

Hockey league resumes today

Green Delta First Division hockey league resumes today after a gap of four days. Dhaka Wanderers will play Azad Sporting Club in the first match scheduled for a start at 2-30 while Dhaka Mariner Youngs will take on Wari Club in the day's second match at 4-15.

League was suspended from July 16 to 19 owing to unplayable ground conditions caused by incessant monsoon showers.

Abahani Krira Chakra lead the points table with 24 points having won their all 12 matches. Reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club trail their arch rivals with 23 points from 12 matches. Both are unbeaten so far in this year's 16 team fray.

POINTS TABLE

Table with 10 columns: Team, M, W, D, L, GF, GA, Pts. Lists teams like Abahani KC, Mohammedan SC, Ajax SC, Usha KC, Martians Club, Sadharan Bima, Wari Club, Dhaka Anwar, Sonali Bank, Police AC, Azad SC, Bangladesh SC, Wanderers Club, Bachelors SC, BD Railway, PWD SC.

Abahani's fourth foreign booter

Vitaly Yanets is the latest Russian recruit of league champions Abahani Krira Chakra.

The 23-year-old stopper back of the Torpedo Club of Moscow arrived in the city yesterday to rev up Abahani's campaign for the second hat-trick of Senior Division football league title.

Vitaly joins his three compatriots — defender Gyorgy, midfielders Alexander Sudarikov and Alexander Dozmorov — who have already made their debut in the ongoing league.

Junior Gold Cup soccer

COX'S BAZAR, July 19: Mohammedan Sporting Club bagged full points defeating Rakhain Sporting Club 4-1 in the round robin league match of Junior Gold Cup football tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

Winners led 1-0 in the first half through a score of Bikash. In the second half Newaj scored two and Polish one for Mohammedans while Sen Then returned one for Rakhain.

Uttara Ekadash will be up against Pratishtuti Club tomorrow.

Bienne chess

BIENNE, Switzerland, July 19: Nine players, including 62-year-old Viktor Korchnoi, led Monday after three rounds of their adjourned second-round match, then, playing black, drew with Mihail Gurevich of Belgium in the third round.

Judith Polgar of Hungary, at 17 the youngest of the tournament's 73 players and the only female, ran into trouble in her third-round match against Evgeny Sveshnikov of Russia before it was adjourned. She was considered likely to suffer her first loss when play resumed Monday.

Other leaders Monday with 2.5 points each were Evgeny Bareev, Russia; Joel Lautier, France; Gurevich; Alexander Khalifman, Russia; Ivan Sokolov, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Gata Kamsky, United States; Walter Arencibia, Cuba; and Ian Rogers, Australia.

In other major third round play, India's Viswanathan Anand, ranked second in the world and the top-rated player at Bienne, beat Lubomir Ftacnik of Slovakia to win his first match after two draws, for a total of 2 points.

Vladimir Kramnik of Russia, third in the world, drew against Eric Lobron of Germany after losing his first round and winning his second, giving Kramnik 1.5 points.

Missing from the competition are some of the world's top players, including Anatoly Karpov of Russia and Jan Timmans of the Netherlands, who play each other for the FIDE world championship title in September.

Also staying away are Gari Kasparov, the highest-rated player in chess history, and Nigel Short. Kasparov, a native of Azerbaijan, will play Short, of Britain, in a 24-game match in London starting Sept. 7.

FIDE, the world chess federation, stripped Kasparov of its world champion title earlier this year when he split away with Short to set up a rival group, the Professional Chess Association.

Victoria, Agrani split points

Victoria Sporting Club and Agrani Bank shared points in a goalless, literally mudsting encounter of the Star Premier Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.



An Eskaton and an Adamjee player battle for the control of the ball in yesterday's Star First Division football league encounter at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

On a slabby, water-clogged ground, Victoria enjoyed a slight edge over the bankers but failed to score, partly because of poor ground conditions and partly because of the ineptitude of the goal-getters.

The play remained suspended for five minutes during the first half as players of two sides got involved in a brawl. Referee Rafiqul Islam culled out

Bank striker Munna and Victoria defender Biplab as the main culprits and gave them marching orders to force the two teams to play the remaining session of the match with ten players each.

