

Svab is here

Sports Reporter

FIFA coach Oldrich Svab, a naturalised Swiss, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to prepare the Bangladesh Football team for the forthcoming sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games to be held from December 20 to 27 in Dhaka.

The 49-year-old Czech-born coach's assignment is a sequel to the generous gesture of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee supremo who had been in Dhaka recently on a goodwill visit. The IOC president was then apprised of the necessity of a qualified coach for the Bangladesh football team in view of the imminent SAF Games. The overtures worked and Samaranch's in-

MSC declared V-Day champs

Sports Reporter



Mohammedan Sporting Club have been declared the winners of last year's unfinished Victory Day cricket final.

The procrastinated disputed issue, which dates back to December 30, last year when the final between arch rivals, Mohammedans and Abahani, came to an abrupt halt because of latter's refusal to carry on as a mark of protest against an umpiring decision, was settled in the executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board with Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the board president, in the chair.

The meeting also earmarked a budget of Taka one crore twenty-five lakh to defray the preparatory expenses of the forthcoming ICC trophy to be held in Kenya in February.

Bangladesh will visit Sri Lanka in late October as a part of their preparation for the most important championship for the eighteen associate members of the International Cricket Conference (ICC).

Next year's ICC trophy holds special significance as three of the associate members will join the nine senior members of the international cricket fraternity in next World Cup cricket to be staged in the subcontinent for the second time.

Bangladesh will play five one-day matches in Sri Lanka with the short tour to the Emerald Island spanning from October 20 to 28.

Before the Sri Lanka tour Bangladesh might go to India to play some matches in the Deccan. However, the itinerary of that trip has not been finalised yet.

However, the real competitive edge of local preparation will be lent in December when Bangladesh will go to Pakistan to take part in the Asia Cup cricket championship.

Although India's participation is still unsure, the meet featuring at least one-day world champions Pakistan and talented Sri Lanka could contribute substantially in brightening Bangladesh's chances of carving a niche among the three qualifiers in the next World Cup.

The Pakistan national cricket team is also likely to visit Bangladesh either after or before their short tour of India, preceding the Asia Cup.

After that Zimbabwe, the babes of the Test cricket brotherhood, could play hosts to Bangladesh for a few practice matches.

Officials of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board are also keeping their fingers crossed for a whistle stop here in Dhaka by the West Indies as the Caribbeans come to Calcutta in November to take part in the so called mini World Cup designed to mark the centenary of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

According to a BCCB official the board has also approached UCBSA, the South African cricket board, to send the South African team as a part of the build-up for the ICC trophy.

The meeting also approved

the league committee for 1993-94 cricket season with Golam Faruq Apu, the BCCB joint secretary retaining his position as the secretary of the committee.

The inter-club players transfer will begin in August for an early completion of domestic league.

Meanwhile, Aminul Haq Moni, the general secretary of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, left Dhaka yesterday for London to take part in the ICC meeting. Moni will be joined by BCCB vice president Raisuddin Ahmed who is expected to leave today.

MONI OFF TO LONDON

The Bangladesh representatives are expected to see the ratification of tougher measures against the conferring of citizenship to cricket players by some of the member countries.

The less fortunate cricketers from the Test playing countries have been finding harbourage in countries like Holland, Canada for quite some time thus giving those countries a rather unfair edge over the other associate members of the ICC who depend on 'indigenous' cricketers. ICC is likely to set a minimum stay of four year for citizenship qualification.

AMARNATH DELAYED

Meanwhile, Mohinder Amarnath, the former Indian Test cricketer, now in charge of the coaching of the Bangladesh cricket team did not arrive yesterday. The former star batsman will be here in a day or two.



OLDRICH SVAB

tative resulted in FIFA's proposal to the Bangladesh Football Federation for the aforesaid coach. IOC will bear all the expenses regarding Svab's tenure in Bangladesh.

Usha complete quota

Sports Reporter

Usha Krira Chakra have roped in another Pakistani player to raise their collection of foreign recruits in this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league to four. Yesterday they signed Nadim Yusuf, an inside left who plays for National Bank in Pakistan's domestic hockey league.

