

## BCCB Ten let Athar down

Sports Reporter

An excellent allround performance by Athar Ali Khan went in vain as Bangladesh Cricket Control Board XI lost a friendly over-limit match with Services Eleven by two wickets in Hyderabad, India yesterday, according to a faxed message received at the BCCB office last night.

The tall allrounder stood amid the ruins of BCCB XI innings with 45 and then captured six wickets to set up an improbable win but in the end ran out of overs, allowing the opponents to scrape through.

Batting first, BCCB XI were all out for 138 in 49.2 overs, four balls short of their quota of 50 overs.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, Abu Hamid Piyal and Enamul Huq Moni were the other run makers with 21, 20 and 15 respectively. Panda with two for 12, Mani with two for 16 and S P Sharma with one for 17 were the wicket takers for Services.

Services overtook the score in 43 overs. C Sharma chipped in with an unbeaten 40 in Services' innings of 141 for eight, devastated by a telling spell of medium pace bowling from Athar Ali. Athar took six wickets for 27 in his 10-over stint.

## Hero's welcome for Nigerian under-17 squad

LAGOS, Sept 10: Thousands of Nigerians turned out on Thursday to welcome home their country's junior side who won the under-17 world soccer championship in Tokyo last Saturday, reports Reuter.

The team returned to Nigeria on Wednesday night and were received by interim head of state Ernest Shonekan.

Shonekan announced rewards of 100,000 Naira (8,000 dollars) each for members of the team but said they would get half in cash and the rest in blue chips investments. They are also being awarded scholarships up to university level.

National sports commission chairman Alex Akinjide said the team would be based at a training camp for more than two years to enable them to mature into the national team.

The Nigerians won the championship when they beat African rivals and defending champions Ghana 2-1.

The victory temporarily set aside Nigeria's current political crisis as the nation erupted in jubilation.

## Dahlin keeps Sweden afloat

SOFIA, Sept 10: Martin Dahlin hit a vital equaliser as Sweden kept their World Cup hopes on track with a 1-1 draw away to Bulgaria on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Barcelona's Hristo Stoichkov put Bulgaria ahead with a penalty in the 21st minute, but Dahlin struck five minutes later to leave Sweden just one point behind France in second place in European Group Six and two ahead of the Bulgarians.

Only group strugglers Finland and Austria now stand between Sweden and a place in 1994 finals.

Stoichkov made the most of his debut as captain, putting Bulgaria ahead after Ian Eriksson tripped Emil Kostadinov.

Within five minutes the tables were turned when Dahlin capitalised on a blunder by Trifon Ivanov and stormed through a distraught defence to fire home the equaliser.

Krasimir Balakov netted in the 63rd minute only to be ruled offside.

Swedish coach Tommy Svensson observed: "Qualifying for the finals is now just a matter of time."

## Asian Cup Winners soccer result

YOKOHAMA, Japan, Sept 10: Takuya Jinno scored twice Wednesday night, powering the Yokohama Marinos of Japan to a 5-0 triumph over Air Force Philippines in a game of the 4th Asian Cup Winners Championship, reports AP.

Playing in a drizzle, Jinno scored his first goal in the 19th minute on a header, and Ketschi Zaiten shot past four defenders for Japan's second goal with five minutes left in the first half.

The Marinos, seeking their third straight title in this tournament, played most of the first half in Philippine territory, threatening with seven shots against two by the Philippines, winner of the Ugarte Cup.

Jinno threatened with another second-half cross shot, and the crowd of more than 4,200 in Yokohama's Mitsuzawa Stadium cheered the good save by Philippine goalkeeper Melo Sabacan.

# MSC half way through

Sports Reporter



Title seekers Mohammedan Sporting Club were half way through their target when they recorded their fifth consecutive win in the second round of the Star Premier Division league, beating a revamped Arambagh Krira Sangstha 2-0 at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Desperately looking for the Senior Division league title after being in the wilderness for the last two years, Mohammedans yesterday scored in each half to up their collection to 26 points from 15 matches so far.

Arambagh, who gave their fancied opponents a tough time in their first encounter despite losing 1-3, had three Thai play-

bagh's new Thai custodian (reportedly the number two national goalkeeper) outshone all others.