Hero nipped inside the Bank penalty area midway through the first half and looked poised to give Victoria what would have been a deserving lead but Totam, the Bank custodian, gummed up the works of the former member of the under-16 team.

Toufique failed to give Victoria a lead few minutes later when he dodged past Totam but hung on to the ball too long to be robbed of possession.

Cut down to ten men a side, both teams decided to play it safe in the second half. Less skilled players were to the fore as the game degenerated into robust, long clearances; players with any pretension of trying to do something with the ball were effectively driven to the background as the condition of the ground continued to deteriorate with ceaseless stamping of the players on the soft muddy strip.

The goalless encounter left Victoria richer for a point, taking their tally to five from eight matches while Agrani Bank are better off with seven from eight matches.

ESKATON WIN

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha recorded their only second victory when they beat lowly Adamjee Sports Club by two goals to nil in the Star First Division football league in the day's first match played earlier at the same venue.

Don opened the account for the winners in the fifth minute of the match when he volleyed home a neat pass by Shahzada (1-0).

The winners consolidated their position early into the second half when Litu hit the net from a Rinku pass nine minutes after the resumption (2-0).

With yesterday's victory Eskaton Sabuj Sangha raised their collection to seven points from eight matches while Adamjee, who now look doomed to face relegation, remain stuck to two from eight matches.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BRTC vs Sadharan Bima (4-30) Rahmatganj vs Wari (6-30)

Brazilian fans infuriated

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, July 19: It used to be that a soccer match against Ecuador provoked little more than yawns and side bets on the margin of Brazil's victory, reports AP.

But after the teams battled to a scoreless tie Sunday night in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in a World Cup qualifying game, Brazilian fans and soccer analysts were both worried and embarrassed.

They agreed on two points — Ecuador are no longer a pushover, and Brazil have to improve in a hurry if they hope to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

"Incredible: Draw Was a Good Deal," read Monday's headline in the Jornal dos Sports newspaper of Rio. Jornal do Brasil of Rio was more succinct: "Shame, Brazil."

Brazil, a three-time world champion, have never lost to Ecuador, winning 11 of their past 12 games.

Jornal do Brasil said the

Brazilians were so outplayed that it seemed the teams had changed jerseys. Indeed, the Ecuadorians' bright yellow shirts looked a lot like Brazil's traditional uniform.

"Ecuador looked like the Brazil of old. Daring, determined, exploiting the ability of Aguiñaga, the team... suffocated Brazil," the newspaper said.

The crowning humiliation came with 15 minutes left, and Ecuador dominating play. Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira went to the edge of the field and urged his exhausted players to hold on just a little longer.

"It was the scene of a small team," wrote Jornal do Brasil. "Not surprising for a team that has left everyone with the impression that this will be one of the most dramatic battles ever to qualify for the World Cup."

Parreira had predicted the game would be tough. Most of his starting 11 play in Europe and were on vacation when called to the national team. Worse, they only had 10 days to practice and get in shape.

Aussie Euphoria evaporated

ZELHEM, Netherlands, July 19: Australia's top football stars came down to earth with a hump on Sunday when they lost 1-0 here — to a Dutch Second Division side, reports AFP.

Few Australians have probably ever heard of the De Graafschap Doetinchem side, or Erh Redeker, who scored the only goal of their friendly match here.

It was an embarrassing warm-up for the men from Down Under, who are in Europe preparing for their World Cup qualifying match against Canada in Vancouver on August 31.

They play two more friendlies this week, against First Division NAC Breda on Tuesday and Second Division NEC Nimegue on Friday.

Clough retires season's end

NOTTINGHAM, England, July 19: Brian Clough, who won two European Cup titles and numerous accolades in 18 years as manager of Nottingham Forest, is retiring at the end of the season, reports AP.

Forest chairman Fred Reacher announced Monday that Clough would stay at the helm for the team's two remaining games.

Barnet escapes expulsion

NOTTINGHAM, July 19: English soccer team Barnet gained a stay of execution Monday, as a proposal to expel the financially-troubled club from the football league failed by five votes, reports AP.

At an extraordinary meeting of league teams, 38 voted in favour of expulsion, 18 voted against, with one abstention. A two-thirds majority was needed for the motion to pass.