The Independence Cup champions despite their loss of two points are still very much in the running for the league title along side reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira Chakra, the two traditional and more powerful, popular bidders for the title.

Usha had earlier signed three Pakistani players. On June 24, Taslim Osman, Sarfraz Ahmed and Noman Zaidi joined the emerging forces of domestic hockey and considerably touched up their performance as underlined in Usha's massive 7-1 victory against Dhaka Wanderers four days later.

RAIN THE SPOILER

Usha's shopping was the only saving grace of an infatigable day as both the scheduled matches of the Green Delta First Division hockey league fell through because of heavy downpour.

Weather permitting, the two matches — first one between Mariner Youngs and Sadharan Bisma and the second one between Abahani and War — will be played today.

Mohiuddin's chances in jeopardy

Sports Reporter

An unfortunate incident may cause a trimming in the five-member Bangladesh athletics squad for the upcoming World University Games slated for a July 8 start in Buffalo, USA.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, who was earlier supposed to form the Bangladesh quartet for the 4X100m and 4X400m relay races in the meet, was refused visa by the American Embassy despite having necessary government order or GO for reasons best known to the embassy official.

If Mohiuddin is not granted visa then Bangladesh participation in the nine-day meet will be limited to men's 100, 200, and 400-metre dashes and women's 100 and 200-metre sprints, to be participated by Feroza Khatun, the lone female member of the Bangladesh contingent.

Meanwhile, three members of the squad had already left Dhaka on Thursday for Buffalo, Texas. Feroza Khatun, Shahanuddin Chowdhury and their non-participating team leader A H M Mostafa will be joined by Shahjalal Mobin and Mehdi Hassan, expected to leave Dhaka by July 6.

Rain reigns at Dhaka Stadium

Sports Reporter

Rain reigns at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday as both the scheduled matches of this year's twin football league fell through owing to unplayable conditions.

Graf faces Novotna in final



WIMBLEDON, July 2: Defending champion Steffi Graf will meet hard-hitting Czech Jana Novotna

Graf broke back in the seventh game and won the tie-break to love. She then broke Martinez in the fourth game of the second set and served out the match.

It was Martinez's best performance in a Grand Slam.

though she has reached the quarter-final stage of the French and US Opens.

She has had a good year so far, winning in Brisbane and Houston before beating Gabriela Sabatini to take the Italian Open title in May.



World number one German Steffi Graf awaits Spaniard Conchita Martinez's serve during their Wimbledon women's singles semifinal at the All England Club Thursday. The defending champion rolled into the final with a tougher-than-expected 7-6, 6-3 victory. — Star TV photo

upset nine-times champion Martina Navratilova on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Top seed Graf, 24, disposed of Spanish clay-court specialist Conchita Martinez 7-6, 6-3 meeting more resistance than anyone expected from the sixth seed.

But it was Novotna who stole the show, playing with supreme confidence and aggression to oust the 36-year-old second seed 6-4, 6-4 in one hour 22 minutes.

"I think I played an incredible match and I deserved to win," the 24-year-old eight seed from Brno said.

Novotna beat Czech-born American Navratilova at her own game, dominating the net and volleying with speed and pinpoint accuracy.

But Navratilova, playing her 21st Wimbledon, said she would be back next year.

It was Novotna's first win over Navratilova in eight meetings and the veteran tipped her to win the championship.

Novotna has beaten Graf three times in 19 meetings, the most important in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open in 1991.

She went on to the final, her only Grand Slam final till now, losing to Monica Seles in three sets.

Graf said she regretted she would not meet Navratilova in the final.

But Graf knows her fleet-footed final opponent will be no walk-over.

"She's got the talent. She's got the game, we've had lots of close matches," Graf said.

The pair's last four matches, all won by Graf, have gone to three sets and three of them have been decided on a tie-break.

Graf has not dropped a set on her journey to the final.

But she had a shaky start on Thursday, dropping her serve in the fourth game as Martinez, seeded six, struck and the ball powerfully and controlled the play from the back of the court.