Jivotnikov, who has already scored two hat-tricks excluding another treble for the black and whites in an international match against New Radiant Club of Maldives, upped his individual tally to 11. He now leads the list of top goal-getters ahead of his teammate Imtiaz Ahmed Naki.

Cheize, on the other hand, convinced almost everyone present at the field about his class saving at least three certain goals from either the feet or heads of the marauding Mohammedan attackers.

The winners did not have to wait long for their first goal. It came about the tenth minute of

Mohammedans dominated the proceedings. Although Arambagh staged infrequent squally moves, the tough alert Mohammedan defence took care of them without much fuss.

The bubble of doubts over the outcome of the match finally evaporated 24 minutes from time when Oleg Jivotnikov scored the second goal of the match. He latched on to a lovely Aslam-Shabbir build up and finished the ball into the net past a helpless Cheize.

### TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN SC: Lahool, Roman, Kaiser, Jewell Rana, Barun, Titu (Ekram Rana), Arman, Mourat, Shabbir, Aslam and Jivotnikov (Naki).

ARAMBAGH KS: Cheize,



Action from yesterday's Star Premier Division football league match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Arambagh Krira Sangstha at the Dhaka Stadium. Mohammedans maintained their all win record in the second phase of the ten-team tier with a comfortable 2-0 win.

ers — goalie Cheize, and frontliners Samart and Prosang — in their ranks last night.

Expectations of a raspy ride for Mohammedans were rife in the air among the sizeable holiday crowd, who thronged at the stadium to see the sparks of clash of six foreign players evenly distributed in the two outfits.

In the end, striker Oleg Jivotnikov, one of Mohammedans' three Russians and Aram-

bagh's defender Deblu, who had scored his lone goal in the first phase clash of the two teams, fouled MSC skipper Shabbir on the right flank. Taguive Mourat the Russian medio who has already distinguished himself as a dead ball lifter, swirled the ball across the Arambagh goal and tall sweeper Kaiser Hamid outjumped his marker to find the net (1-0).

Relaxed by the early success,

Dabloo, Azmat, Sunny, Ekram, Anwar, Kamal, Tushar, Jahangir sr, Samrat, Prosang.

The Star First Division football league encounter between Dhanmondi and BRTC at the Hockey Stadium ended in a goalless draw.

### TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani KC vs Rahmatganj MFS (6 pm)  
Adamjee vs Bangladesh Boys (4 pm)

# Maradona comes back again



BUENOS AIRES, Sept 10: Diego Maradona has signed with Argentine First Division Newell's Old Boys, his agent Marcos Franchi said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

"We sorted out details with Newell's people which we could not work out with other clubs," Franchi told the private Telefe television channel.

The 32-year-old former Argentina captain had been courted by several First Division teams, including San Lorenzo and his first club Argentinos Juniors, since he walked out on Spain's Sevilla in June.

But Newell's Old Boys, from Rosario 300 kms north of Buenos Aires, offered Maradona the best overall package, including pay and playing conditions. The amounts were not disclosed.

Newell's finished bottom of the Clausura First Division Championship in June.

Maradona's second comeback could prompt Argentina coach Alfio Basile to call him up for crucial World Cup playoffs against Australia next month and in November.

The player and coach seem to have patched up their differences after a row brought on by Basile's failure to summon Maradona for the South American qualifiers in which the twice world champions narrowly escaped a shock elimination last weekend.

Maradona, who came back from Seville threatening to bow out of the game, said Basile's unbeaten run dating back to 1991 had gone to the trainer's head.

The unbeaten sequence ended at 31 matches when Argentina were beaten by Colombia away on August 15. A second 5-0 thrashing by Colombia in Buenos Aires on Sunday left Argentina in second place in their group and needing to beat Australia for a place in next year's finals in the United States.