Barnet's debts are reported to be in excess of 1.2 million pounds (dls 1.8 million) and the team has only six players left on contract. None have been paid for nearly nine weeks.

Team secretary Brian Ayres admitted recently that the second division club's survival chances were "less than 50-50." The team is hoping to gain support from potential backers to stay afloat after Monday's vote.

Khulna soccer

KHULNA, July 19: Bankers Club defeated RRF 4-3 in tie-breaker in a quarterfinal match of the KDSA football tournament at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

It was 2-2 deadlock in the stipulated time when Masud and Zahidul scored for Bankers and Anwar and Babul scored for RRF.

Brothers Union will play against Mohammedan Sporting Club tomorrow.

Villa beat Kawasaki

TOKYO, July 19: Dalian Atkinson scored in each half Monday as Aston Villa of England beat Japan's Verdy Kawasaki 2-1 Monday in the Coca Cola Cup exhibition soccer game, reports AP.

Ace striker Kazuyoshi Miura scored Japan's only goal. For this match, a grass surface was specially laid down over the regular artificial turf in Tokyo Dome, the first time this had been done in the indoor stadium.

The game started at a fast pace, with Aston Villa's Tony Daley shooting twice in the first eight minutes. Japanese goalkeeper Shinkichi Kikuchi saved the first shot and the second hit the side of the net.

Atkinson scored first in the 28th minute, stealing the ball in a melee, dribbling past the defence and shooting into the left side of the net.

More than 43,000 spectators roared when Miura scored the equaliser from just outside the goal area 10 minutes into the second half.

Japan lost a chance to take the lead when Tsuyoshi Kitazawa's shot hit the cross bar 10 minutes later.

Atkinson, who was named most valuable player of the match, scored the winner from just inside the penalty area with 11 minutes remaining.

"It was a wonderful match for us, good preparation for the coming season. The game went at a high tempo. Verdy was a very good team," said Aston Villa coach Ron Atkinson.

Aston Villa finished second behind Manchester United in England's Premier league.

Verdy were runners-up in the just concluded first phase of the inaugural season of the Japanese professional soccer league, known as J-League.

For this game, 720 pieces of natural turf, grown from a base of crushed pine trees, were laid down. Tokyo Dome officials said. About 250 workers did the job in about eight hours Monday, they added.

The natural turf cost 45 million yen (dls 417,000) plus 12 million yen (dls 111,000) for transportation and other expenses, they said.

Not a coast for Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, July 19: An extra time goal by substitute Joel Tchiu gave Ivory Coast a crucial 1-0 victory over Algeria in their World Cup qualifying match here on Sunday, reports AFP.

