

### Khulna Div I soccer on

KHULNA, Aug 6: Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra defeated newcomers Khulna Metropolitan Police 4-1 in the opening match of the Khulna Star First Division football league at the local stadium this afternoon, reports UNB.

Zahid netted the first goal for Abahani in the 10th minute of the match (1-0). Labloo scored the second five minutes later (2-0) and Hanif walked in to the goal-scoring act in the 35th minute (3-0).

Tara reduced the margin for Khulna Metropolitan Police, scoring the only goal for his team (3-1).

In the second half, Zahid scored his second goal in the 10th minute to seal the Abahani victory (4-1).

Earlier, Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Raftul Alam inaugurated the league. Divisional Commissioner Abdul Moktadir was also present.

Sixteen teams of the Khulna city are participating in the league.

### Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: Blue Star Club and Suryamukir Ashar earned full points beating their respective opponents in the Straj Metropolitan juvenile football league at the Dampara Police Lines ground this afternoon, reports BNA.

In the first encounter Blue Star beat Salimpur KS 3-1 with Mamun, Mujib and Jashim scoring once each for the winners.

Shahjahan of Salimpur reduced the margin.

In the other match Suryamukir defeated Azad Boys' Club 1-0. Abedin was the scorer.

### Army aquatic meet from today

The annual aquatic meet of the Bangladesh Army will begin at the Savar Cantonment from today, reports UNB.

About 350 swimmers representing 11 teams will take part in different events of swimming, water polo and diving.

The local Brigade Commander Col Harun-ar-Rashid will inaugurate the meet as Chief Guest, said a ISPR press release.

### Four-a-side football

Reds recorded a convincing 3-1 victory against Greens in the Inter-friends four-a-side football semifinal at the Azampur ground yesterday.

Suman scored twice and Arif once for the winners while Shipon, skipper of Greens, pulled back one for the losers.

Reds will take on the winners of second semifinal between Blues and Blacks on August 9.

### Tapie questioned

VALENCIENNES, France, Aug 6: France's match-rigging scandal came to a head here as Olympic Marseille president Bernard Tapie was questioned over the affair, reports AFP.

State prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier confirmed here on Friday that the millionaire entrepreneur and former socialist government minister was questioned as a witness by investigating magistrate Bernard Bely on Thursday at Paris.

### Fischer now in Hungary

BUDAPEST, Aug 6: American Bobby Fischer, the reclusive chess genius who made headlines last year with his controversial rematch against Boris Spassky, is in Hungary, state TV reported Friday, reports AP.

Fischer had reportedly remained in Yugoslavia after beating Russian-born Spassky last November in their highly publicized match, played in defiance of UN sanctions.

He could face government prosecution in the United States for defying the sanctions, imposed on Yugoslavia for provoking warfare in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The television said Fischer, 50, arrived in Hungary on Thursday and was staying at a well-guarded house owned by Laszlo Polgar, father of Hungary's chess whiz kid Judit Polgar, the world's top woman player.

There was no answer at the Polgar home, and the Hungarian Justice Ministry, and the US Embassy could not confirm the report.

There have been repeated attempts to organize a Fischer-Polgar match, but Fischer has insisted he will not play a match of limited duration in which draws count.

His rematch with Spassky was open-ended, with the contest going to the first player to win 10 games.

Polgar beat Spassky in a match organized by the same shadowy Yugoslav financiers who set up the Fischer-Spassky extravaganza.



An Ajax player tries to work the ball past the lunged stick of two Usha players. Usha drubbed Ajax 5-2 in the lone Green Delta First Division hockey league encounter at the hockey stadium yesterday.

## Goal rush at Hockey Stadium

The pattern of the pacy but scrappy match was set early as Usha surged ahead with a seventh minute goal.

Anwarul Haq Ziad sounded the board after a fast Usha build-up down the flank had opened the fragile Ajax defence inside out (1-0).

Irtaza Qader Guddu, who played for Ajax last year, showed no mercy to his former team when he slammed the white ball against the wood of the cage with a precise and powerful swing of his stick from the top of the arc following one of the three penalty corners earned by Usha in the afternoon (2-0).

Down by two goals in 28 minutes Ajax made their presence in the very next minute when defender Rezwan retaliated scoring from a penalty corner at the other end of the field (1-2).

