursday. The stuggy Australian from Tasmania remained 164 not out when Aussies declared their first innings on 632 for four. — Star TV photo

match his team's concentration and skill in a battle to save the match.

They rendered England's attack toothless on a benign pitch. Having waited until 4.55 pm for their first success on

at the end, while Tufnell, another harshly criticised in the first Test at Old Trafford, never let his head drop.

The slow left-armers's first-clenching response to his success could have been seen as

being over the top with Australia 452 for three, yet it was his 50th Test wicket and a boost for a man desperately trying to regain lost confidence.

Overall, though, England's acceleration towards cricket's also-rans continues, with huge totals against them becoming commonplace.

In the last seven Tests Pakistan have made 380, India 371, 560 for six and 591, Sri Lanka 469 and Australia a second innings 432 for five declared at Old Trafford a fortnight ago.

Boon batted all day, adding 127 to his overnight 11 and taking his first-class tour average to 98 with his 15th Test century.

So far he has batted for seven hours and 10 minutes, facing 349 balls and striking 12 boundaries. His only mistake was on 75 when Lewis dropped a sitter at mid-wicket off Peter Such.

There are a couple of other innings I rate pretty highly, but this one is way up there," he said. "I'm wrapped because I've done it in England and at Lord's."

The only sadness for him was that his father Charlie, who died suddenly four months ago, was not at the home of cricket to see Boon's great moment.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second cricket Test between England and Australia at Lord's on Saturday:

AUSTRALIA: First Innings (overnight-592-4)	
M Taylor st Stewart b Tufnell	111
D Boon not out	152
M Waugh b Tufnell	164
A Border b Lewis	99
S Waugh not out	77
Extras (lb-1, nb-15)	13
Total: (for four wickets, declared)	632
Fall of wickets: 1-260; 2-277; 3-452; 4-591	
Did not bat: I Healy, M Hughes, T May, S Warne, C McDermott.	

ENGLAND: First Innings	
Gooch c May b Hughes	12
Atherton b Warne	80
Gatting b May	5
Smith st Healy b May	22
Hick c Healy b Hughes	20
Stewart lbw b Hughes	3
Lewis lbw b Warne	0
Foster c Border b Warne	16
Caddick not out	11
Such c Taylor b Warne	7
Tufnell not out	0
Extras: (lb-8, nb-9)	17
Total: (for nine wickets)	193
Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-50; 3-84; 4-123; 5-131; 6-132; 7-167; 8-174; 9-189	

Bowling: O M R W	
Caddick	38 5 120 0
Foster	30 4 94 0
Such	36 6 90 0
Tufnell	39 3 129 2
Lewis	36 5 151 2
Gooch	9 1 26 0
Hick	8 3 21 0

Ricknell stakes Test claim



LONDON, June 19: Martin Bicknell staked a claim for an England place in the third Test with Australia

by bowling Surrey to an eight-wicket championship rout of Warwickshire inside two days at Edgbaston on Friday, reports AFP.

The in-form 24-year-old pacesman, who toured Australia in 1990-91, captured six for 50 to reach 35 wickets for the season as the home side collapsed for 157 in the second innings.

Chris Matthews and Jo Angel, both of whom have Test experience, are currently playing Lancashire league cricket.

Donald before clinching victory with an unbroken stand between Darren Bicknell and Alistair Brown.

With England's bowlers under the cosh at Lord's for a second successive day, Alan Igglesden also provided a timely nudge to the selectors with his second four-wicket return for Kent in two days.

Igglesden, who would have won his second Test cap at Old Trafford but for an 11th hour injury, pointed the country to the brink of their third championship victory in four matches against Derbyshire at Canterbury.

Surely needed only 71 in 23 overs, but lost two wicket in five balls to South African Allan

hire at Trent Bridge.

The left-arm seamer, who rushed to Nottingham in time to play for his county after being left out by England, then capped a lively performance by removing Mark Saxelby as the home side reached 174 for two.

At Old Trafford, though, it was the spinners who caught the eye, Brad Donelan and Eddie Hemmings sharing nine wickets as Lancashire collapsed to 280 in reply to Sussex's 403 at old Trafford.

The visitors then extended their lead to 146 with nine second-innings wickets remaining.