Info on the finalists

WIMBLEDON, July 2: Following are brief pen portraits of Steffi Graf and Jana Novotna, who contest the Wimbledon singles final on Saturday.

STEFFI GRAF (Germany)
Age: 24.
Seeded: One.
Career prize money: 11:54 million US dollar.

JANA NOVOTNA (Czech Republic)
Age: 24.
Seeded: Eight.
Career prize money: 2.98 million US dollar.

Titles: 12 Grand Slam, 73 overall.
Coach: Heinz Guenthardt, former Swiss Davis Cup player.

Grand Slam record: Winner 1987, 1988 and 1993 French Open, 1988, 1989 and 1990 Australian Open, 1988, 1989, 1991 and 1992 Wimbledon Open and 1988 US Open.

Path to final: Beat Kirrily Sharpe (Australia) 6-0, 6-0, Clare Wood (Britain) 6-2, 6-1; Helen Kelsey (Canada) 6-0, 6-0; Meredith McGrath (US) 6-1, 6-4; Jennifer Capriati (US) 7-6, 6-1; Conchita Martinez (Spain) 7-6, 6-3.

Record: First player to complete Golden Grand Slam of four Grand Slam events and Olympic title in 1988. Number one ranked player for record (men or women) 186 weeks from August 1987 to March 1991. Returned to number one after the French Open for first time since September 1991.

Playing style: Right-hander with devastating forehand and a much-improved backhand, which has been restricted to paying sliced shots. Used to play her matches from the baseline but varies her game more now and is prepared to go forward on occasions. Mentally tough, though she has appeared more fragile in last few years.

Personal: Born in Brno on 14 June, 1969. 1.75 metres tall. Started playing at age four, turned professional in October 1982. Younger brother Peter is a Formula Three racing driver. Loves animals and owns four dogs. Enjoys music, art and photography. Has a youth tennis centre in Leipzig, Germany.

BCCSL rejects SA proposal for neutral umpires

COLOMBO, July 2: Sri Lanka has rejected a request from the South African cricket board for either neutral or third umpires for the three-Test home series between the two sides in August, press reports here said Thursday, reports AFP.

The state-run Daily News said that the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) had turned down the request for a third umpire because the International Cricket Council (ICC) was yet to approve such an arrangement.

"The use of a third umpire we feel at this stage is not a necessity because it has not been approved by the International Cricket Council. It is still in the experimental phase," BCCSL secretary Neel Perera said.

Perera said that the local board was not technically equipped to meet the requirements of a third umpire which was also a costly exercise.

The scheme was introduced in Test series last year between South Africa and India with the third umpire off the field using video equipment to inform the two umpires in the middle if a batsman was out.

South Africa will make a historic five-week tour of the island from August 11 to mark the first series between the two sides since Sri Lanka won Test status in 1981.

Perera also said that the introduction of neutral umpires would prevent Sri Lankan umpires from obtaining much-needed exposure in international cricket.

"Where do our umpires stand if we acquire the services of neutral umpires? How many countries would want our umpires to stand for them," Perera said.

Sri Lankan cricket manager Duleep Mendis had earlier suggested that neutral umpires should officiate during India's five-week tour of the island from July 9 but the BCCSL was opposed to the move.

All-American men's final

WIMBLEDON, July 2: Pete Sampras and Jim Courier tightened the US grip on the Wimbledon men's title today by setting up an all-American final this weekend, reports Reuters.

Sampras, world number one and top seed, shook off the doubts over his injured shoulder to destroy a disappointing Boris Becker 7-6, 6-4, 6-4, before leaving the Centre Court stage free from Courier to join him.

The third seed removed another distinguished champion, Sweden's Stefan Edberg, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4, ensuring the title won by Andre Agassi 12 months ago would be returning across the Atlantic.

Neither of the two Florida residents, friends and frequent golf partners, were favourites to win through against opponents with five previous Wimbledon titles between them.

But in their contrasting styles, both fully deserved their success, leaving both Becker and his old rival Edberg to ponder the first all-American final since 1984.