After a brief spell of lively hockey Usha consolidate their position with a field goal in 33rd minute from Sadek Khan (3-1).

### Bundesliga richer than ever

German soccer fans, accustomed in recent years to their stars leaving to earn big money abroad, will welcome some of their favourite players home when the new league season opens on Friday, reports Reuters.

Home crowds will thrill to the skills of national players such as Lothar Matthaus, Karlheinz Riedle, Matthias Sammer and Stefan Reuter and delight in old favourites — Bernd Schuster and Andreas Brehme.

The trend is stark contrast to 1990 when the Germans won the World Cup.

Then most of the national team were earning their living in Italy and any new rising Bundesliga star was soon packing his bags to earn billions of lire in southern Europe, much to the disappointment of club directors and fans.

But the exodus has stopped. Some of the Germans in Italy watched too many matches from the stands last season because their rich clubs had too many foreign players.

With the 1994 World Cup looming at the end of the season, many realised they needed regular games to make sure of their places in the German squad for the United States.

The return of national team captain Matthaus to Bayern Munich from Internazionale Milan began the homeward trend at the start of last season.

By the middle of the season Borussia Dortmund had defender Reuter and midfielder Sammer back in their ranks after spells in Italy. The Ruhr club also won the race to snap up striker Riedle from Lazio in the close season.

The 33-year-old Schuster has returned after nearly 13 years in Spain to play out his days at Bayer Leverkusen and Brehme comes home after five years in Italy and Spain to play for his former club Kaiserslautern.

German league soccer has undergone many changes while they have been away. Four different clubs have won the championship in the past four seasons, clear evidence that the old days of the dominant Bayern Munich were over.

The last few seasons have been the years of opportunity, former national coach and Bayern vice-president Franz Beckenbauer said. "Any one of the top five clubs could have won the title. There are no really dominant teams."

This season again at least six clubs have strong enough squads to win the title, including champions Werder Bremen.

Bayern, Eintracht Frankfurt, Dortmund, VFB Stuttgart and Leverkusen.

Bremen, who pipped Bayern to the crown on a dramatic final day last season, have avoided big purchases in the close season.

But their shrewd coach Otto Rehhagel is an expert in providing the correct blend of youth and experience. With talented Australian playmaker Andreas Herzog and striker Bernd Hobsch in their ranks, Werder are sure to remain a major force.

Bayern, by contrast, are putting a lot of faith in their expensive new Colombian forward Adolfo Valencia after failing to sign Dutch star Ruud Gullit in the summer.

UEFA Cup finalists Dortmund must be regarded as strong candidates with their line-up of German internationals and Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat.

The arrival of flamboyant coach Dragoslav Stepanovic will boost Leverkusen's hopes, especially with experienced playmaker Schuster and new Brazilian midfielder Paulo Sergio in their ranks.

Bayern take on newly-promoted Freiburg on Saturday while Bremen host Stuttgart on Sunday.

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### Lankans to go all out

COLOMBO, Aug 6: Sri Lanka have pledged to go on the attack when the third Test resume against India on Saturday, reports AFP.

Shri Lanka manager Duleep Mendis said on the rest day on Friday that the home side had to put India's top-order batting line-up under pressure or face a substantial first innings deficit.

"We just have to get an early breakthrough and after that a few more wickets. Our bowlers simply have to go on the attack. We cannot go on the defensive and give a lot of runs," Mendis said.

India's consistent opening pair of Manoj Prabhakar and Navtej Sidhu gave their side a cautious but solid start, notching up 84 for no loss in 40 overs on the second day, in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 351.

In their bid to level the three-Test series, Sri Lanka had planned to make about 425 runs but "we had to change our strategy" because the 351 total was "not quite adequate" to put the pressure on India, Mendis said.

"I expected another 75 runs. In the end this total might not be enough," he added.

The wicket is playing well now. But it can crumble during the later stages.

India manager Ajith Wadekar was satisfied with the start Sidhu and Prabhakar had made and said India hoped to bat for only one innings occupying the crease until Sunday morning session before giving Sri Lanka a second innings.

"Everything is going according to our plan. Prabhakar and Sidhu did well. All our wickets are intact. Now we can try for a big first innings total," Wadekar said.

