

Abahani just a point away

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra now need only one point in their last match against arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club to clinch the Green Delta First Division hockey league title after having outplayed lowly Bangladesh Sporting Club in their penultimate league encounter at the Hockey Stadium yesterday to keep their all-win record intact.

A draw in the last match would leave the Dhanmondi outfit one point clear of the men in black and white.

In a one-sided affair Abahani led the first half two goals to one.

Fazal Mahmood opened the account in the 23rd minute with a fine field goal, (1-0).

Skipper Haroon doubled the margin in a similar fashion nine minutes before the short whistle, (2-0).

Bangladesh Sporting Club scored against the run of play in the 28th minute. Sujan sounded the board from a fast and rare counter attack, (1-2).

Abahani, who forced nine penalty corners, went further ahead in the 50th minute with Aminul Islam scoring another field goal, (3-1).

Mahbub Harun completed the tally nine minutes later when the wry skipper of the blue and gold struck a powerful drive off a penalty corner that left custodian Rahman in complete disarray, (4-1).

In the first match of the day Police dumped PWD, 3-0.

In an apparently fixed match the members of the law enforcing agency scored all the three goals at the flag end of the match.

Lutfur, Nazir and Swapan were the scorers.

The defeat hardly matters anything for PWD who have already confirmed relegation to second year having touched the bottom of the points table of this year's Green Delta First Division hockey league.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Bachelors SC vs Railway (2-30)
Usha KC vs Sadharan Bima (4-14)

Wright fined

LONDON, Aug 8: England and Arsenal striker Ian Wright was fined 5,000 pounds on Thursday for making an obscene gesture at a linesman during last season's FA Cup final replay, reports AFP.

The gesture during the Wembley clash with Sheffield Wednesday on May 20 was missed by referee Keren Barrett, but was picked up by television and subsequently reported to the football association by an FA member.

It is the third mark on the FA crime sheet against Wright, who was handed a three-match ban last season for punching Tottenham midfielder David Howells — another incident missed by the match referee, but spotlighted by television.

Wright was also fined 1,500 pounds the previous season for making rude gestures at Oldham fans.

Earlier on Thursday, Southampton, who had the worst disciplinary record in English soccer last season for the second successive campaign, were ordered to pay a 10,000-pound penalty by the FA.

The inaptly-nicknamed Saints, who had a 15,000-pound fine hanging over them from the previous campaign, had 10,000 pounds of that punishment activated by the FA and were also hit by a 25,000-pound suspended fine.

Ian Branfoot's side accumulated 59 bookings last term, plus three sendings-off which led to 10 suspensions. That followed a 1991-92 season which saw them pick up 80 bookings, five sendings-off and 12 suspensions.

Maybe it's quits for Arias

MASON, Ohio, Aug 8: Jimmy Arias, once the fifth-ranked tennis player in the world, said Saturday he might retire from the professional tour, reports AP.