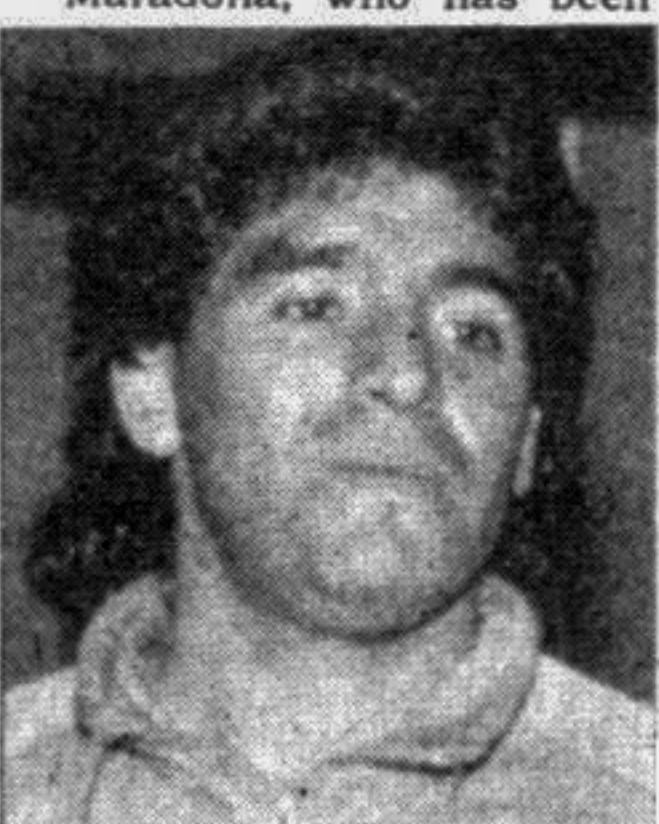
Maradona couldn't be reached for comment, but said Wednesday night he was "anxious to begin playing" and said he hoped to join his new club Monday or Tuesday.

Maradona completed a season in Spain with Sevilla in June. He then returned to Argentina and announced he was retiring, a promise he has made and broken several times since the spring of 1991, when he was suspended for 15 months because of a positive test for cocaine use.

He has played just two games for Argentina's national team since the 1990 World Cup, on Feb 18 and Feb 24 of this

year, but Argentina coach Alfio Basile said Wednesday he plans to recall Maradona if the forward is in good physical condition.

Maradona, who has been



DIEGO MARADONA

training with a third-division team, has said his condition will be "faultless" by late October.

The Argentine First Division championships will begin next Sunday and Maradona will have

six games in which to show is condition before the first game against Australia. Maradona led Argentina to the 1986 World Cup title and a second-place finish in 1990.

Maradona began his professional career with Argentinos Juniors and led Boca Juniors to the national championships before transferring to Barcelona of the Spanish League for the 1982-83. After two seasons in Spain, he transferred to Napoli, where he led his club to its first two Italian League titles and the 1989 UEFA Cup. Following his suspension, which ended July 1, 1992, he transferred to Seville but had a lackluster season.

Newell's Old Boys, founded by former pupils of an English school in Rosario and popularly known as "The Leapers" were not relegated despite finishing bottom of the Clausura because of a system of averages in placings over the past few seasons.

They last won the Argentine league title in 1991.

## Australia host Argentina on October 31

ZURICH, Sept 10: Australia's World Cup soccer qualifier against Argentina will be played on October 31 at the Sydney Football Stadium, FIFA said today, reports Reuter.

The second leg will be in Buenos Aires on a date between November 14 and 17. A final decision on the Argentine date is expected in the next few days.

The winners qualify for next year's World Cup finals.

## Nebiolo knew it all along

LONDON, Sept 10: International athletics chief Primo Nebiolo said on Thursday he was not surprised at the world 10,000 metres record set by China's Wang Junxia on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Wang slashed an astonishing 42 seconds off the world mark when she clocked 29 minutes 31.78 seconds in Beijing.

"I personally was not surprised after the results of the Chinese athletes at the World Junior Championships in Seoul last year," International Amateur Athletic Federation president Nebiolo told a news conference on the eve of the Grand Prix final at Crystal Palace.

"In Seoul I saw that athletes from China were extremely strong. I had the impression that they would be the surprise of the future."



A sleepy Liu Dong of China crosses the finish line to set a new Asian record in women's 800 metres with a timing of 1 minute 55.54 seconds at the 7th national games in Beijing, China on September 9. Liu was 1500m champion in the recently concluded World Athletics Championship in Stuttgart, Germany.