Navratilova will be back

WIMBLEDON, July 2: Martina Navratilova bowed out of her 21st Wimbledon singles campaign in the semifinals on Friday but vowed to come back, reports Reuters.

The 36-year-old winner of a record nine Wimbledon singles titles said her heart was still in the game.

"I'll be back," she said. "I got my butt kicked today but I had a great time. It's fun to be out there."

Navratilova, a Czech-born American, was played out of her match by Jana Novotna, a Czech 12 years her junior, who beat her at her own serve-and-volley game.

Navratilova was not downhearted in defeat. "The court was really slow on her half of the court and really fast for me," she joked.

"It's not that I started slowly. I just never got going."

Navratilova, seeded two here but ranked fourth in the world, admitted age was playing a factor in her game now.

"It's much more difficult to get going and to keep on going when things aren't moving your way," she said.

Navratilova brings her own chiropractor on tour now and takes care during work-outs not to pull muscles, as they take longer to heal with age.

But she still wants to win and still believes in herself. "I don't think I would play if I didn't think I stood a chance to win. I'm not a glutton for punishment."



THAT'S HUGHES... the colourful Australian paceman indulges in a bit of a by-play when a stray dog wandered on to the pitch before the start of the first day's play of the third Ashes Test in Trent Bridge on Thursday. Hughes took five wickets as the England batsmen amassed an impressive 321 in their first innings. — AFP photo

England 321, Australia 262-5



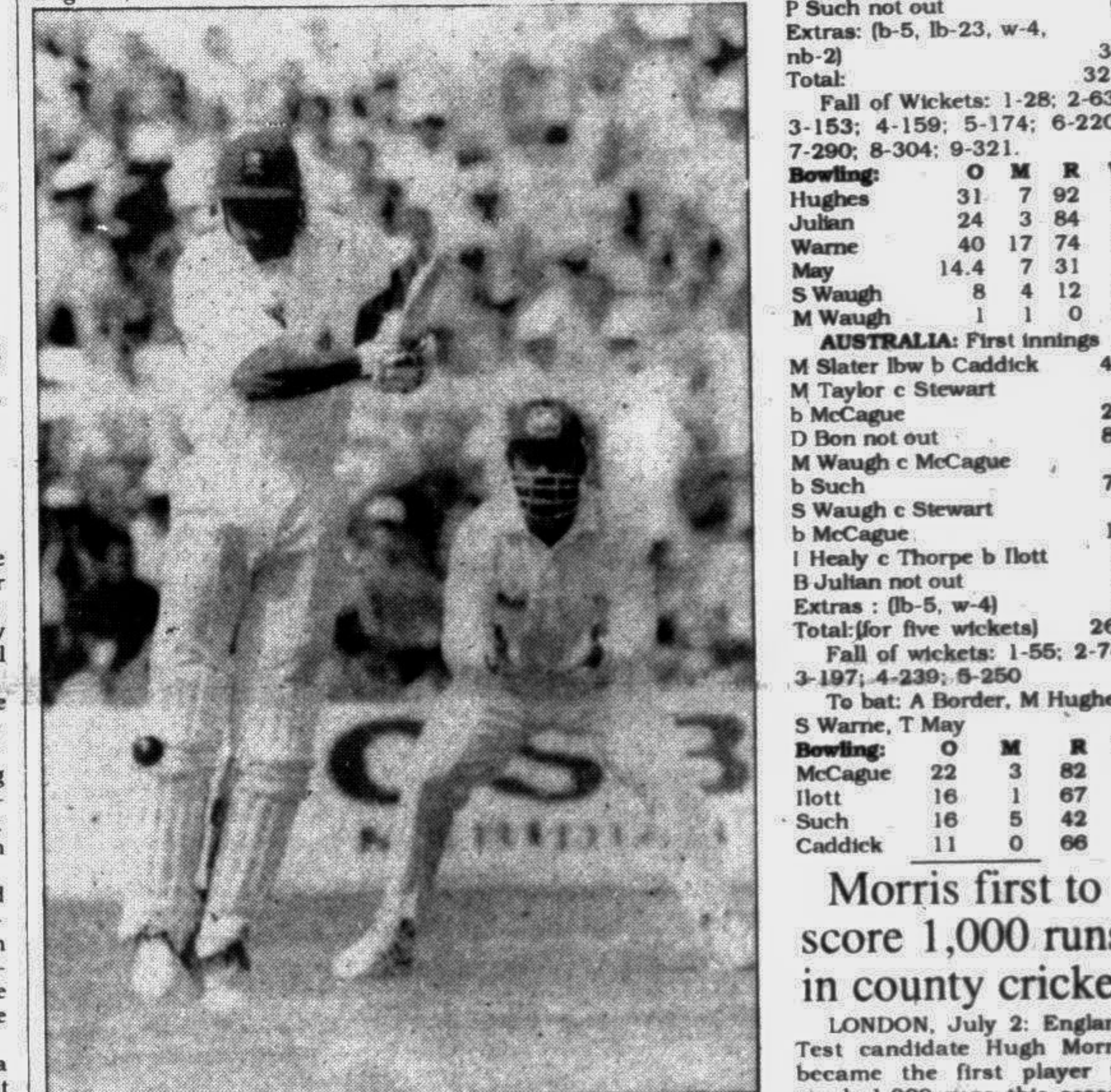
NOTTINGHAM, England, July 2: Australia's stroke makers scored freely but at a price against England's new pace attack today to stand at 262 for five, 59 runs behind, at the close of the second day of the third Test, reports Reuters.