Such as Michael Slater caught by Robin Smith off bat and pad for 22 with delivery which turned sharply at 34.

Five runs later Emburey spun one even more to trap David Boon — centurion in each of the last three Tests — lbw without scoring.

Soon after lunch a narrow-like throw from Matthew Maynard at fine-leg ran out Mark Taylor for 19 at 69 after the third umpire had been consulted. When Such dismissed Allan Border for three with the help of a blinding one-handed slip catch from Nasser Hussain, England's fans were singing louder than at any time during this series.

In walked Steve Waugh to

### Top cricketers to play benefit matches in SA

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Aug 6: South African national cricket captain Kepler Wessels is assembling a group of the world's top players for two benefit matches in September, reports Reuters.

The two games are scheduled for September 26 and 29 at St Georges Park in Port Elizabeth, soon after Wessels returns from a six-week tour of Sri Lanka.

The team to face the World XI is essentially the South African national squad plus Wessels' eastern province teammate Dave Callaghan, an all-rounder and one-day specialist.

West Indians Brian Lara and Phil Simmons lead the way, closely followed by Sri Lanka's former captain Aravinda de Silva, Zimbabwe's captain Dave Houghton and New Zealander Mark Greatbatch.

Two of Wessels' friends from his days in Australia have also been invited — opener Geoff Marsh, nearing the end of his career, and left-arm seamer Bruce Reid.

### TEAMS

WORLD XI: Brian Lara, Geoff Marsh, Phil Simmons, Mark Greatbatch, Aravinda de Silva, Dave Houghton, Andy Flower, Franklyn Stephenson, Dipak Patel, Eldine Baptiste, Otis Gibson, Bruce Reid.

WESSELS' XI: Andrew Hudson, Hansie Cronje, Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Franke de Villiers, Dave Callaghan, Clive Eksteen, Pat Symcox, Allan Donald, Brett Schultz.

### First official English side to tour SA in 30 yrs

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 6: England's A team will make the first official visit to South Africa by an English side in 30 years when they start a two-month tour in November, reports AFP.

The tour will include seven four-day games against strong provincial sides and will culminate in an unofficial Test match against South Africa A in Port Elizabeth.

The trip will also feature three matches in the black townships areas of Alexandra in Johannesburg, Zwede near Port Elizabeth and Langa in Cape Town.

South African cricket supremo Ali Bacher, described the tour as "history making."

"During the Mike Gatting tour here in early 1990 the students from Alexandra were turned back by police when they tried to march on one of the matches in Johannesburg to demonstrate their opposition," said Bacher.

"Now those same people are our friends and they will be supporting this match and the four-day game at the Wanderers."

"Cricket is vibrantly healthy in the townships now and the best black players from our development programmes will be taking part in the games these against the England side.

It will be the first time international matches have been played in township areas and so history will be made."

### Waugh twins to Aussie rescue

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 6: Australian twins Mark and Steve Waugh recorded their first Test century stand together here today to put the tourists in command of the fifth Ashes clash, report AFP.

The 28-year-old brothers chose their 14th Test together to construct a glorious partnership of 153, which lifted Australia to 258 for five by the close of the second day and just 18 runs behind England's first innings score.

Mark contributed an imperious 137, his first ton of the series, while Steve, older by just four minutes, survived a missed stumping by England wicket-keeper Alec Stewart when on nought to graft his way to 57 not out.

Had Stewart taken the ball cleanly and whipped off the balls, Australia would have been tottering as they had been reduced to 80 for four by England spinners Peter Such and John Emburey shortly after lunch.

Such had Michael Slater caught by Robin Smith off bat and pad for 22 with delivery which turned sharply at 34.

Five runs later Emburey spun one even more to trap David Boon — centurion in each of the last three Tests — lbw without scoring.

Soon after lunch a narrow-like throw from Matthew Maynard at fine-leg ran out Mark Taylor for 19 at 69 after the third umpire had been consulted. When Such dismissed Allan Border for three with the help of a blinding one-handed slip catch from Nasser Hussain, England's fans were singing louder than at any time during this series.

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### Gatting makes Leics toil

LONDON, Aug 6: Mike Gatting, passed over for the England captaincy, took his frustration out on Leicestershire yesterday as he led English County Championship pacesetters Middlesex into a commanding position, reports AFP.