## Zimbabwe bounce back

LONDON, Sept 10: Surrey were 114-6 in their second innings, a lead of 197, at the close of the second day of their three-day match against Zimbabwe at the Oval on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Scores: Surrey 304-7 declared and 114-6, Zimbabwe 221-9 declared.

## Glamorgan may sign Richards for one year more

LONDON, Sept 10: Former West Indies captain Viv Richards could still play another season in English County cricket, according to his Glamorgan captain Hugh Morris, reports Reuter.

Commenting on suggestions Richards was seeking a contract with another county instead of retiring, Morris said on Thursday: "He may be 41 but he's certainly fit enough to continue playing first-class cricket. We've had a very good fielding side this season and Viv has been about the best of the team."

Champions Middlesex, hit for an unbeaten 224 by Richards earlier this season, were presented with the championship trophy at a soggy Lords, skipper Mike Gatting picking up a cheque for 47,500 pounds sterling (73,560 dollars).

Gatting then hinted the time was drawing near for him to pass the captaincy on to a younger man.

"It would be unfair for me to stay on too long and I've got to judge when it is best for the club for me to stand down in favour of someone else," he said.

Heavy rain restricted the first day of a new round of four-day matches, although Northamptonshire and Leicestershire both enjoyed themselves.

Despite losing West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose with a recurrence of a groin strain, Northamptonshire were still able to roll over Derbyshire for a meagre 127. Kevin Curran taking four for 35. Leicestershire paceman David Mills was also in good late season form, taking five for 21 as Hampshire folded to 115 all out.

## Booster for Burruchaga

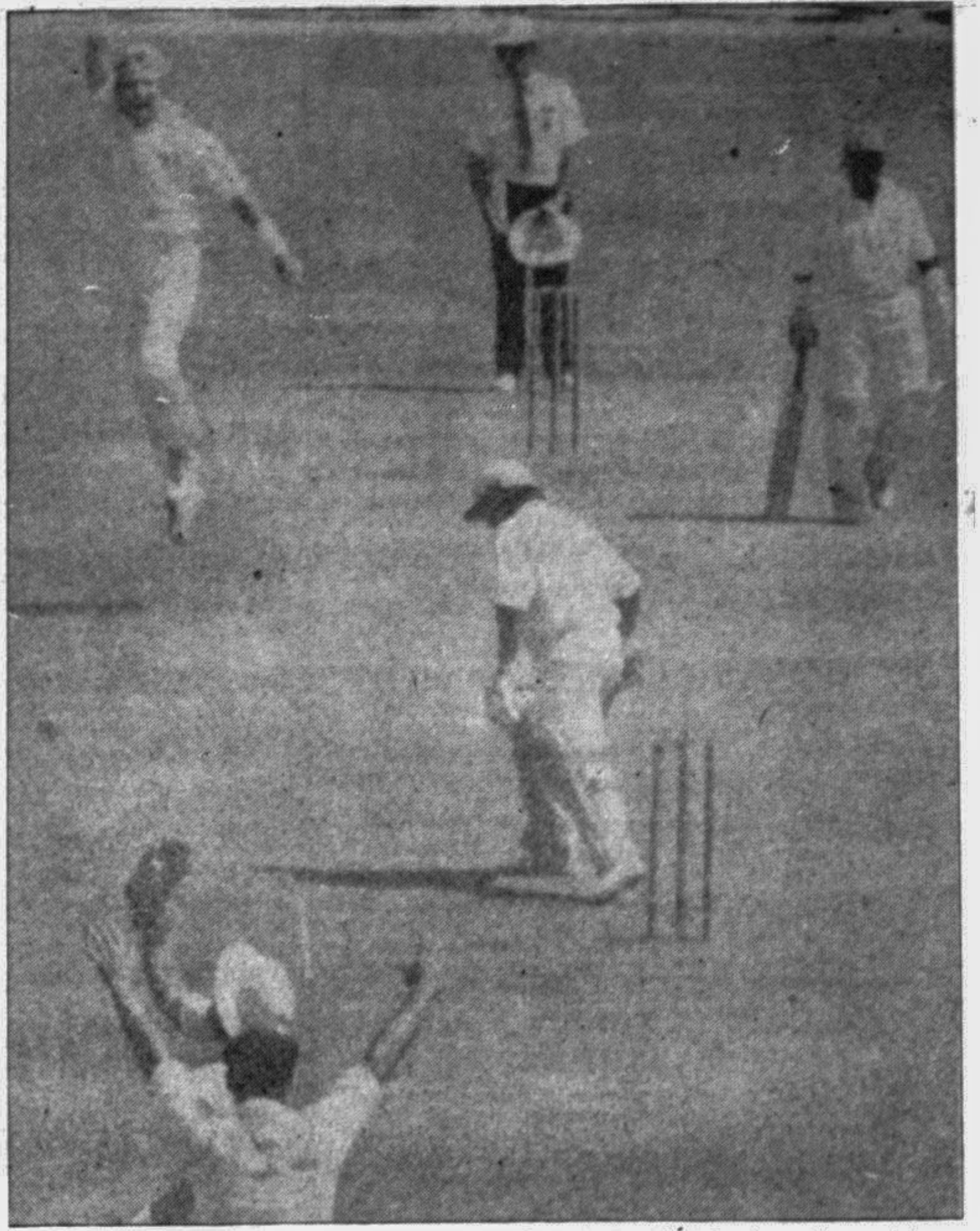
VALENCIENNES, France, Sept 10: Argentine midfielder Jorge Burruchaga, one of the players involved in the Marseille bribery scandal, on Wednesday won a court battle he hopes will give him the right to return to soccer in his home country, reports Reuter.