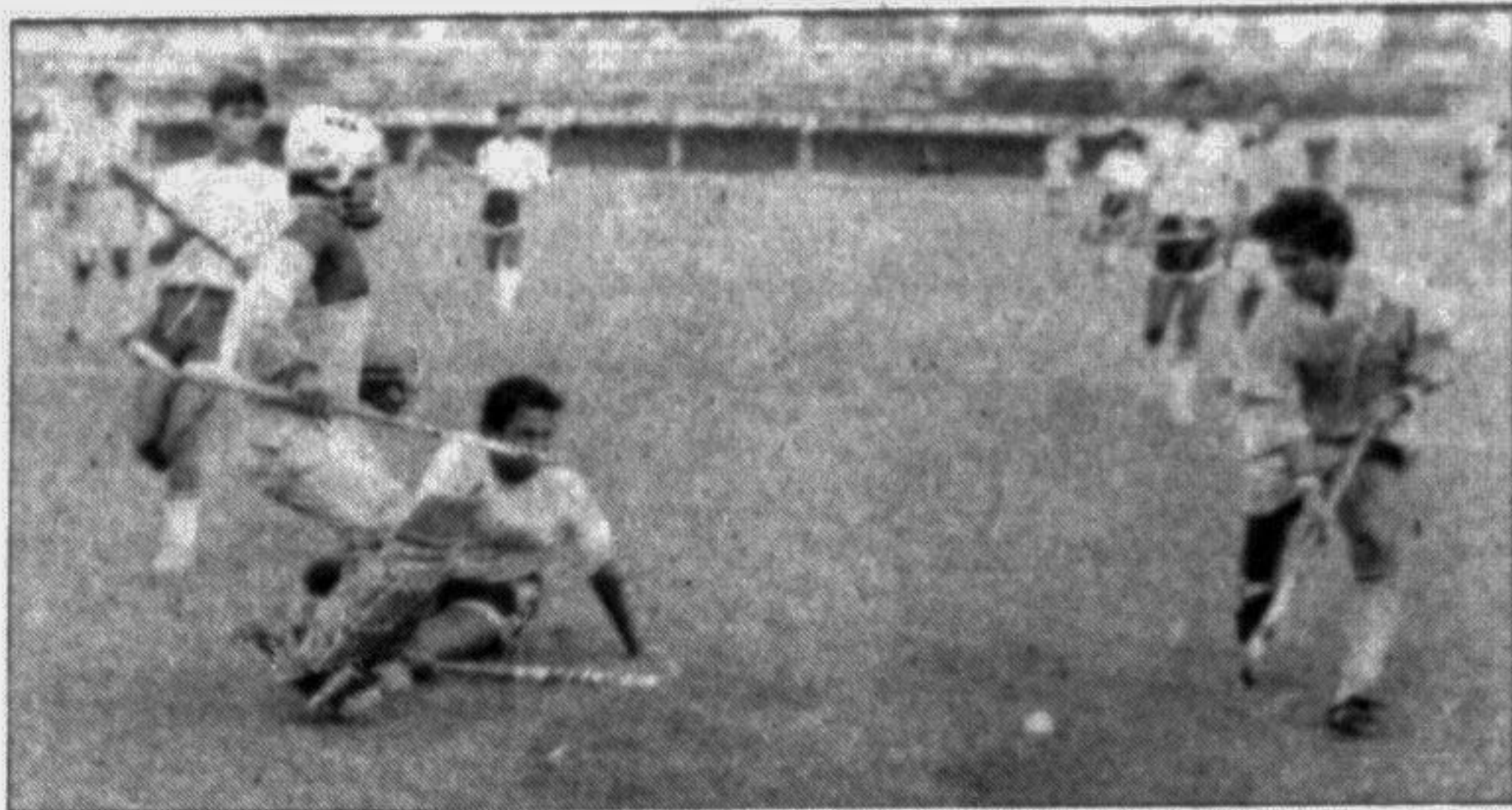
Arias, 28, lost to Sweden's Peter Lundgren 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in the first qualifying round of the Thriftway ATP Championship on Saturday.

Earlier in the week, Arias lost to Italy's Christiano Caratti 6-4, 6-2 in the first round of the ATP Challenger Tournament, a \$150,000 event for pros ranked 51st in the world or lower. Arias was ranked 195th.

The two Challenger finalists earn berths in the main ATP Tour event, which starts Monday.

Arias, plagued for two years by an injured right wrist, said he first considered retiring a couple of months ago and has had problems concentrating since then.

"It comes and goes during matches," he said while relaxing in the players' lounge at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Centre after Saturday's loss. "I'm not nervous enough. You have to have the adrenaline flowing."



Action from yesterday's Green Delta First Division hockey league match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Bangladesh Sporting Club at the Hockey Stadium. Abahani maintained their hundred per cent winning record with a 4-1 victory. — Star photo

Football fans, wait: DMFA

Sports Reporter



The Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association (DMFA) has once again taken expectant football fans for a ride. In an umpteenth instance of hair-brained project the organisers of the Senior Division football league, split this year into Star Premier and Star First Divisions, put off the second phase by three more days.