The Middlesex skipper slammed a sparkling 121 in a second-wicket stand of 230 in 63 overs with Mike Roseberry, who hit a career-best 175 not out in Middlesex's total of 352 for two.

Gatting's second century of the season, off 180 balls, included 14 boundaries, while Roseberry's knock included a six and 19 fours.

Glamorgan all-rounder Adrian Dale also produced a career-best performance on Thursday, grabbing six for 18 off 13.3 overs as Warwickshire were skittled for 125.

Dale's scalps came in a 52-ball spell that cost him just seven runs and he was well supported by teenage seamer Darren Thomas, who took four for 49.

But Glamorgan struggled in

reply, losing six wickets before overhauling the Warwickshire total with four going to Michael Bell.

Robert Croft and Roland LeFebvre put together a seventh-wicket stand of 83 to steer the home side to 194 for seven at the close.

Meanwhile, a century from skipper Tim Curtis failed to prevent Worcestershire sliding to 253 all out against Sussex.

The visitors lost their last seven wickets for only 58 in 21 overs after Curtis' 107, which included 16 fours. Sussex were 65 for one in reply.

Surrey did not make the same mistake against Kent, an unbeaten fourth-wicket stand of 187 in 56 overs by Darren Bicknell (119) and Alistair Brown (110) lifting the championship contenders to 333 for three.

Bicknell needed five hours 20 minutes for his century, which contained 14 fours, while Brown required just two hours 15 minutes and scored nine fours.

Lancashire opener Gehan Mendis missed a chance to score his first century in his benefit season, falling for 81 as

his side slipped to 294 all out against Gloucestershire, for whom Jack Russell held five catches.

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns also narrowly failed to reach three figures, crashing a brilliant 92 to haul Nottinghamshire out of early problems against Yorkshire.

The Kiwi star hammered 10 boundaries and blasted two sixes in his 131-minute innings. In sharp contrast, Wayne Dessaur battled for 205 minutes in making 62 as the home side made 316 before the visitors replied with 38 without loss.

Opener John Stephenson was even closer to a ton, holding depleted Essex together with a battling 95 against Northamptonshire.

Missing their four England players, Essex were dismissed for 286 with Stephenson cracking two sixes and 13 fours in his four hour stay.

The fall of acting captain Paul Prichard for 81 — one of five victims for wicketkeeper David Ripley — proved a turning point as Essex slipped from 137 for one to 223 for seven. Northants were 25 for one in reply.

### Real Phoenix in every sense

LUSAKA, Aug 6: It has to be one of soccer's most amazing come-backs since Zambia lost almost the entire national team in a plane crash off the coast of Gabon on April 28, the new side is poised to take Zambia to the World Cup for the first time, reports AFP.

They have already qualified for the African Cup finals and victory over Senegal on Saturday would put them one step nearer the United States.

They beat Morocco 2-1 in Lusaka last month. Victory over Senegal in a match being played in the Ivory Coast would bring them level on points with the Arabs, who have beaten the west Africans home and away.

However, much as everyone insists on calling the present

Zambian national team "new" there is actually very little about it that is new.

Most of the team had already played international football.

Eight players from Nkana and Power Dynamos have had plenty of experience at club level.

Nkana have represented Zambia in the continental club Champions Cup eight times in the last 11 years and have reached the semifinals four times and were losing finalists in 1990.

Power Dynamos have seven years of continental campaigns behind them since 1984 and won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1991 under the tutelage of the present national team manager Freddie Mwila.

The rest of the team is composed of players who have al-

### Real Phoenix in every sense

ready had a stint or two with the national team built around a framework of European-based professionals.