Burruchaga, scorer of the goal which gave Argentina victory in the 1986 World Cup final, has been unable to play since he was suspended in May by his club Valenciennes after saying he had been offered a bribe by Marseille to throw a match.

A Valenciennes industrial court ruled that the club had broken his contract, which still had a year to run. The club lodged an appeal.

Burruchaga said afterwards he now hoped to return to soccer in Argentina. "I'm happy. I can now show the proof that I am not under contract to another club to the Argentine Federation," he said.

However, they have been told they should not expect to play soccer in France while inquiries are continuing.



South African paceman Brett Schultz rejoices after winning Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga's edge on the fourth day of the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday. The batsman at the non-striker's end is Aravinda de Silva. South Africa went one up in the three-Test series with a resounding innings and 208-run triumph.

— AFP photo

# S Africans smother Lankans



COLOMBO, Sept 10: South Africa scored a resounding innings and 208 runs victory over Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the second Test today, reports Reuter.

Fast bowler Richard Snell claimed the last wicket in Sri Lanka's second innings when he had Pubudu Dassanayake caught behind for 10 six minutes before lunch.

Shri Lanka, facing a first innings deficit of 32, were dismissed for 119 after starting the day on 49-4.

Wicketkeeper Dave Richardson had a rich haul of eight catches in the match supporting the fast bowlers well. Left-armers Brett Schultz took four for 58 to end with a match bag of 9 for 100 and the man-of-the-match award.

The win put South Africa one up in the three-Test series. The first Test was drawn.

The victory was South Africa's biggest in a Test since beating New Zealand at Wellington in 1952-53 by an innings and 180 runs.

Skipper Kepler Wessels praised his pace attack and Pramodya Wickremasinghe who indulged in an entertaining stand of 25 in 22 minutes.

"I always had a high respect for him. He plays in the same province with me. He is slowly gaining a lot of experience. Being left-handed, being quick and aggressive he is always going to be an attribute," he said.

But Wessels said he expected Sri Lanka to come back into the game in the final Test. "They'll re-group and come back. They are always a difficult side to beat at home."

Shri Lanka captain Arjuna Ranatunga was quick to give credit to the South African bowlers for the victory.

He felt his side lost the initiative on the first day being dismissed for 168 after deciding to bat first.

A lot depended this morning on the home team's most experienced pair of Ranatunga and Aravinda de Silva.

But on the 11th ball of the day, Schultz, the scourge of the Sri Lankan batsmen during the tour, had Ranatunga caught behind by Richardson without adding to his score of 14.