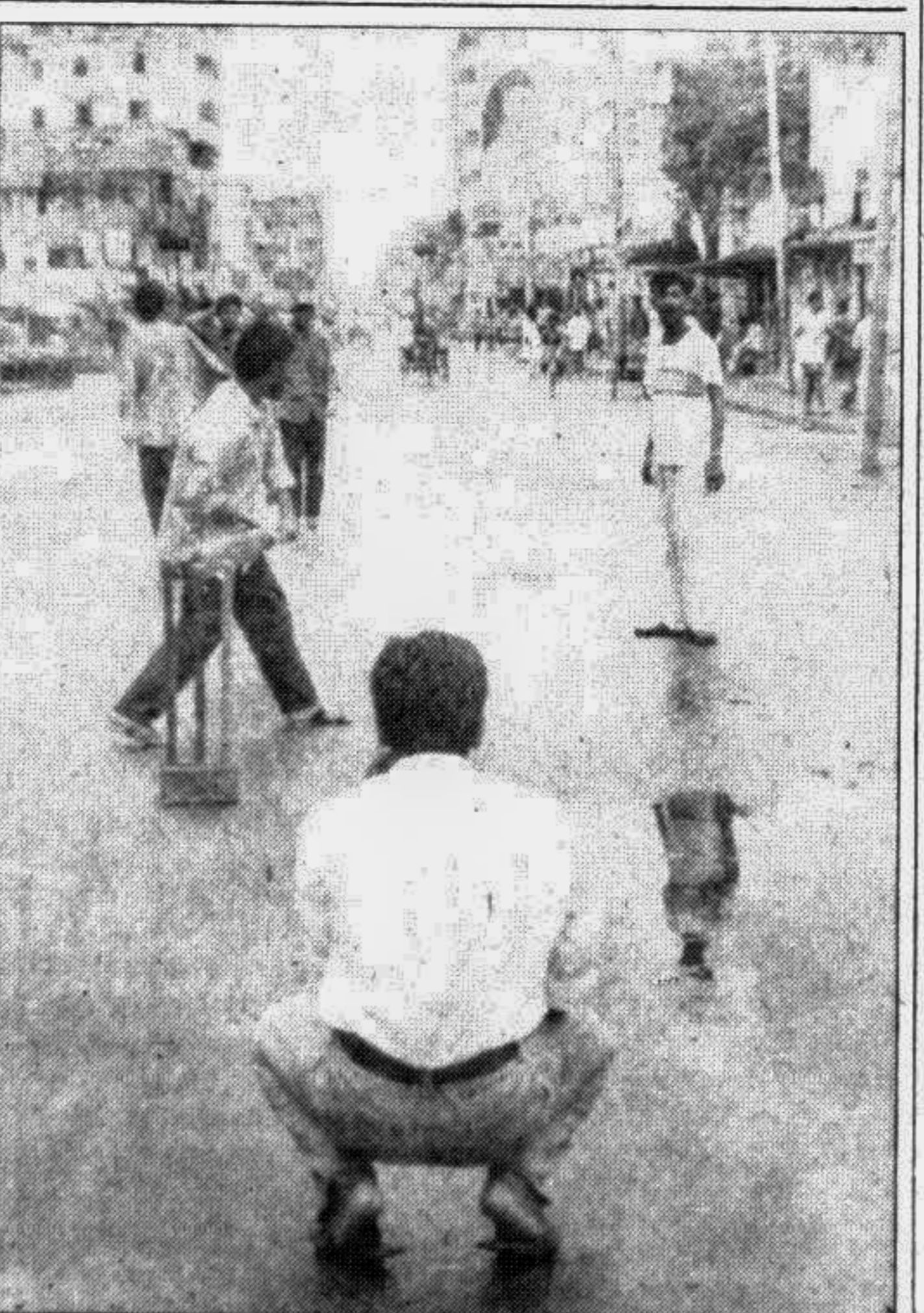
The win gave Ivory Coast a clear lead in the battle for single ticket from Africa Group A to next year's finals in the United States.

Before Tchiu's goal, the most significant incident of the match, in front of 35,000 supporters in Abidjan, had been the sending off of the home teams Lignon and Algeria's Kharis for a 31st minute bust-up.

