

WORLD CUP USA '94

Today's World Cup Fixtures

Germany vs Belgium
Spain vs Switzerland
(For details see page 1)

Attendances higher than Italia '90

DALLAS, July 1: A total of 2.4 million have attended World Cup games through the first round, nearly equal the total for the entire at the 1990 tournament in Italy, World Cup USA '94 chairman Alan Rothenberg said Thursday, reports AP.

"This has been a real joy," Rothenberg said.

Rothenberg said stadiums have been filled to 96 per cent of capacity for the first round, and predicted a complete sell out of all remaining games. That would result in a total attendance of more than 3.5 million — an all time World Cup record.

"We are pleased... this has been a magnificent World Cup on and off the field," said Rothenberg at the Cotton Bowl, where a capacity crowd of 63,998 saw Thursday's game between Argentina and Bulgaria.

Rothenberg said that FIFA President Joao Havelange told him that this World Cup has been "by far the best" they have seen so far.

GOAL SCORERS

UNDATED, July 1: Following are the World Cup '94 goal scorers after Thursday's matches:

Six goals — Oleg Salenko (Russia)

Four goals — Juergen Klinsmann (Germany)

Three goals — Gabriel Batistuta (Argentina), Martin Dahlin (Sweden), Romario (Brazil), Hristo Stoichkov (Bulgaria)

Two goals — Fuad Amin (Saudi Arabia), Daniel Amokachi (Nigeria), Georges Brégy (Switzerland), Jose Luis Perez Caminero (Spain), Claudio Caniggia (Argentina), Luis Garcia (Mexico), Juan Antonio Golgoitxea (Spain), Gheorghe Hagi (Romania), Hong Myung-bo (South Korea), Florin Raduciotiu (Romania), Adolfo Valencia (Colombia)

One goal — Philippe Albert (Belgium), John Aldridge (Ireland), Kennet Andersson (Sweden), Sami Al Jaber (Saudi Arabia), Emmanuel Amonike (Nigeria), Dino Baggio (Italy), Marcelino Bernal (Mexico), Daniel Borimirov (Bulgaria), Bebeto (Brazil), Dennis Bergkamp (Netherlands), Tomas Brodin (Sweden), Stephane Chapuisat (Switzerland), Mohammed Chaouch (Morocco), Marc Degryse (Belgium), David Embe (Cameroon), Herman Gaviria (Colombia), Finidi George (Nigeria), Josep Guardiola (Spain), Ray Houghton (Ireland), Hwang Sun-hong (South Korea), Wim Jonk (Netherlands), Adrian Knup (Switzerland), Jordan Letchkov (Bulgaria), Roger Ljung (Sweden), Harold Lozano (Colombia), Diego Maradona (Argentina), Daniele Massaro (Italy), Roger Milla (Cameroon), Hassan Nader (Morocco), Françoise Omam-Biyick (Cameroon), Saeed Owaيران (Saudi Arabia), Daniel Petrescu (Romania), Dmitri Radchenko (Russia), Rai (Brazil), Karlheinz Riedle (Germany), Kjell Rikald Norway, Bryan Roy (Netherlands), Julio Salinas (Spain), Erwin Sanchez (Bolivia), Marcio Santos (Brazil), Seo Jung-won (South Korea), Samson Siasia (Nigeria), Nasko Sirakov (Bulgaria), Ernie Stewart (United States), Alain Sutter (Switzerland), Gaston Taument (Netherlands), Eric Wynalda (United States), Rashidi Yekini (Nigeria)

Own goal — Andres Escobar, Colombia (vs United States)



Argentine attacker Abel Balbo tumbles after being tackled by Iorden Letchkov of Bulgaria during their last group encounter at the Cotton Bowl Stadium on June 30. — AFP photo

Bulgarians delight in Argentines' plight

DALLAS, July 1: Life without Diego Maradona began for Argentina Thursday night. It looks like it's going to be a little dull around the house for a while.

With their star forward sent away earlier in the day in the World Cup's first drug scandal in 16 years, the usually fluid Argentines sputtered and lost 2-0 to Bulgaria at the Cotton Bowl, reports AP.

Both teams advanced to the second round, but certainly not the way that was expected as recently as 24 hours ago. Argentina, who outscored their first two opponents 6-1 and dictated play, finished third in Group D, behind Bulgaria, Nigeria, in their first World Cup, were the surprise winners of the group on goal differential.

Argentina will play Romania at Pasadena on July 3, Bulgaria, in the second round for only the second time, will play Mexico at Giants Stadium on July 5. But they will be without three starters — Trifon Ivanov, Zlatko Ivanov and Zvezdan Terzic — who picked up their second yellow cards of the first round. That draws an automatic one-game suspension.