Australian paceman Merv Hughes bagged his first five-wicket haul of the series as England, 2-0 down in the se-

wayward left-arm seamer Brendon Julian.

Opener Mark Lathwell, one of England's four new caps, was the first to fall. After showing glimpses of his talent, with three will struck boundaries he fell to Hughes for 20, edging a seaming ball to wicket-keeper Ian Healy.

Fellow opener Mike Atherton was somewhat harshly given out, adjudged caught but and pad off Warner for 11, but by then Smith was



England batsman Nasser Hussain in a tangle to tackle a Merv Hughes lifter during his superb knock of 71 in his side's first innings of the third Ashes Test at Trent Bridge yesterday. England were all out for 321, thanks to Hussain and Robin Smith, who made a dashing 86. — AFP photo

ries, added only 45 to their overnight first innings score of 276 for six.

Leg spinner Shane Warner ensured England's tailend resistance would not be prolonged when he ended a defiant innings of 71 by the recalled Nasser Hussain.

Martin McCague, England's Australian-raised hope for the future, saw his early pace and aggression rewarded when opener Mark Taylor nicked a catch to keeper Alec Stewart on 28.

However, David Boon, undefeated on 88, and Mark Waugh, caught by McCague off off-spinner Peter Such for 70, put on 123 for the third wicket as the England bowlers were put to the sword in the sun at Trent Bridge.

But the departure of Steve Waugh, edging a ball to Stewart off McCague on 13, and night-watchman Ian Healy for nine kept England in the match.

Earlier on Thursday, Robin Smith, one of the survivors of the Test selectors' purge, cracked a punishing 86 as England's new-look team batted fitfully to reach a somewhat respectable 276 for six.

Already 2-0 down in the six-match series, England began desperately needing a win and Graham Gooch opted to bat when he won the toss on a well-grassed Trent Bridge pitch under cloudy skies.

Smith gave England the impetus early in the day with a powerful innings that contained 15 boundaries while the recalled Nasser Hussain, with an unbeaten 50, bolstered a recovery after wickets fell in the afternoon.

But England's hopes of compiling a really big score were undermined, once again, by the combination of Merv Hughes' pace and Shane Warner's leg spin.

Hughes took three wickets and Warner two while the other, that of Smith, went to a brilliant one-handed caught and bowled by the frequently

in full flow, scorching boundaries through the offside and pulling powerfully.

He and Alec Stewart, moved up the order in England's much changed line-up which also saw Gooch drop to number five from his normal opening position, seemed to have taken England to a relatively promising position of 153 for two.