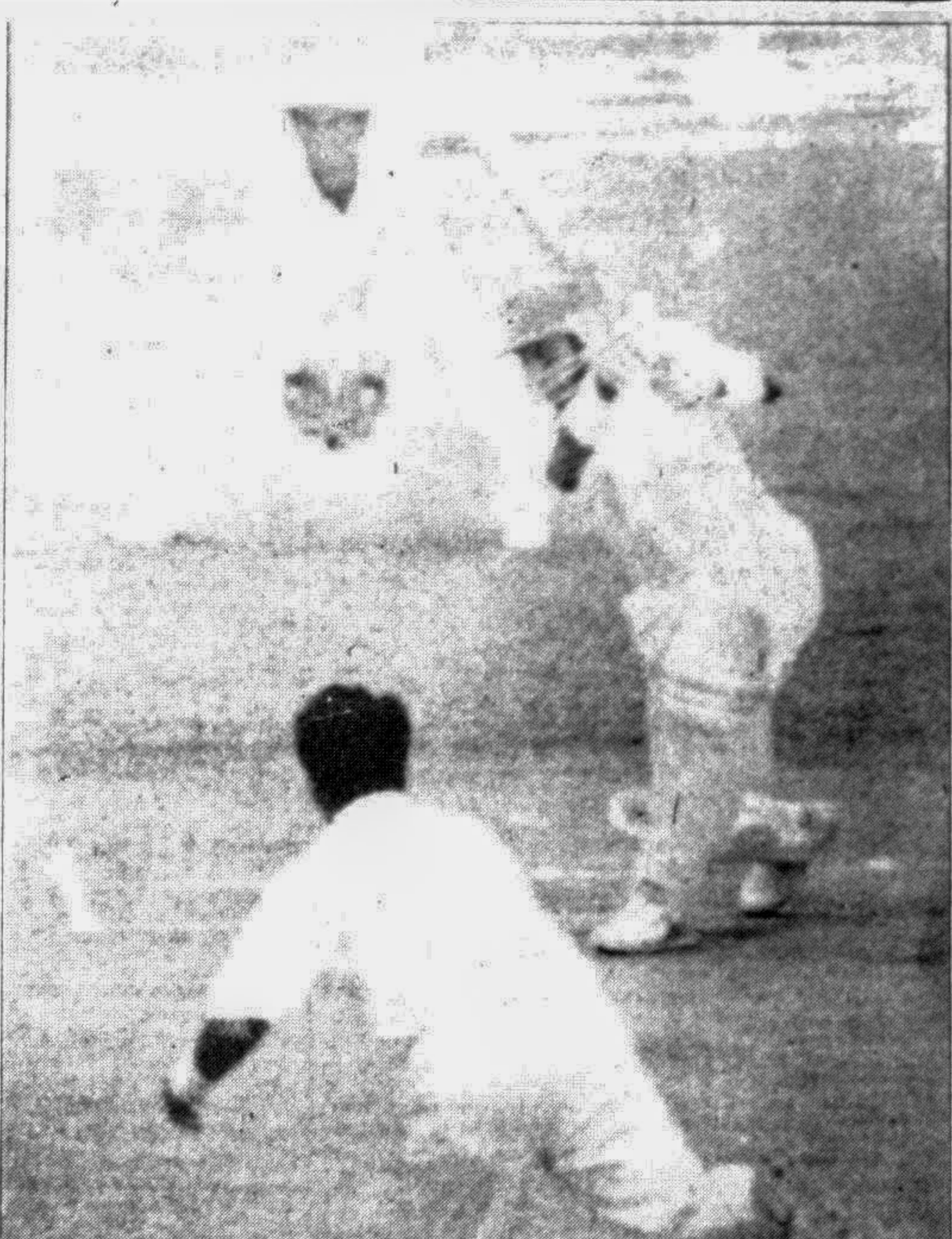
Tchiu, who plays for French First Division side I Le Havre, only came on 11 minutes from the end.

He scored with virtually his first touch and his volley from a cross by captain Alain Serge Maguy was Ivory Coast's first real chance. The Algerian team disputed the goal, but it was given the green light by Ugandan referee Charles Masmbe.

The result means that only Nigeria can now catch the west African side. Nigeria are a game in hand, but are three points behind with only two matches to play.



FROM HERE TO WHERE: With the demon of urbanisation fast devouring the refreshing green patches in and around the city, sports lovers wistfully look forward to the hartal days to spend their sublimated enthusiasm on the city thoroughfares. — Star photo



Former Sri Lankan captain Aravinda de Silva misjudges the bounce of a Manoj Prabhakar delivery in executing an off-drive only to be caught off a thick edge at gully by Anil Kumble on the second day of the first Test against India at Kandy on July 18. — AFP photo

Rain cuts another day down Kandy Test heads for a draw

KANDY, Sri Lanka, July 19: The first Test between India and Sri Lanka was headed for a draw after heavy overnight rains caused another day's play to be lost on the third day at the Asgiriya Stadium here Monday, reports AFP.

Umpires K T Francis and T M Samarasinghe decided that no play was possible due to adverse ground conditions, especially in the bowler's run-up and slip fielder's area.

After at least five inspections of the ground, play was due to have begun an hour after the scheduled tea break but another shower and fading light forced play to be called off for the day.

A slippery outfield and a moist wicket caused by showers on Sunday prevented play in the morning session.

But the umpires decided against play in the post-lunch session as well since the

bowlers' run-up area had not dried up completely. Continuous rain washed off the entire first day's play on Saturday while only 50 minutes of play was possible on Sunday.

Sri Lanka were struggling at 24 for three when play was halted Sunday but Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin said he would not take any chances if the ground was unfit for play.

"I don't want to take any risk. I don't want my bowlers to be injured," Azharuddin said.

The Test looks set to be drawn unless bright sunshine prevails in the next three days including Tuesday's rest day and some nail-biting cricket is enacted by either of the teams who have decided against playing on the rest day.