Hristo Stoichkov, the fleet striker from FC Barcelona, put Bulgaria ahead on a beautiful breakaway capped by a left-footed shot from just past the 16-meter box in the 61st minute. Nasko Sirakov added the second goal on a header off a corner kick in injury time.

But the last day of the tournament's first round belonged to the little man who wasn't there. Maradona was the disinvited guest, a 33-year-old sud-

denly facing the possible end of his career at least five games earlier than he had planned, because he was found with banned stimulants in his body.

The Bulgarian match was to have been Maradona's 22nd in World Cup play, a record. Instead, he remained at the team's hotel, expelled from the squad, while Leonardo Rodriguez took his place at right halfback.

Maradona is short and his black hair is now cut close. Rodriguez is lanky with flowing brown locks. But looks aren't the only differences between the two, as Argentina and their fans found out.

There was no way to get the ball to the shooters, Gabriel Batistuta and Claudio Caniggia. And the attack suffered more when Caniggia left in the 22nd minute because of a chronic injury to his left big toe.

No one was there to create things, as Maradona does so well. No misdirection. No passes flicked off the back of his foot. No pizzazz.

The Big Blue Machine from South America was suddenly a listless squad that couldn't move the ball.

It was so bad, the crowd — overwhelmingly Argentine, with banners to Maradona's legacy flying everywhere — started to jeer its team midway through the first half. And both teams were booed and hooted as they left the field at the half.

The whistles really let loose after Stoichkov scored. He took a pass near midfield on the right wing and sprinted beyond the defenders. Argentina goalie Luis Islas came all the out to the top of the box, but Stoichkov thundered his shot past and into an open net.

Sirakov soared over the defence to put away the second goal, with Islas nowhere in

sight. Bulgaria, who looked miserable in a 3-0 loss to Nigeria at the Cotton Bowl last week, appeared fresh and able to run with the Argentines. They played strong defence, especially on the backline, and goalie Borislav Mihaylov made some nice saves.

Argentina did put one shot in the net in the 80th minute, on the kind of play Maradona would create. Ramon Medina Bello, who replaced Rodriguez in the 66th minute, penetrated and fed the ball to Fernando Redondo, who fired point-blank past Mihaylov. But Redondo was called offside.

TEAMS

ARGENTINA: Luis Islas; Jose Chamot, Fernando Redondo, Oscar Ruggeri, Claudio Caniggia (substitute); Arnaldo Ortega, 26th minute; Gabriel Batistuta, Fernando Caceres, Diego Simeone, Herman Diaz, Abel Balbo, Leonardo Rodriguez (Ramon Medina Bello, 67th).

BULGARIA: Boris Mihaylov; Emil Kremeliev, Trifon Ivanov, Zvezdan Terzic, Petar Houbtchev, Zlatko Ivanov, Emil Kostadinov (Ilian Kirjakov, 75th), Hristo Stoichkov, Jordan Letchkov (Daniel Borimirov, 76th), Nasko Sirakov, Krassimir Balakov.

Referee: Neji Jouini, Tunisia.

MATCH STATS

Match statistics for Thursday's Argentina v Bulgaria World Cup, Group D game:

	Argentina	Bulgaria
Goals	0	2
Fouls	13	21
Shots on goal	20	10
Corners	6	3
Offsides	1	8
Yellow cards	3	5
Red cards	0	1

A refrain reminding reality

SANTA CLARA, Calif. July 1: Two words, and Brazil's cockiness changes to concern. "Only Brazil can beat Brazil," he warned.

The parallels between Brazil and Colombia are almost eerie. Colombia came into the world Cup hailed as the new Brazil, their "salsa-soccer," the embodiment of the aggressive South American style. Even their yellow jerseys looked like Brazil's.

After Colombia thumped Argentina 5-0 in the Cup's qualifying round, a Rio de Janeiro newspaper wrote that Brazilian soccer was indeed alive — but the Colombians were playing it as a cinch to win their group against Romania, Switzerland and — ha, ha — the United States. Pele even predicted they would go all the way.

Then everything went wrong. A loss in the opening game against Romania, followed by the shocker to the Americans. A victory over Switzerland in the final game was too little, too late.

"Everybody was talking about Colombia's refined style, their passing, their dribbling, their quickness. And what happens? They end up last," said assistant coach Mario Zagallo, a player on Brazil's championship teams in 1958 and 1962 and coach of the 1970 squad.