Rescheduled for a start from today the second leg of the Star Premier and First Divisions will now begin from August 12. The decision was taken yesterday with the DMFA press release attributing the delay to the risqué cliché of 'unavoidable circumstances'.

Those familiar with DMFA's belated chopping and changings of date know that with a little bit of gumption league organisers could have easily avoided the never ending unavoidable

circumstances. It appeared a study in puerile prank the moment organisers fixed the date for the beginning of the second round matches at August 8 in the backdrop of the growing tension caused by the aftermath of the trouble-marred Mohammedan-Abahani match of August 4.

With the smooth running of any competition in this part of the world so heavily dependant on known and unknown circumstantial factors, DMFA would have done well to announce the date after having fully taken the stock of the unsteady situation.

Although DMFA earned some praise by quickly meeting out punishment to the culprits of the giants' clash of August 4 they ignored or failed to realise the peril referees were in as exemplified in the recent attack on the Referees Association by

some enraged supporters. The men in black immediately expressed their concern and even threatened to boycott the league unless their security was ensured by the authorities. It is this justified ultimatum which forced the authorities to revise their hasty decision of starting the final part of the soccer league.

The question of security for the referees was reportedly taken up yesterday during a meeting of their representatives with DMFA general secretary Kazi Mishu. Eloquent assurances pacified the worried referees but they, it was learnt, sought some time to get ready for the battle ahead and what else DMFA could do other than pushing back the schedule. A press release would do. Yesterday it was non availability of police, today it is unavoidable circumstances, that is the only difference.

Bayern begin with a bang



BERLIN, Aug 8: Colombian Adolfo Valencia scored twice in 10 minutes of the first half to pace Bayern Munich past First-Division Bismarck leads Kawasaki ahead

TOKYO, Aug 8: Verdy Kawasaki scored a come-from-behind victory over JEF United Ichihara Saturday, with Brazilian import Barreto Faria Bismarck scoring just before the whistle, reports AFP.

It was the first goal this season in Japan for Bismarck, formerly with Vasco da Gama. Ace striker Pierre Littbarski opened the scoring in the 36th minute for JEF United before some 22,000 cheering fans.

A corner kick by Littbarski curled into the net for his eighth goal in the inaugural Japanese professional league.

Verdy and JEF United were tied 1-1 when Kazuyoshi Miura shot from 20 metres in the 78th minute.

The winning goal for Verdy came in the 89th minute when Bismarck slammed a pass into the net.

Kashima Antlers, the winners of the first stage of the season, lost a penalty shoot-out 7-8 to Yokohama Marinos, while Nagoya Grampus Eight easily beat Urawa Red Diamonds 4-1.

Shimizu S-Pulse won an extra session 1-0 over Yokohama Flugs.

Only four matches were played Saturday and league positions among the 10 club teams will be decided after a match between Sanfrecce Hiroshima and Gamba Osaka is played today.

newcomer SC Freiburg 3-1 Saturday on the opening weekend of the Bundesliga, reports AP.

Markus Schupp gave the Bavarians the lead in the eighth minute before Valencia, acquired this season to bolster Munich's offence, double the lead in the 14th minute and then added another in the 24th.

Unlike Second Division champion Freiburg, fellow Second-Division promotee MSV Duisburg earned their first points after a one-year absence from the top league with a 2-2 draw at home against Bayern Leverkusen.

In other games Saturday, it was Wattencheid 4, Schalke 0; VfB Leipzig 3, Dynamo Dresden 3; and FC Kaiserslautern 2, FC Cologne 0.

On Friday, the opening day of the season, Borussia Dortmund edged Karlsruhe SC 2-1, Eintracht Frankfurt routed Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-0 and Hamburg SV bombed FC Nuremberg 5-2.

One game remains for Sunday. Weder Bremen hosting VfB Stuttgart.

In Duisburg, MSV twice took one-goal leads against an injury-riddled Leverkusen—in the 43rd minute on a goal by Torsten Wohler and again on a goal by Hannes Rinmayr in the 67th.

But Leverkusen, playing without last year's league co-scoring champion Ulf Kirsten, rallied on Paulo Sergio's shot in the 53rd and Markus Happe's in the 74th.

Dusburg had a chance to win the match in the 80th minute when Peter Koezle beat the goalkeeper with a header, but a Leverkusen defender knocked it away.

Striker Olaf Marschall scored

three in his debut for Dresden, the final two rallying Dynamo from a 3-1 deficit. Marschall deadlocked the game in the 69th minute after Dirk Anders' two early goals and another in the Matthias Lindner in the 10th minute gave Leipzig the lead.

In Cologne, Ciriaco Sforza gave Kaiserslautern the lead in the 60th minute, and Marcus Mar's goal in the final minute clinched it.

In Wattencheid, before 35,000 Poland's Marek Lesniak, Thorstan Fink and Joerg Back scored to lead the drubbing of Schalke.

Zambia on course to reach WC finals

ABIDJAN, Aug 8: Zambia remain on course to reach the 1994 World Cup finals in America after drawing 0-0 against Senegal in the African Group B qualifying match here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Zambia, who lost 18 members of their squad in a tragic plane crash off the coast of Gabon on April 28, are now second behind group leaders Morocco.

The result here, played at a neutral venue in the Ivory Coast, gives the Zambians three points from two matches.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) ordered the game to be played outside Senegal after ground trouble at the Dakar Stadium during the match against Morocco in July.

Thousands of Zambian fans travelling to Abidjan saw their team, lead by PSV Eindhoven striker Kalusha Bwalya, go close on several occasions without ever finding the back of the net.

Div II hockey from Sept 15

The Second Division hockey league will begin from September 15.

Nineteen teams split into four groups will take part in the championship.

Two teams — champions and runners up of each group — will play in the super league.

Khulna soccer

KHULNA, Aug 8: Khulna Newsprint Mills and Khulna Shipyard Club shared points in a goalless draw in the Khulna Star First Division football league at the local stadium this afternoon, reports BNA.

Both the teams resorted to rough game on a rain-soaked, muddy ground. Referee Mr. Mansur cautioned Mintu, Monayem, Sharif and Chotton of Newsprint and Mukta and Shaheen of Shipyard Club, the yellow card.

Mongla Port will take on R R F tomorrow.

Juvenile football

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: Nabajatrik and Agrabad Pioneers Club split points when their match in the Siraj Metropolitan Juvenile football league ended in a three-all draw at the Dampara Police Lines ground this afternoon, reports BNA.

Rahman, Ismail and Nuruddin scored for Nabajatrik while Shahid, Salim and Karim got the goals for Pioneers.

In the other match of the day Golden Mishuk defeated Madarbari Muktakanta 3-0 to earn full points. Rupan, Suklal and Ferdous scored the goals.

German morale at its peak

SHEFFIELD, England, Aug 8: Germany, propelled by teenage prodigy Franziska Van Almsick, expect the momentum gained at the European Swimming Championships to carry them to the top of the world next year, reports Reuter.

German team officials said the nine swimming and four diving titles they had won going into the final day today marked their return ahead of the 1994 World Championships in Rome.

"We have not yet reached our pinnacle," Ralph Beckmann, German Swimming Federation team manager, told reporters after Saturday evening's finals. "We hope to reach it next year."

German swimming fortunes fell on relatively lean times after the collapse of communist East Germany and the demise of its heavily state-funded sport and many intensive training schools.

The United German team won only four swimming titles plus two diving golds at the last European Championships in Athens in 1991.

Nearly all the team's top medal winners are from former East Germany.

Van Almsick, at 15 the last in the line of East German "Wundermaedchen" who dominated women's swimming for so long, has helped win five of the titles secured before the last day.

Van Almsick said training swimmers was difficult due to a lack of funding for the sport in Unified Germany.

"A lot of swimming pools have closed down around Germany," she said, adding that swimmers often had to compete with other athletes for the little space available in the country's remaining facilities.

In the Berlin club where she trains, only three lanes are available to swimmers, she said.

Hunger, who won gold at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and took bronze in Barcelona in 1992, set the lead on the opening butterfly and won the race by more than 1-1/2 seconds in 2:15.33.

Pankratov, silver medalist in Wednesday's 100 butterfly, left defending champion Franck Esposito for dead by setting a ferocious pace from the start.

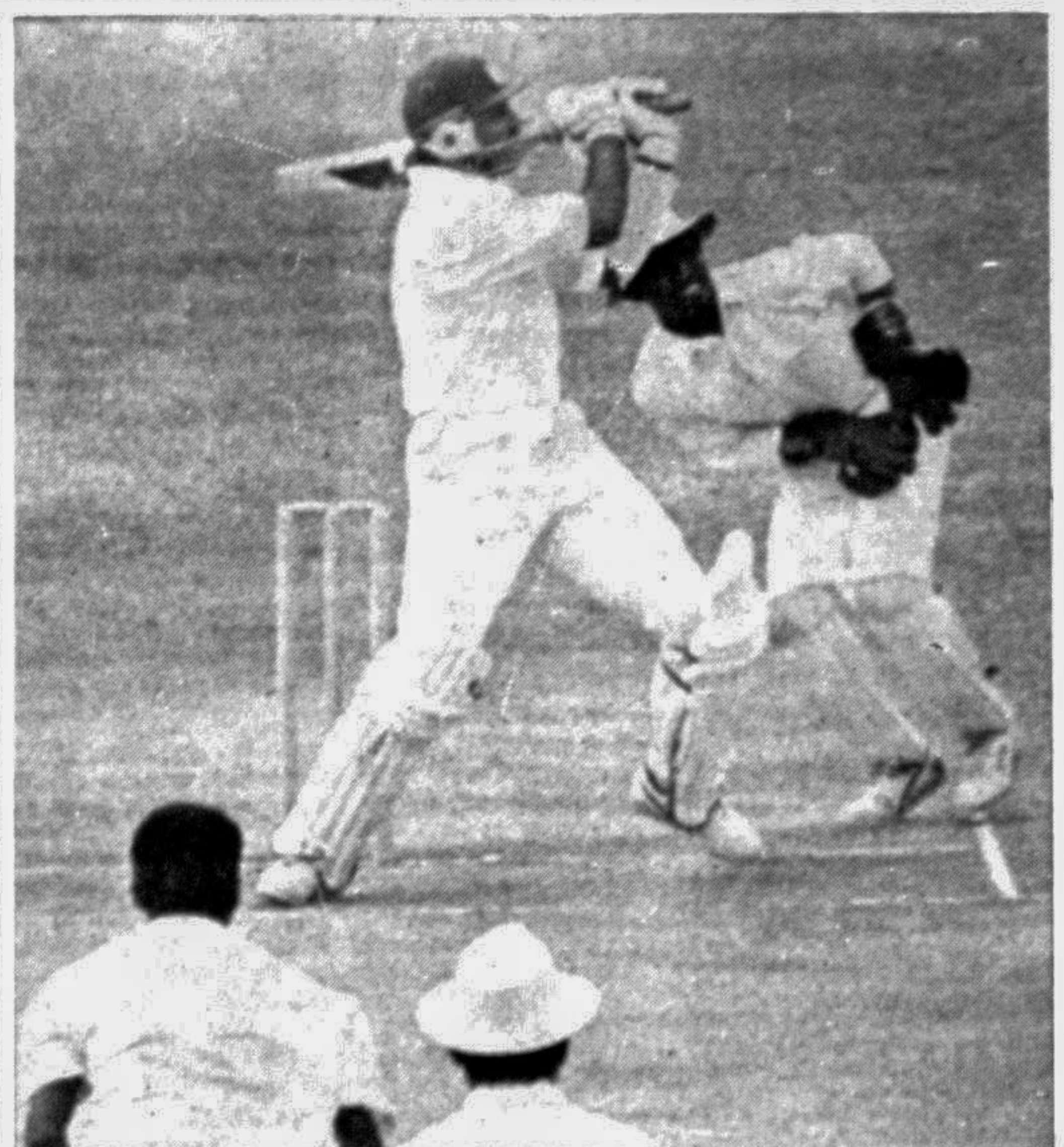
The 19-year-old Russian hurtled through the 100-metre far ahead of the Frenchman in 55.13 — 0.47 of a second inside world record schedule — and surged on to win by a crushing margin of well over two seconds.