Shri Lanka's last line of resistance was curtailed by Schultz's new ball partner Allan Donald who forced De Silva into a return catch.

With De Silva's departure on 24 and Shri Lanka on 54 for 6 defeat was only a matter of time.

A last minute flourish came from the ninth-wicket pair of Dassanayake and Pramodya Wickremasinghe who indulged in an entertaining stand of 25 in 22 minutes.

Snell, who was hit for two sixes in one over by Wickremasinghe, had his revenge by having him caught by Donald on the long leg boundary attempting a third.

Snell wrapped up the in-

nings having Dassanayake caught behind for 10 after 84 minutes of resistance.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka today:

SHRI LANKA: First innings 168 (B Schultz 5-48)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 495 (H Cronje 122, K Wessels 92; Muralidharan 5-101)

SHRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 49-4) R Mahanama b Schultz 0

C Hathurusinghe c Cronje b Donald 0

H Tillekeratne c Richardson b Snell 9

A de Silva c and b Donald 24

C Ramaniyake lbw b McMillan 0

A Ranatunga c Richardson b Schultz 14

S Jayasuriya b Schultz 16

P Dassanayake c Richardson b Snell 10

K Dharmasena c Richardson b Schultz 2

P Wickremasinghe c Donald b Snell 21

M Muralidharan not out 14

Extras: (lb-4, nb-5) 9

Total: 119

Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-1; 3-30; 4-31; 5-49; 6-54; 7-69; 8-76; 9-101.

Bowling: O M R W

Donald 10 7 6 2

Schultz 16 4 58 4

Snell 12 4 32 3

McMillan 4 0 11 1

Symcox 1 0 8 0

Result: South Africa won by an innings and 208 runs.

# Tapie drops case against UEFA



MARSEILLE, France, Sept 10: Marseille boss Bernard Tapie on Friday withdrew his legal action against the European Football Union (UEFA), ending a crisis which had rocked the international soccer authorities, reports Reuter.

Marseille vice-president Jean-Louis Leveau told reporters that Tapie has taken an important decision "in the interests of French football."

Earlier, French league president Noel Le Graet urged Tapie to withdraw his civil court action to reinstate Marseille in the European Cup after the International Football Federation (FIFA) threatened to suspend France from international competition.

Tapie was due to give a news conference explaining his decision at 1400 GMT in Marseille. Club sources said he had sent a fax to FIFA in Zurich informing them of his move.

FIFA president Joao Havelange and general secretary Sepp Blatter were holding a crisis meeting at the time with UEFA officials and French federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard, who had been urgently summoned to Zurich.

At stake was a fundamental challenge to the soccer bodies authority to administer the sport without intervention from civil courts.

After UEFA had expelled

European champions Marseille from this season's competition because of a bribery scandal, Tapie obtained an order from a Berne court on Thursday provisionally forcing it to reinstate the club.

In Zurich, UEFA confirmed that Tapie had withdrawn his



BERNARD TAPIE

legal action and said the French federation would have faced suspension if he had not done so.

Tapie's decision means Monaco will take the place of Marseille in the first round of the European Cup and will play at home to AEK Athens in the first leg on Wednesday.

Auxerre have been nominated by the French federation to take Monaco's place in the UEFA Cup and will meet Tenerife of Spain.

The first-round programme had been thrown into confusion by Thursday's court decision in Berne.

Le Graet said he was delighted with the outcome. He had appealed to Tapie's patriotism in a letter earlier on Friday, urging him to withdraw to save France from damaging consequences.

Le Graet had said a FIFA suspension would leave all French clubs out of the European Cups, the national team out of the 1994 World Cup finals and put into question France's staging of the 1998 World Cup finals.

Officials at FIFA's Zurich headquarters gave journalists a copy of Tapie's letter withdrawing the legal action.

It read: "I ask you to consider that the effects of the legal action that I undertook in the Berne district court concerning my non-participation in the European Cup this year are null and void."

Tapie had said a European Cup ban could cost Marseille 120 million francs (22 million dollars) in lost revenue and could force him to sell players or go into liquidation.

Fournet-Fayard told French television after the Zurich meeting: "Good sense has finally won the day... the pressure exerted by the international bodies was really becoming unsupportable."