Both teams were expected to have separate practice sessions Tuesday if the weather was fine. AP adds: Only 52 minutes of play have been possible on the first three days. Two more Tests

are to be played in the series between the Asian neighbours. Following the first day's washout, the second day saw brief play in which Sri Lanka slid to 24 for three after being sent in to bat.

A heavy downpour in this popular holiday resort Sunday night sealed the result of the match as the bowlers' run ups and the outfield became waterlogged and slushy.

"This match is as good as dead," said Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin, while supervising a light workout by the tourists at the Asgiriya Stadium.

"It is pointless asking the bowlers to perform over a slippery run-up. We don't want anyone to get injured."

"With two more Tests and three one-day internationals still to be played on this tour, I don't want to take any chances," Azharuddin said. Sri Lankan cricket manager Dulcep Mendis agreed. "A result is unlikely," he said.

Mighty shock for Australia

DURHAM, England, July 19: Durham fast bowler Simon Brown snapped up seven wickets on Sunday and wrecked Australia's hopes of a smooth passage to this week's fourth Test against England, reports Reuter.

On the day Durham teammate Ian Botham, once the scourge of Australia, announced his imminent retirement. Brown sent Allan Border's men

tumbling to 221 all out with a career-best seven for 70.

Brown's demolition job allowed Durham to enforce a follow-on for the first time since they became a first-class county in the English Championship 15 months ago.

It all added up to a mighty shock for Australia. On Saturday they allowed the Championship stragglers to reach 385 for eight declared.

On Sunday their batsman looked anything but an all-conquering force as left-arm bowler Brown claimed the country's best bowling figures.

He was twice on a hat-trick, denied first by Border and then by Ian Healy, who top-scored with an unbeaten 70.

An eight-wicket partnership of 100 between Healy and Paul Reffel (39) saved Australia greater embarrassment. Having followed on 164 behind, Australia reached 62 for one in their second innings, with Anderson Cummins dismissing Mark Taylor for a single.

Botham played next to no part in the shock downfall of his old adversaries, bowling only six wicketless overs and spending almost two-thirds of the day off the field, troubled by a sore knee.

The former England all-rounder has decided to end his first-class career when this match finishes today.

Durham's cricket director Geoff Cook said on Sunday Botham wanted to bow out two months before the end of the season to spare himself further aches and pains.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard from match between Durham and Australia: DURHAM: 385-8 dec (W Larkins 151, A Cummins 69) AUSTRALIA: First innings M A Taylor b Cummins 10 M L Hayden c Scott b Brown 7 D C Boon c Paraker b Brown 27

S R Waugh c Scott b Brown 19 D R Martyn c Larkins b Brown 0 A R Border run out 17 I A Healy not out 70 B P Julian b Graveney 6 P R Reffel c Scott b Brown 39 T B A May lbw b Brown 0 W J Holdsworth c and b Brown 5 Extras: (b 4, lb 7, nb 10) 21 Total: 221

Fall of wickets: 1-8; 2-38; 3-66; 4-56; 5-83; 6-101; 7-113; 8-213; 9-213;

Bowling: O M R W Cummins 18 4 62 1 Brown 22 4 1 70 7 Botham 6 2 21 0 Graveney 10 6 18 1 Bainbridge 5 0 27 0 Berry 4 0 12 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings M L Hayden not out 33 M A Taylor c Graveney b Cummins 1 D C Boon not out 24 Extras: (b 2, lb 1, w 1) 4 Total: (1 wkt) 62

Fall of wicket: 1-14;

To bat: A R Border, S R Waugh, D R Martyn, I A Healy, B P Julian, T B A May, P R Reffel, W J Holdsworth.

Bowling: O M R W Cummins 8 3 15 1 Brown 6 3 10 0 Bainbridge 6 1 13 0 Berry 3 0 15 0 Graveney 3 2 6 0

Cameron top WC Group C

CONAKRY, July 19: Cameroon went to the top of the World Cup qualifying group after beating Guinea 1-0 here on Sunday, reports AFP.

A goal by Ande just before half-time sealed the Africa Group C game. With one more game to play, Cameroon have a two-point lead over Guinea and Zimbabwe. But Zimbabwe have a game in hand.