Earlier, Sussex's eight-wicket pair of Donelan and Pete Moores took their eighth-wicket stand to 123 before Pakistan star Wasim Akram grabbed three wickets in four balls to leave Moores undefeated on 85.

UEFA burgeoning

GENEVA, June 19: The burgeoning European Football Union grew to 45 member countries here on Thursday, as UEFA admitted nine eastern European republics, reports AFP.

The newcomers are Russia, Slovenia, Croatia, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, however, the former Czechoslovakian states will also need the approval next year of FIFA, the world body.

Delegates to the UEFA congress also paved the way for Israel to join in the future, by amending its statutes to allow countries from outside the continent to become members.

Israel teams already play in two UEFA club tournaments — the European Champions Cup and the European Cup Winners Cup.

Cuban girls in world GP final

HONG KONG, June 19: Olympic gold medalists Cuba defeated Japan here Friday, to move into the final of the one million US dollar women's world volleyball Grand Prix, reports AFP.

The pre-tournament favourites remained unbeaten in Pool A, having earlier beaten Brazil 3-0.

Pool B, the winners of which will take on Cuba in Sunday's final, was thrown wide open Friday when China defeated Russia 3-1.

The Chinese, who lost to South Korea 2-3 in their opening match on Thursday, stayed in contention with a 15-6, 15-13, 9-15, 15-4 victory over the Russians.

The winner of Pool B will be decided today when South Korea play Russia.

If the Koreans lose, all three teams will be level on points and the winner will be decided by the highest overall number of sets.

A Korean victory would earn them the right to meet Cuba in the final.

Cuba was stretched to beat the spirited Japanese women, 10-15, 15-5, 15-7, 15-8, who played with inspiration as diminutive captain Chieko Nakanishi leading the way.

The Japanese, who were placed fifth at the Barcelona Olympics, got off to the perfect start when they won the first

set comfortably against their error-prone opponents.

"We played attacking volleyball in the set. But then we became too passive and we played into their hands," said Japanese coach Kazunori Yoneda.

Cuba regained the initiative and recovered with spring-heeled captain Mireya Luis orchestrating the moves.

"Of course Mireya was our key player. But I must stress that Japan played very well and we did not have an easy game. They are a much better side than that which played in Barcelona," said Cuban coach Eugenio George.

Japan, who narrowly pipped the United States, to become one of the six teams to qualify for the finals here, failed to find a way around the "superb Cuban defence and this proved to be decisive as the champions gradually laid down their rule.

Cuba breezed to the second set in just 18 minutes to level scores, but were made to work harder in the next two sets by the stubborn and hard-working Japanese.

The frustration at not having it all their way took its toll

mid-way in the third set when Luis, rated as the world's top player, uncharacteristically hit the ball into the crown.

Luis made amends with her super skills as she regained her composure to finish as the top-scorer for Cuba.

Unheralded Japan were overjoyed with their performance.

"We are happy to be just playing here. As a team we are getting better but I think we must become mentally tougher if we are to start defeating the top teams," said Yoneda.

Like most others here, the Japanese coach also predicted Cuba would go on to win the final and the richest purse on offer in women's volleyball — 250,000 US dollars.

Organisers, who were embroiled in a controversy over the groupings earlier in the tournament, faced another headache Friday after their gold-plated trophy went missing.

A custom-made one-metre (three feet) high Cup, similar to ice hockey's Stanley Cup went missing leaving red-faced organisers desperately looking for another trophy to present to the winner Sunday.



Wanderers custodian is aground to thwart a Mohanmedan move in yesterday's solitary match of the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Gullit's wife doesn't like it

MUNICH, Germany, June 19: Raul Gullit's girl-friend vetoed a move to Bayern Munich because she did not like Germany, reports AFP.

The Bild Zeitung tabloid said Christina Pena put her foot down on the deal between the AC Milan Dutch international and former German champions.

Neither the flowers from Bayern vice-president Franz Beckenbauer, nor the offer of a 750,000-dollar-a-year contract could overcome her dislike of Germans, it said.

According to Bild, Gullit said his wife: "Does not want to go to Germany because she does not understand the language and does not like the German mentality."

Bild added Gullit, out of contract at AC Milan, is now in contact with French Cup winners Paris St Germain.