But then three wickets fell in quick succession.

Stewart (25) carved flat footed at a long hop from Warner to give a catch to cover and Smith's brilliant inning was ended by Julian's athletic catch, one-handed and low to his left as he followed through.

Soon afterwards young left-hander Graham Thorpe, also making his debut, was brilliantly caught by Steve Waugh in the gully when he failed to keep down a short ball from Hughes.

Smith and Stewart had put on 90 in just 22 overs for the third wicket but their good work seemed undone by the mini-collapse which pegged England back to 174 for five in mid-afternoon.

Gooch punched some good looking shots through the offside but never looked fully in command and eventually lobbed a simple catch to opposing skipper Allan Border off a short ball from Hughes to be out for 38.

But then Hussain took command, striking some stylish boundaries to reach his maiden Test half-century just before the close.

He and pace bowler Andrew Caddick (10 not out), stubbornly refusing to be cowed by the Australian attack, added an unbeaten 56 for the seventh wicket to give England a more promising, if not convincing, start to the Test.

Hughes took three wickets and Warner two while the other, that of Smith, went to a brilliant one-handed caught and bowled by the frequently

ENGLAND: First innings

(overnight 276-6)

M Lathwell	c Healy b Hughes	20
M Atherton	c Boon b Warner	11
R Smith	c and b Julian	86
A Stewart	c M Waugh	
b Warner		25
G Gooch	c Border b Hughes	38
G Thorpe	c S Waugh b Hughes	6
N Hussain	c Boon b Warner	71
A Caddick	lbw b Hughes	15
M McCague	c M Waugh b Hughes	9
M Ilett	c Taylor b May	6
P Such	not out	0

Extras: (b-5, lb-23, w-4, nb-2) 34

Total: 321

Fall of Wickets: 1-28; 2-63; 3-153; 4-159; 5-174; 6-220; 7-290; 8-304; 9-321.

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
Hughes	31	7	92	5
Julian	24	3	84	1
Warne	40	17	74	3
May	14.4	7	31	1
S Waugh	8	4	12	0
M Waugh	1	1	0	0

AUSTRALIA: First innings

M Slater	lbw b Caddick	40
M Taylor	c Stewart	
b McCague		28
D Boon	not out	88
M Waugh	c McCague	
b Such		70
S Waugh	c Stewart	
b McCague		13
I Healy	c Thorpe b Ilett	9
B Julian	not out	5
Extras: (lb-5, w-4)		9
Total (for five wickets)		262

Fall of wickets: 1-55; 2-74; 3-197; 4-239; 5-250

To bat: A Border, M Hughes, S Warner, T May

Bowling:

	O	M	R	W
McCague	22	3	82	2
Ilett	16	1	67	1
Such	16	5	42	1
Caddick	11	0	66	1

Morris first to score 1,000 runs in county cricket

LONDON, July 2: England Test candidate Hugh Morris became the first player to reach 1,000 runs this season as Glamorgan made an excellent start to their table-topping clash with Middlesex in their County Championship match on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Opener Morris was dismissed for 27 but in-form Adrian Dale, who replaced him at the close, was 108 not out at the close while former West Indies captain Viv Richards ended also unbeaten just three short of his century.

Glamorgan, 16 points behind Middlesex in the championship table after eight matches, were 319 for three at the close of the first day of their four-day game.

Dale, whose lowest score in his past five innings has been 51, reached three figures from 287 balls with 10 fours.

Former England opener Chris Broad hit 131 and opening partner Dean Hodgson an unbeaten 156 as Gloucestershire played the Hampshire attack at Bristol for 342 for two.

Also among the runs was Surrey's Alistair Brown who blasted 150 not out against Durham at the Oval in a score of 473 for nine.

It was Brown's fourth first class hundred and the second time he has made 150 or more against Durham.

England reject Chris Lewis bounced back to form with the ball with four for 58 as 17 wickets fell at Northampton.

Lewis helped bowl out the home side for 212 and took a brilliant catch to remove England reject Allan Lamb — who later caught Lewis for 16 as Notts slumped to 162 for seven.