"We learned a lot with Colombia," added defender Jor-

ginho. "But the way they played it was almost impossible to win, with short passes, clogging the middle, everyone trying to resolve the problem on his own."

Jorginho, a veteran of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, said the players sympathized with their South American neighbors.

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Salenko bids WC adieu

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. July 1: Oleg Salenko, the leading World Cup scorer, was the saddest player on the Russian team as it bid an early goodbye to the tournament Thursday, reports AP.



OLEG SALENKO

"It's too bad I won't be able to score more goals here," said Salenko who also set a World Cup record by netting five goals in Russia's 6-1 trouncing of Cameroon Tuesday.

"I just started getting used to it," Salenko said. Salenko also scored in Russia's second game, against Sweden. The six goals made him the leading scorer in the tournament after the opening rounds ended Thursday.

But the 24-year-old forward won't be able to continue his scoring spree as Russia failed to qualify for the second round following two opening round defeats, against Brazil and Sweden.

Russia's chances of qualifying as a third-placed team in Group B collapsed Thursday when Bulgaria beat Argentina 2-0 and Nigeria defeated Greece 2-0.

"I had hoped Russia would continue playing and maybe finish as the tournament's best scorer," Salenko said. "If there is any satisfaction, I'm still holding the other record."

Salenko's outburst against Cameroon, which was also eliminated from the tournament, surpassed the mark of four goals in a game held by nine players at the previous 14 World Cups.

Abahani-MSC 51st clash today

With the local football fans robbed of their enthusiasms and energy by the fascinating and changing spectacles of the on going World Cup, arch-rivals of the domestic soccer circuit, Mohammedans and Abahani meet for the 51st time in a round robin engagement of the 12th BEXIMCO Federation Cup championship scheduled for a 6 pm start at the Dhaka Stadium to launch a real challenge to popular interest on behalf of the organisers.

Attendance at the Dhaka Stadium for the Federation Cup has so far been demoralisingly low with the nadir being a farcical collection of only fourteen spectators during the Muktiyoddha-Brothers Union match on June 28.

Mohammedans won 18 of their last 50 engagements against Abahani's 16 while the remaining 16 ended in a draw. Abahani Krija Chakra, who beat Mohammedans 2-1 on their way to clinch the Churns Cup in Calcutta early this year, need at least a draw today to earn a berth in the semifinals.

While Mohammedans have already moved into the semi-final with two consecutive victories. The tickets will be on sale from 2.30 pm and the gates of Dhaka Stadium will be opened simultaneously.

German goal glut

AMSTERDAM, July 1: Result from the seven nations Trophy hockey tournament here today, reports AFP.



Nigerian forward Finidi George finds the net for the first time past a fallen Ioannis Kalitziakis during their final group encounter in the 15th World Cup at the Foxboro Stadium on June 30. — AFP photo

Nigerians stay in Foxboro

FOXBORO, Mass. July 1: Daniel Amokachi scored in the fifth minute of injury time to give Nigeria a 2-0 victory over Greece on Thursday and a meeting with Italy in the second round of the World Cup, reports AP.

Amokachi beat two defenders and unleashed a 23-meter shot that rocketed into the corner of the net, saving Nigeria from a trip down to New York City.

The late goal gave Nigeria the Group D title and allowed them to stay in Foxboro on Tuesday for the match against Italy. Bulgaria, which beat Argentina 2-0 in Dallas, finished second on goal differential and will play Mexico in East Rutherford, N.J. on Tuesday.

Argentina fell from first to third place in the span of about five minutes, but reached the second round to face Romania in Pasadena, Calif. on Sunday.

Amokachi's goal came in a wild final five minutes of both games, in which Nigeria and Bulgaria both scored to improve their fortunes.

Nigeria had been headed for giants Stadium and meeting with Mexico until the late goal. Nigeria took a 1-0 lead in the second minute of first half injury time when Finidi George softly chipped a shot over goalkeeper Christos Karkamanis.

That goal came after Nigeria missed two chances earlier in the half, including a 26-meter blast off the cross bar by George in the 22nd minute.

The game was a bit of a moral victory for Greece, who lost their first two matches — to Argentina and Bulgaria — by identical 4-0 scores. They trailed after only five minutes against Argentina and two minutes against Bulgaria.

But with their third goal-

keeper in as many games, Karkamanis, Greece appeared more confident, giving Nigeria few chances and creating a few of their own.

Greece were denied twice by Nigerian keeper Peter Rufai in the last six minutes. Panagiotis Tsalouchidis blasted a shot from 7 meters that Rufai was able to get his left hand on and then Rufai smothered another shot by Savvas Kofidis off the ensuing corner kick.