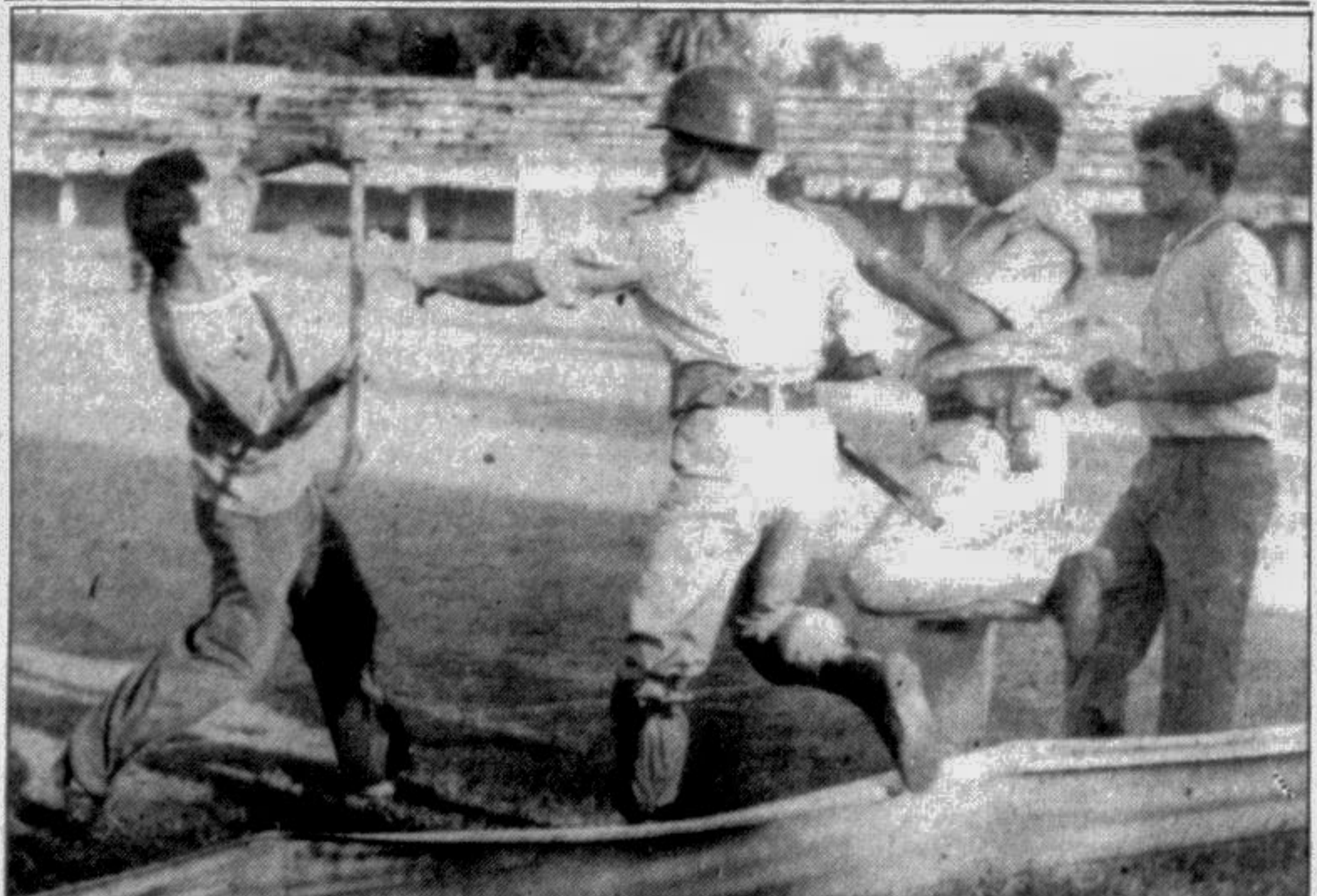
Kalusha Bwalya of Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven has proved an inspiring skipper. Johnson Bwalya of Swiss side FC Bulle and Gibby Mbasela of German Second Division club IFC Union are other players who missed that ill-fated flight because they were flying from Europe.

Zimbabwe's German coach Reinhard Fabisch put his finger on the explanation for Zambia's astonishing revival when he said they were playing for their dead friends.

"It's hard playing them because there is so much emotional backing for them," he said after a bruising draw in Harare.



Merline Ottey of Jamaica greets the crowd after winning the 100m sprint with a time of 10.93 sec at the Zurich track and field meeting on August 4.



WHAT IS A STICK FOR? Never mind if it is meant for moving a white ball around on a green ground. An enraged Ajax official is being desisted by the members of the law enforcing agency in his attempt to have a crack at the umpire in yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league encounter between Usha and Ajax at the Hockey Stadium. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman.