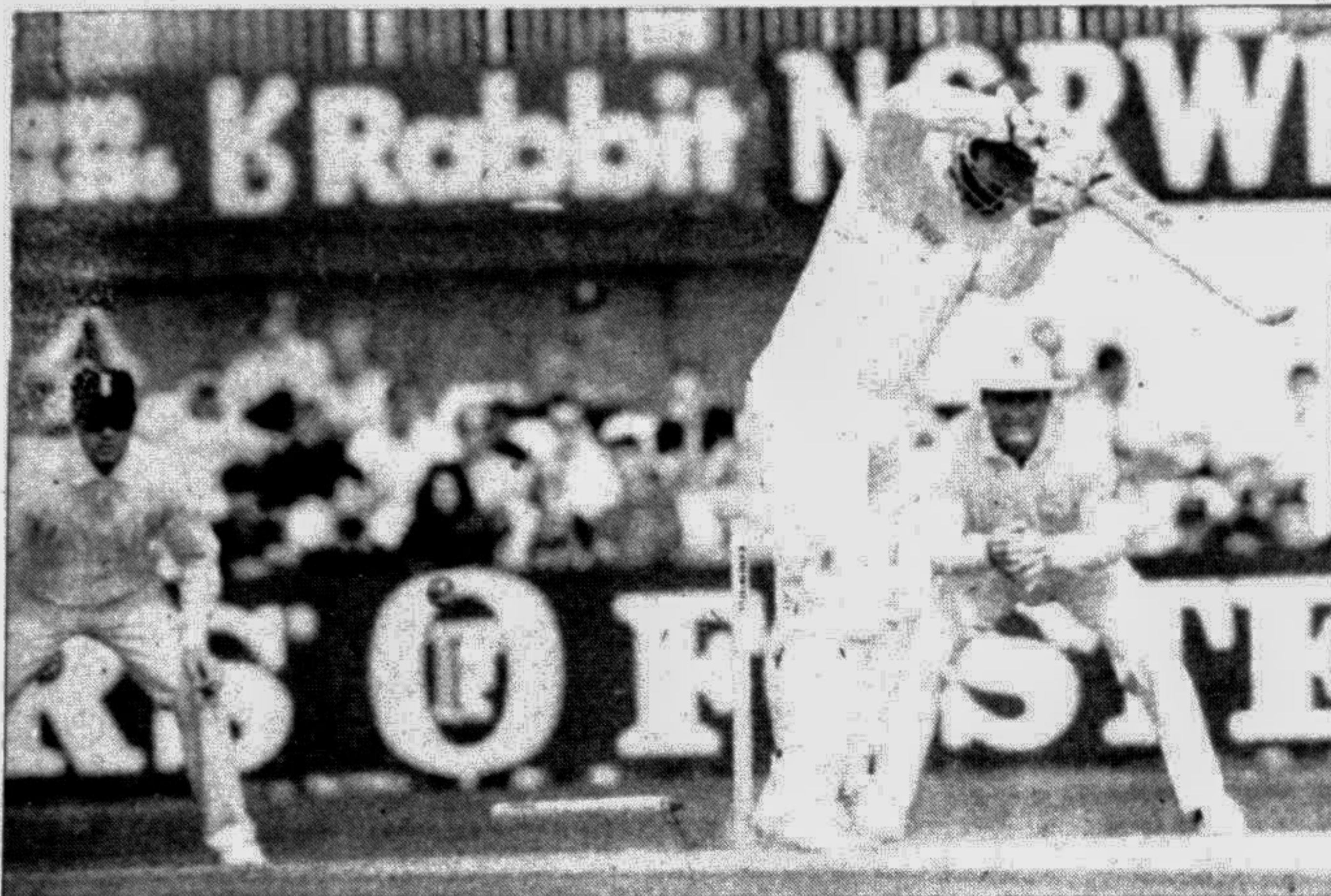


Sport



START OF THE ROT: Mark Taylor, the phlegmatic Aussie opener, drags a delivery from paceman Steve Watkin on to his stumps yesterday, the final day of the last Test of the Ashes series. England won the sixth Test at the Oval by 161 runs, but could not stop the rampaging rivals from winning the series 4-1. — AFP photo

Rakib still ahead in schools chess

Sports Reporter
Abdullah Al Rakib of Narayanganj High School maintained his position atop the points table of the eighth schools chess championship with full six points at the end of the sixth round at the chess room of the National Sports Council yesterday.

Saiful Kabir, Rufful Islam Bobby, and Tipu Sultan were in the second position with five points each.

Abu Sufian, Mahfuzur Rahman Imon and Shabbir Ahmed were among those who garnered four and a half points.

Hossain Arif who lost to Rakib yesterday joined the longish list of competitors with four points each. His fourth ranked peers were Yanur Rahman, Monwar Noor, Ismail Hossain, Qamruzzaman, Arif Masuduzzaman, Sharafat, Sajeda, Jasim Ghani, Rowzatul Aftab and Adnan Faisal.

Angels fly into final

Sports Reporter
Holders Angels flew into the final of the Purabi General Insurance 6th Federation Cup basketball championship with a huge 92-37 victory against Khulna Abahani in the lone semifinal played yesterday at the wooden floor gymnasium.

The winners, who would play the winners of the Eagles-Josephites match in the final, led the first half 36-12.

Siddiq was the topscorer for the victors with 24 points followed by 20 and 18 from Dulal and Mamun.

Manju with 17 and Chenab with eight were the main scorers for the losers.

The second semifinal will be played today.

Niaz fares well in Qatar

Sports Reporter
Bangladeshi Grand Master Niaz Murshed was tied at the top of the points table with Russian Grand Master Vasiukov with five points each in the second Qatar International Chess tournament in Doha according to a wired message received here in Dhaka last night.

However the Bangladeshi GM has played eight matches for his five points, one less than his Russian counterpart.

Niaz is closely followed by Sakhaev, another Russian GM who has garnered four and a half points from seven matches.

The eleven-round meet which began on August 16 concludes on August 27.

Roof ruins regale

SANTIAGO, Aug 23: A roof collapsed at an exhibition soccer match between Spanish First-Division club Real Madrid and Chilean team Colo Colo on Sunday, injuring 37 people, four of them seriously, reports AP.

A capacity crowd of more than 66,000 was watching the match at Colo Colo's Monumental Stadium when, police said, a light roof covering part of the stands collapsed under a number of fans sitting on it.

At Santiago's main emergency hospital, doctor Marcelo Caceres said one of the injured fans had to be sent to a neurological hospital with serious head injuries.

It was Real Madrid second and last exhibition game in Chile. Last Friday, they played to a 2-2 tie with University of Chile.

England get the cat's whiskers at last as Aussies wilt at the Oval

LONDON, Aug 23: England gained some consolation for their Ashes drubbing by beating Australia for the first time since December 1986 at the Oval today, reports AFP.

The winning margin in the sixth and final Test was 161 runs, but as the Australian tailenders took the game into the final hour, the number of overs left became a more urgent factor for England.

Middlesex paceman Angus Fraser, named man-of-the-match on his return to Test cricket, finally ended their resistance by removing Paul Reffel and Shane Warne with 13.5 overs to go.

Captain Michael Atherton, a winner in his second game in charge, was immediately appointed to lead England for the tour of the West Indies in the coming winter.

After the match, Atherton praised his seam bowlers: "The wicket was still fairly good and it was a tremendous effort to take 10 wickets in a day."

Australian captain Allan Border, who had already reclaimed the Ashes by winning four of the first five Tests, was competitive to the end.

"It would have been good to finish a little bit better today," he said. "But England stuck it to us and it was a fine Test match."

Australia never recovered from a disastrous start to their second innings, which resumed on 1-0, within half an hour they were 30-3, and although several partnerships developed, none lasted long enough to deny England.

The England target of 391 was soon out of reach, and throughout the innings Australia lost wickets to a mixture of injudicious strokes and questionable decisions.

In the morning, Michael Slater was adjudged caught behind off a ball that seemed to clip his arm-guard. The key dismissal was that of Border — given caught at the wicket for 17 in a marginal decision.

Glamorgan seamer Steve Watkin made the early breakthroughs. Slater (12) was the first to go, followed immediately by David Boon, offering no shot to a ball that cut back. In his next over Watkin bowled Mark Taylor for eight off an inside edge.

Mark Waugh and his captain steadied the ship to lunch and took their stand to 62 before Border's controversial dismissal by Devon Malcolm.

The Derbyshire paceman, roared on by a growing crowd, claimed his second victim when Mark Waugh (49) mistimed a hook to Mark Ramprakash at deep backward square leg.

Ian Healy, on five, chipped a rising ball from Watkin over the slips only to see Matthew Maynard race back to take the catch.

Steve Waugh and Merv Hughes stemmed the tide for an hour and a half in a stand worth 36. Waugh (26) was eventually trapped plumb in front by a Malcolm Yorker.

Hughes ruined an uncharacteristically patient innings of 12 off 88 balls by pulling Angus Fraser to Steve Watkin.

Paul Reffel and Shane Warne held England at bay in a partnership of 74. Fraser finally calmed England's nerves by drawing Reffel into a return catch. Tim May was left four not out 12 runs later when Warne, nominated Australia's man-of-the-series, was beaten in front by Fraser.

England had not won a Test against any opposition since last August — losing nine and drawing one.

Australian team manager Bobby Simpson named the record-breaking Graham Gooch England's man-of-the-series.

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard from the sixth Test at the Oval today. England won by 161 runs.

ENGLAND: 1st Innings 380 (Rick 80, Stewart 76, Gooch 56, Atherton 50).

AUSTRALIA: 1st Innings 303 (Healy 83 not out, Taylor 70, Fraser 5-87).

ENGLAND: 2nd Innings 313 (G A Gooch 79, M R Ramprakash 64).

AUSTRALIA: 2nd Innings Slater C Stewart b Watkin 12 Taylor b Watkin 8 Boon lbw b Watkin 0 M Waugh c Ramprakash b Malcolm 49 Border c Stewart b Malcolm 17 S Waugh lbw b Malcolm 26 Healy c Maynard b Watkin 5 Hughes c Watkin b Fraser 12 Reffel c and b Fraser 42 Warne lbw b Fraser 37 May not out 4 Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-2, nb-7) 17 Total: 229

Fall of wickets: 1-23; 2-23; 3-30; 4-92; 5-95; 6-106; 7-142; 8-143; 9-217

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Malcolm	20	3	84	3
Watkin	25	9	65	4
Fraser	19.1	5	44	3
Such	9	4	17	0
Hick	8	3	11	0

Morris feat revs Glamorgan

LONDON, Aug 23: Glamorgan captain Hugh Morris set a run-scoring record for the Welsh County as they stayed top of the Sunday league with their 11th consecutive victory, reports Reuter.

Morris played a key role in his team's six-wicket win over Hampshire at Swansea by hitting 81, during which he passed the Glamorgan record of 650 runs in a league season held by Matthew Maynard.

Opener Morris's seventh half-century in 14 Sunday matches this season, which took 102 deliveries and contained a six and five fours, steadied Glamorgan as they pursued a victory target of 208 in their 50 overs.

Glamorgan were 76 for three in the 24th over but Morris and Tony Cottee, who struck 75 in 73 balls, thrust their side to success with a fourth-wicket stand of 111 in 22 overs.

England batsman Robin Smith, who hammered five sixes and four fours in his 75, and Paul Terry (48) spurred Hampshire to 207 for eight by sharing a second-wicket stand of 117 in 25 overs.

Glamorgan are two points ahead of second-placed Kent, with the two title chasers on course for a compelling showdown when they meet in the

last Sunday match of the season at canterbury on September 19.

Kent stayed firmly in the hunt after beating Worcestershire at Worcester on the narrowest of faster-scoring calculations in a rain-hit match.

The home side made 186 for nine at 3.72 per over and Kent improved their rate to 3.76 thanks to Matthew Fleming's two runs off the last ball before the final 12 overs of the game were washed out. Kent had reached 143 for five with West Indian Carl Hooper hitting 47.

Third-placed Surrey, 10 points behind the leaders, beat Derbyshire by five wickets at Ilkeston thanks to an unbeaten 81 from David Ward.

In a match reduced to 46 overs, Surrey recovered from 16 for three to surpass Derbyshire's 201, with Ward and Andy Smith (58) sharing a fourth-wicket stand of 113 in 27 overs.

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram fired Lancashire to victory by three wickets over arch-rivals Yorkshire at Old Trafford, Lashing 51 not out in 45 balls after Yorkshire had made 173 for nine.

Brazil beat Ecuador 2-0

SAO PAULO, Aug 23: Brazil beat Ecuador 2-0 (half-time 1-0) in a South America Group B World Cup qualifying soccer match on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Bebeto (34th minute), Dunga (56th). Attendance: 77,916.



BOOMERANGED: Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga curses himself as his straight drive off South African spinner Symcox hits the stumps by bowler's hands at the non-striker's end resulting in a rather unfortunate and rare dismissal of Sanath Jayasuriya, another southpaw during the washed-out first one-day international match between Sri Lanka and South Africa in Kandy on August 22. — AFP photo

Dhaka Stadium to stage 6th SAF Games ceremonies

The opening and closing ceremonies of the 6th South Asian Federation (SAF) Games will be held at the Dhaka National Stadium on December 20 and 27, reports UNB.

Dhaka will host the biggest sports extravaganza of the region from December 20-27 for the second time after the 2nd SAF Games in 1985.

The venue of the ceremonies will, however, be approved at a meeting of the Games organising committee at the Prime Minister's Office Wednesday. The committee comprises about 170 members.

The steering committee at a meeting at the conference room of National Sports Council Monday decided that the opening and closing ceremonies would be held at the Dhaka National Stadium, following recommendation of the committee on ceremonies and Chinese experts.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Olympic Association Bashir Ahmed told newsmen the same day that the Dhaka National Stadium had been chosen as the venue of the ceremonies considering its favourable sitting arrangement for gallery display and for the decency of mass display at the uniform ground without synthetic track.

Both the ceremonies of the 2nd SAF Games were held at Dhaka National Stadium.

The steering committee meeting, presided by its chairman State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, also discussed about transport facilities for about 1200 participants including about 300 host sportsmen.

Of the participants in the seven-nation meet, only Shri Lapka have so far sent their entry with a 150-member contingent.

The Royal Bengal Tiger has been selected as the "mascot" of the SAF Games while the Games' logo has been designed on the motif that merges Bangladesh's six seasons, the Bengali number six and the 6th SAF Games symbol.

The Games will include 11 disciplines of sports — athletics, swimming, shooting, Kabaddi, football, volleyball, tennis, table tennis, wrestling, boxing and judo.

A six-member Chinese team comprising three callisthenics experts, one musician, one designer and one interpreter is working on the programmes of the opening and closing ceremonies. They will also prepare Bangladeshi boys and girls for the ceremonies.

Argentina atop again

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 23: Argentina, survived a nervous last 20 minutes to beat Peru 2-1 and go back on top of their World Cup qualifying group on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Argentina had appeared to be heading for a handsome win when Gabriel Batistuta and Ramon Medina Bello put them two goals ahead in the first 38 minutes.

But Roberto Palacios pulled a goal back in the 68th minute to give the home fans a nerve-racking finale.

The result put Argentina back on top of South America Group A on goal difference from Colombia, who drew 1-1 away to Paraguay.

Sweden hold France

STOCKHOLM, Aug 23: Sweden and France drew 1-1 (half-time 0-0) in a World Cup European Group Six soccer qualifier on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Scorers: Sweden: Martin Dahlin (88th) France: Franck Sauzee (76th) Attendance: 30,500.

Glacé Graf's fifth on a trot

TORONTO, Canada, Aug 23: Steffi Graf won her fifth consecutive tournament on Sunday, coming back from a mid-match battering to beat American Jennifer Capriati 6-1, 0-6, 6-3 to win the 750,000 dollar Canadian Open, reports Reuter.

The top seeded Graf earned 150,000 for her victory at the hardcourt event and has now won five tournaments in a row dating back to the German Open in May.

Graf, ranked number one in the world, took the first set easily, winning five consecutive games after both players had held their opening serves.

"I couldn't have played much better in the first set," Graf said. "My forehand was working incredibly well."

In the second set, the sixth-seeded Capriati, capitalising on a rash of errors from Graf's vaunted forehand, turned things around and took just 24 minutes to record a rare love set (6-0) against the 24-year-old German.

The last was in May in the third round of the German Open in Berlin when her compatriot Sabine Hack won the first set 6-0 before losing 0-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Capriati, ranked number nine, lost her serve in the opening game of the final set and soon found herself trailing 1-5 as Graf regained the form she had displayed in the first set. "She cut down on her errors and won the key points," said the 17-year-old Capriati about the dramatic turnaround in the third set. "If I could have won the 3-1 game (she led 40-15), it might have turned things around."

Capriati, playing with renewed vigour and enthusiasm, which she attributed in part to not having the distraction of her studies because she is on summer holidays before her last year of high school, was pleased with her performance. "I'm very happy with the way I played and with the way I played to get to the final," she said.

"I sensed that if I could keep doing that she would eventually get tired. So I was disappointed to give the games away like nothing. I didn't fight for the points and that disturbed me a little bit."

A Canadian Open champion once before, in 1990, Graf got her game back together in the final set.

"I thought it would be a little harder to start the third set because of the way I finished the second. But I really pushed myself a lot."

Normally very circumspect about her personal life, Graf caused a stir during the post-match presentation ceremonies when a spectator called out, "I love you Steffi."

Her response was, "I'm taken."

The man in Graf's life is German racing car driver Michael Bartels, but she doesn't like to say anything about him.

"I don't really want to talk about that," Graf said at the post-match press conference when asked about her on-court remark.

Realising that she had opened a Pandora's box with her spontaneous response over the public address system in the 10,000-seat Centre Court, Graf added: "It's one thing that I've tried very hard to do — to keep my private life away from the spotlight."

In the doubles final, Latvia's Larisa Neiland and Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic defeated Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Helena Sukova, also of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2.



STEFFI GRAF

The match lacked the fire of Capriati's exciting semifinal with second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario on Saturday, won 7-6 (10-8), 6-2 by the American after a memorable 10-point first-set tiebreak. Graf and Capriati had stretches of playing very well, but seldom did they do so at the same time.

"I don't like to see the games go so fast," Graf said, speaking about the 6-0 second set. "In the first set, I had Jennifer on

Jim Courier's twin triumph

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 23: Jim Courier, making the most of a powerful forehand and an outdoor court, won the US Hardcourts title Sunday, beating Boris Becker 7-5, 6-3 for his first victory over the German star, reports AP.

Courier, who officially reclaims the No 1 ranking on the ATP tour on Monday, had lost six previous matches to Becker, the past five indoors.

"I went into it the way I think that I am playing outside," Courier said. "I think I have good chances against him of any surface and outdoors particularly, a better chance. So I went in feeling pretty positive."

This was Courier's fifth tournament victory of the year, bringing a prize of \$152,000.

Becker was playing in a title match for the first time since he defeated Sergi Bruguera on Feb 14 in Milan, Italy. He had won this tournament twice and was in the final for the fourth time.

"The difference in our past matches have also been very narrow," Becker said. "He is stronger on a hardcourt."

There was only one service break in each set in the 1 hour, 49 minute match. The match included only 11 break points, with Courier saving all four against him.

"He didn't give me too many of those second serves. He started to serve really well," Becker said. "His first serve percentage was over 60 per cent. That is very high. The bottom line is that he really played great tennis... It was a good shot from his side or a winner from my side."

Becker tried to catch his opponent out of position, but Courier's quick moves kept him in most of the points.

Three came in the ninth game of the opening set when Courier fell behind 15-40. An unforced error saved one point and Courier whipped a passing shot into the corner to bring the game to deuce. Courier gained an advantage with an ace, and after Becker brought the game back to deuce, he gained another break point with a backhand passing shot.

"If I didn't save those break points, he is probably going to serve out the set," Courier said. "Then he is going to be on a bit more of a high going into the second set."



JIM COURIER

shot into the corner to bring the game to deuce. Courier gained an advantage with an ace, and after Becker brought the game back to deuce, he gained another break point with a backhand passing shot.

"In the first set I served extremely well and then in the second not as good," Becker said. "What it was, probably not hitting as high enough on the serve or not getting my legs up as quickly as in the first set. All of those things made a difference."

Medvedev grit sinks Korda

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Aug 23: Andrei Medvedev battled back Sunday as he had all week, taking advantage of 42 unforced errors by Petr Korda for a 7-5, 6-4 victory to win the \$1.04 million Volvo International, reports AP.

Medvedev, who was two points away from being knocked out of the tournament in the second round against Tommy Ho, was down 5-3 in the first set against Korda and facing double-set point with Korda serving at 40-15. Medvedev

then won 17 of the next 21 points, breaking Korda twice, to win the first set.

"I didn't break him. He was breaking himself," Medvedev said.

Medvedev then broke Korda in the fifth game of the second set and went on to win his sixth career title, his first on hardcourt. His five previous titles, including victories this year at Estoril and Barcelona, had all come on clay.

Medvedev, who said his legs "felt like bombs" following a three-set victory over Andre Agassi on Saturday night, said he knew that although Korda had broken him in two of his first three service games that Korda wasn't playing well.

"I looked at Petr and I realized he was not having a great time. I realized that if I lifted up through the pain and started to play better that would make him go down deeper," he said.

But it was more a case of Medvedev serving a little better, moving a little better and giving Korda a chance to make mistakes. Medvedev had only five winners in the first set, all of them coming on service winners. With Korda making 27 unforced errors in the set, it's all he needed.

"When I was down then I knew the only chance to stay was to serve well and to run on his serve," Medvedev said. "That's what I did and Petr just made too many unforced errors. That gave me confidence. That let me back in."

Korda, the fourth seed of the

tournament, had advanced to his first final this year without facing a seeded player. It was the third come-from-behind win in the tournament for Medvedev.

Medvedev, who will turn 19 next week, beat Agassi by overpowering him with his serving, making 23 aces. On Sunday he had only four, three coming in one game, and wasn't nearly as overpowering. But he said he expected that.

"I realized that last night was a joke," he said. "My coach told me to forget this night. This is special. Twenty-three aces is too much. Don't try to do it again."

Fresh fillip for Berlin bid

BERLIN, Aug 23: Berlin, running behind in the pack hoping to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000, took new heart on Monday from the success of the World Athletics Championships in Stuttgart, reports Reuter.

Mayor Eberhard Diepgen said he expected a "photo-finish" when the International Olympic Committee (IOC) made its decision in Monte Carlo on September 23.

But the smooth organisation and enthusiastic crowds in Stuttgart during the championships, which ended on Sunday, gave Berlin a boost for the last lap of its race, he said.

"Stuttgart has shown once again that Germany offers perfect organisation for large sports events," Diepgen said.

Soothing visit of Chinese officials

TAIPEI, Aug 23: Two officials of China's Olympic Committee arrived in Taiwan on Monday, becoming the most senior Chinese sports officials to visit since the end of the Civil War in 1949, reports Reuter.

He Zhenliang, head of China's Olympic Committee, and committee's secretary-general Wei Jizhong will attend a meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia.

The two day meeting, which begins in Taipei on Tuesday, will discuss preparations for the Asian Games in 1994 and 1998.

Taiwan, which claims sovereignty over China, has restricted visits by Chinese holding posts in the Communist Party, government and military since 1949.