Nigeria missed two good scoring chances in the first half. George was given a lot of space just outside the penalty area and blasted a 26-meter

shot that Karkamanis couldn't get to, but rebounded at least 10 meters.

With three minutes to go Yannis Kalitziakis appeared to miss-hit a clearing attempt that Karkamanis grabbed. Scottish referee Leslie Mottram ruled it a backpass and awarded an indirect free kick. With the wall almost on the goalline, Rashidi Yekini shot high.

LINE-UPS

GREECE: Christos Karkamanis; Yannis Kalitziakis, Valos Karagiannis, Alexandros Alexioutsos; Panagiotis Tsalouchidis, Nicholas Nioplias, Anassios Mitropoulos (Nikos Tsiantakis, 72nd minute). Minas Hantziadis, Savvas Kofidis, Alexandros Alesandris; Nikolaos Machles (Vassilis Dimitriadis, 79th minute).

NIGERIA: Peter Rufai; Stephan Keshi, Uche Okechukwu, Chidi Nwanu, Michael Emanuel; Samson Siasia, Daniel Amokachi, Sunday Olisen, Finidi George (Mutiu Adepoju 83rd), Rashidi Yekini (Augustine Okocha, 69th), Emmanuel Amunike.

Referee Leslie Mottram, Scotland.

MATCH STATS

Match statistics for Thursday's Greece v Nigeria World Cup, Group D game:

	Greece	Nigeria
Goals	0	2
Shots on goal	12	25
Fouls	16	18
Corners	6	6
Offsides	2	1
Yellow cards	2	2
Red Cards	0	0

Kantawang ties record break of 139

Sports Reporter

S Kantawang of Thailand equalled the previous highest break in the Asian circuit while the hosts plight continued on the second day of the 11th Asian snooker championship at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Kantawang posted a break of 139 to revisit a mark already established, if not superseded it. The in-form Thai brushed aside Sheng Yung Lin of Taipei

4-0 in the day's first session. The morning session also saw Saleh Mohammad of Pakistan beat Filipino Marlon Manalo 4-2 to exact some revenge on behalf of compatriot Farhan Mirza, who went down 3-4 to Chan Wai Tat of Hong Kong.

Local top seed N C Ghosh was trounced 0-4 by Malaysia's Yong Kien-Foot to show that lady luck is a long way from him. In another second round match Ooi Chin-Kay of Malaysia who held on to his impressive run beat Alok Kumar of India in an anti-climatic clash with the Indian conceding a 1-4 defeat.

Alok's compatriot M G Jayaram was at the receiving end losing 2-4 to Indika Dodangoda of Sri Lanka.

Chan Kwok-Ming of Hong Kong rounded off the session in style when he swamped Freddie Soh of Singapore 4-1.

The Thai dominance went unabated as Preecha Sae Be strolled to a 4-1 victory over Chinese Zhang Guoming at the onset of the third session.

The day's second downer for the hosts duly came when Yi Hsien Lee of Taipei drubbed a demoralised Adrian Gonsalves 4-0.

Luis Saberdo of the Philippines raced to a victory by a similar margin against Ghen Hulan of China before the session drew to a close following Singaporean Ricky Chew's effortless 4-2 win over a hapless Mohiuddin of Brunei.

The Indians who took a beating in the earlier sessions of the day made a conspicuous comeback in the concluding session of play. Jayaram blanked Zhang Yung-Lin of

Chinese Taipei 4-0 while Alok Kumar bounced back into contention blanking Saleh Mohammad of Pakistan 4-0.

In an absorbing encounter Chan Wai-Tat of Hong Kong finally prevailed over a tenacious Yong Kien-Foot of Malaysia at 4-3.

On a day marked by poor local performances Bangladesh's Mofazzal Hossain failed to cling to early initiatives and twice surrendered the lead to settle for a three-all tie with the sexagenarian Halim from Brunei.

Mofazzal raced to a two-nil lead and Halim fought back to make it 2-1. Then Mofazzal, one of the three Bangladeshis, surged further ahead 3-1 but from then on it was Halim all the way with the older of the two contestants finally forcing a commendable 3-3 tie going into the deciding frame at the time of going to press last night.

The nine-day meet comprising 25 players from 12 nations began on Thursday and will conclude on July 7.