Pankratov, still just inside world record schedule entering the final length, won in one minute 56.25 seconds — fading outside American Mel Stewart's 1:55.69 world mark and just 0.01 of a second outside the European record of Germany's Michael Gross.

Esposito, fastest in the heats, took the silver in 1:58.66 and Cris-Carol Bremer of Germany the bronze in 2:00.33.

Pankratov won in the absence of 1989 European champion Tamas Darnyi of Hungary, who pulled out of the heats to concentrate on today's 200 metres individual medley.

Former Olympic champion Daniela Hunger took the women's 200 metres individual medley for the third successive time, never letting anyone near her in the final.



Indian skipper Mohammed Azharuddin pulls one off Sri Lankan spinner Muttiah Muralidharan only to be caught by Promodya Wickremasinghe during India's first innings on the fourth day of third and final Test in Colombo yesterday. Azhar made 50 in Indian total of 446. Lankan wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwithrana is the other man in the picture. — AFP photo

Lankans opt to play safe



COLOMBO, Aug 8: In a bid to save the match Sri Lanka were engaged in a run-crawl on the fourth day of the third Test here Sunday, reports AFP.

At close, Sri Lanka had erased a 95-run deficit by scoring 132 for 1 at close in 250 minutes of batting in their second innings.

Opener Roshan Mahanama finally regained his form against India making an unbeaten 67 with eight boundaries.

He first put on 75 runs with opener Chandika Hathurusinghe (22) and added 57 more runs for an unbroken second wicket with left-hander Asanka Gurusinha who made 34 not out.

The drab performance by Sri Lanka was only overshadowed by an incident concerning Indian pace bowler Manoj Prabhakar who was questioned by umpire B. C. Cooray after an examination of the ball.

In the bowler's ninth over, Cooray once inspected the condition of the ball before speaking to Prabhakar and vice-captain Sachin Tendulkar who was acting for indisposed skipper Mohammed Azharuddin.

Television replays showed Cooray making a careful examination of the ball. The ball was later inspected by Australia match referee Peter Burge.

But the umpires would not be drawn into controversy.

"There is nothing to worry about," Cooray told reporters when asked if Prabhakar had tampered with the ball. Burge also refused to comment.

Officials from both the Indian and Sri Lankan team management were not immedi-

ately available for comment on the incident involving Prabhakar.

Play was further marred when Prabhakar glared at umpire Cooray who turned down an appeal for leg before against Mahanama making Cooray to have a few words with Prabhakar once again.

Relations between the two sides have already been strained following accusations of sledging and dissent by Indian players in the second Test.

Burge had asked the two teams to conduct themselves properly on the field following a meeting between the two sides after the second Test.

Earlier off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan claimed four wickets for 19 runs to help Sri Lanka bowl out India for 446, a first innings lead of 95 runs over the home side.

Azharuddin, who is suffering from a bout of influenza, could add just three runs to his overnight 47 before departing for 50 in the first over from Muralidharan. The off-spinner finished with figures of 4 for 136.

The extent of Sri Lanka's stubborn batting display is reflected by the fact that they took just over three hours to erase the 95-run deficit.

With just one more day remaining, Sri Lanka can only play for a draw after entering the match with hopes of equalising the three-Test series.