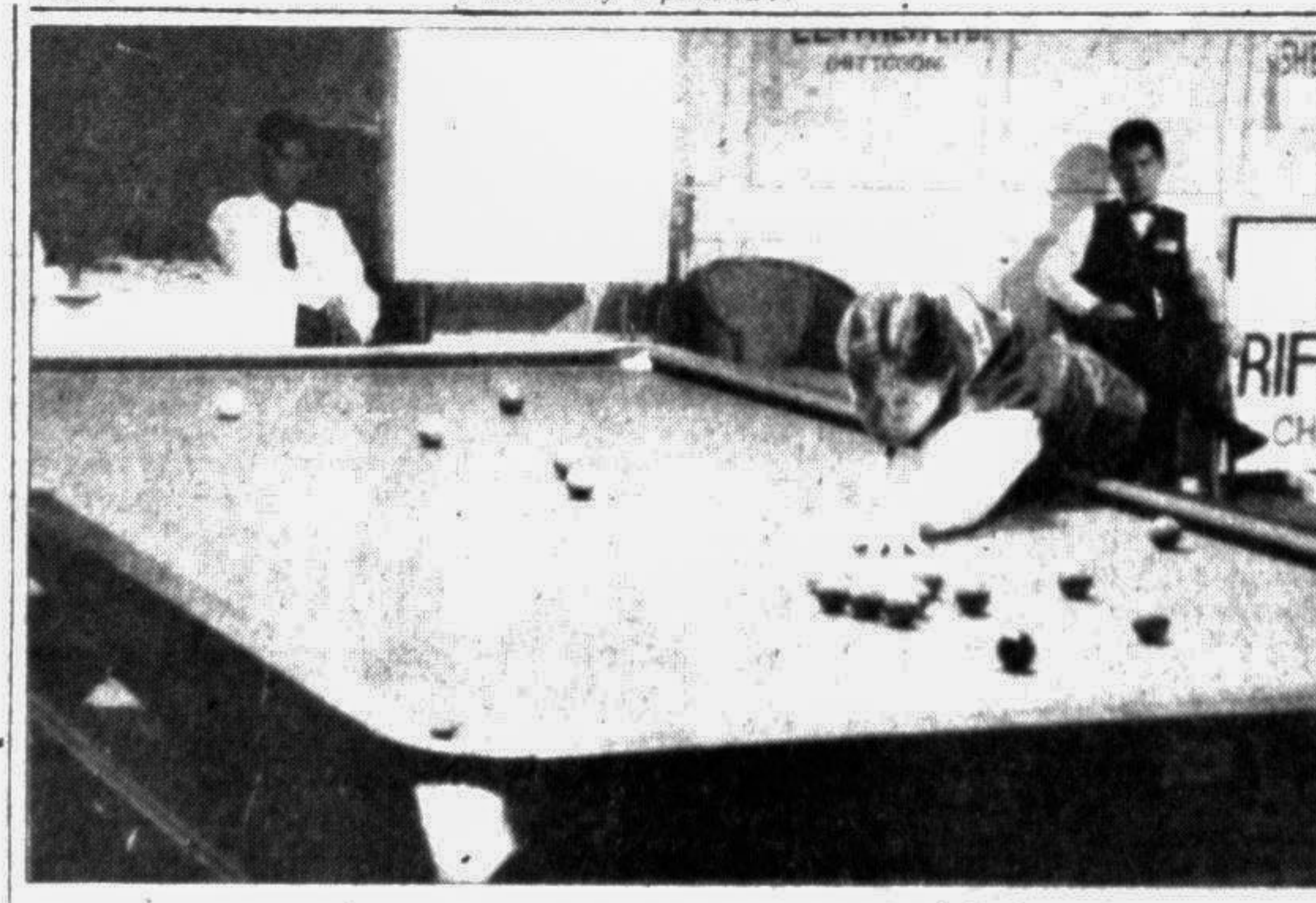
Dhaka Club golf

Olli Lassilla, a Finnish consultant working for the IWT-3 project created history of sorts at the Dhaka Club Golf course yesterday. Lassilla, a 24 hand-capper achieved a golfer's ultimate ambition when he hit a hole-in-one at the par 3 seventh hole. This was the first hole-in-one achieved at the DCL course.

Bulgarians celebrate

SOFIA, July 1: Thousands of Bulgarians jubilantly took to the streets of their capital Sofia early today to celebrate their national team's qualification to the World Cup's second round after a surprise 2-0 win over Argentina, reports Reuter.

Firecrackers, chants of "Bulgarians heroes" and the sound of car horns woke up residents of the capital. Fans also danced and sang around the national palace of culture in central Sofia.



Chan Waitat, a cueist from Hong Kong attempting a shot in the hole during his encounter with Farhan Mirza of Bangladesh in the 11th Asian snooker championship at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. — Star photo