India lead the series 1-0 with a 235-win in the second Test. The first Test was abandoned as a draw due to rain.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third and final cricket Test between India and Sri Lanka today:

SRI LANKA: 1st innings
351

INDIA: 1st innings (overnight)
384 (for five)

M Prabhakar c Jayasuriya	
b Wickremasinghe	55
N Sidhu c Kaluwithrana	
b Wickremasinghe	39
V Kambl lbw	
b Warnawera	120
S Tendulkar c Ranatunga	
b Hathurusinghe	71
M Azharuddin	
c Wickremasinghe	50
P Amre c Kaluwithrana	
b Wickremasinghe	21
A Kumble b Muralidharan	9
Kapil Dev lbw b Warnawera	27
R More c and b Muralidharan	4
R Chauhan not out	15
S Raju c Jayasuriya	
b Muralidharan	1
Extras (B-5, lb-2, nb-16, w-1)	34
Total: (all out, 151, 1 overs, 628 mins)	446
Fall of wickets: 1-86; 2-109; 3-271; 4-334; 5-384; 6-388; 7-397; 8-409; 9-437 (Kapil): 446 (Raju).	

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Wickremasinghe	38	8	95	3
Gurusinha	11	1	27	0
Warnawera	23	2	86	2
Hathurusinghe	20	6	52	1
Ranatunga	4	2	2	0
Muralidharan	47.1	12	136	4
Jayasuriya	8	2	30	0

SRI LANKA: Second innings
R Mahanama not out 67
C Hathurusinghe c sub (W.Raman) b Raju 22
A Gurusinha not out 34
Extras: (b-6, lb-2, nb-1) 9
Total: (for one wicket) 132
Fall of wickets: 1-75.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Kapil Dev	9	4	12	0
Prabhakar	12	3	25	0
Kumble	11	4	17	0
Raju	18	3	39	1
Chauhan	16	2	31	0

Pankratov steals Esposito's thunder



SHEFFIELD, England, Aug 8: Russia's Denis Pankratov stormed to victory in the men's 200 metres butterfly at the European Swimming Championships on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Pankratov, silver medalist in Wednesday's 100 butterfly, left defending champion Franck Esposito for dead by setting a ferocious pace from the start.

The 19-year-old Russian hurtled through the 100-metre far ahead of the Frenchman in 55.13 — 0.47 of a second inside world record schedule — and surged on to win by a crushing margin of well over two seconds.

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Former Olympic champion Daniela Hunger took the women's 200 metres individual medley for the third successive time, never letting anyone near her in the final.

Hunger, who won gold at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and took bronze in Barcelona in 1992, set the lead on the opening butterfly and won the race by more than 1-1/2 seconds in 2:15.33.

Daria Shmeleva of Russia gained her second Sheffield individual medley silver in 2:16.90, having also finished second in Tuesday's 400 event. Spain's Silvia Parera took the bronze in 2:17.06.

Olympic champion Alexander Popov clinched his third gold of the week with victory in the men's 50 metres free-style but the race was marred by three disqualifications, including both home British swimmers.

The race got off to a controversial start with 1991 joint bronze medalist Mike Fibbens of Britain disqualified for a false start the referee deemed to have been deliberate.

Fibbens raised his arms in disbelief and the crowd whistled in disapproval at what looked a harsh decision.

With one false start already registered — and only one allowed in the event — the race had to go ahead on the second start.

After Popov had won a thriller and the results had flashed up on the electronic scoreboard, two more disqualifications for false starts were announced — short-course world record holder Mark Foster of Britain, who had touched fourth, and Vladimir Tkachenko

of Ukraine. Popov won in 22.27 seconds but was given a tough battle by Christoph Klafayan of France (22.39) and Raimundas Ma-

and Olympics, overhauled Dalby after they had passed 600 metres but did not finally see of the Norwegian's challenge until the last half-length.

Henke won in 8:32.47, with Dalby second in 8:33.77 and 17-year-old Czech, Olga Splichalova, the fastest qualifier, third in 8:36.59.

Britain's Sarah Hardcastle, who retired in 1986 having won an Olympic bronze in 1984, finished sixth as the continued her major championship comeback.

Spain's Martin Lopez-Zubero gained revenge over Vladimir Selkov, his conqueror in Thursday's 2000 back-stroke, by defeating the Russian and winning the 100 back-stroke title for the third successive time. Selkov seized an early lead, as he did in the 200, and hit the 50-metre turn just ahead of the Florida-based Spaniard.