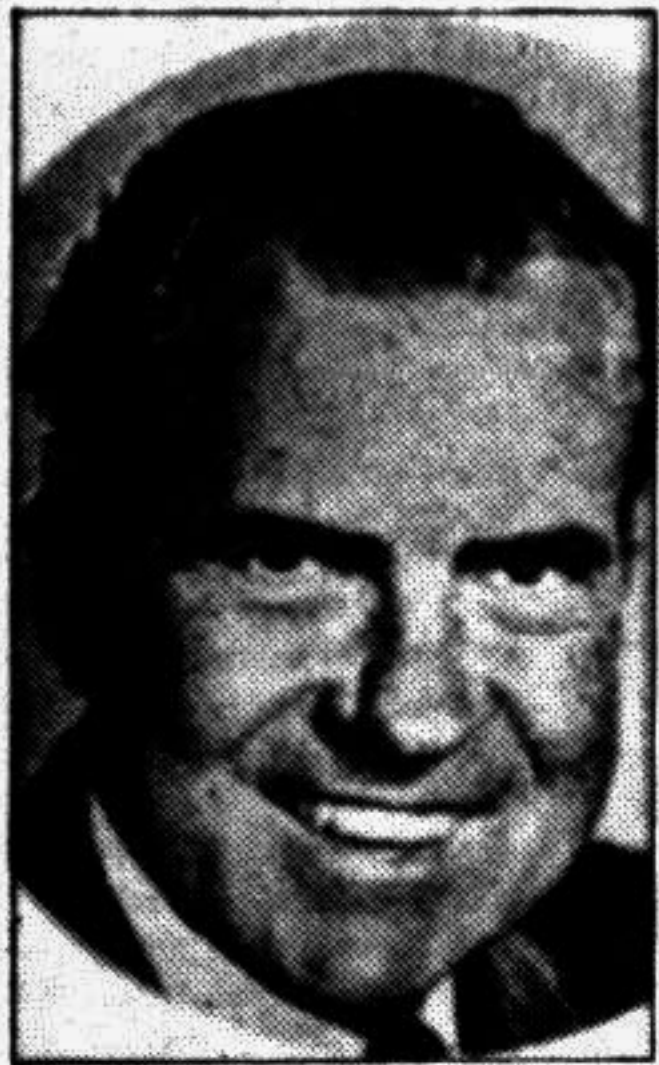


Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Richard Nixon

Former US President 'I like the job I have now, but if I had my life to live once over again, I'd have ended up as a sportswriter.'

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

HAT although the recently concluded Commonwealth handball is only six years old, the game has its origins in pre-Anglo-Saxon era in Britain.

Let's get this straight now. Bangladesh became runners-up in the 60 feet by 30 feet court version of the soft ball type.

WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

- 1. The Sports WHIZZ KID Competition is a property of The Daily Star. 2. The Competition is open only to school-going children.

(Rules published every Saturday)

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-3

Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 PM, Sept 8, 1995)

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options for sports events and facts.

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Demolition man Donald

LONDON, Sept 1: South African fast bowler Allan Donald claimed match figures of eight for 59 as Warwickshire crushed Gloucestershire by 10 wickets on Thursday to return — at least temporarily — to the top of the English County Championship.

Donald ripped out five Gloucester batsmen in their first innings at a cost of only 37 runs as they were dismissed for a paltry 124 and then took three more as they are all out for 162 after being made to follow on.

It left the defending champions needing only nine runs to win which they achieved without loss, completing victory inside two days after the first day was lost through rain.

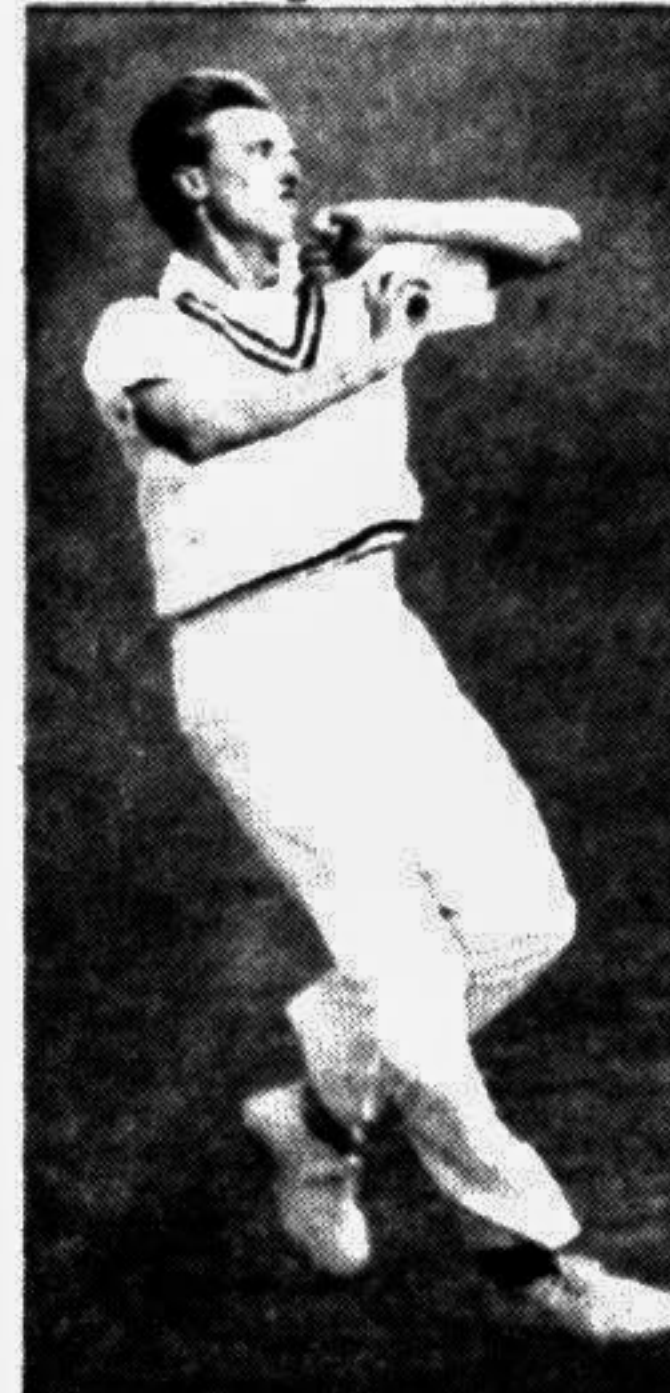
It was their 12th championship success of the campaign and fourth on the trot and took Donald's wicket haul for the season to 75.

Captain Dermot Reeve made the initial breakthrough in the first innings after Gloucester resumed at 55 for four with the wickets of nightwatchman Martyn Ball and Monte Lynch.

But it was Donald who polished off matters in spectacular style with four wickets in

five overs to give him his fifth five-wicket haul of the season.

His victims included big-hitting Andrew Symonds, who hit a rapid 41 off 46 balls with eight fours.



DONALD... 8 for 59

It was a similar story in the second innings despite a dogged 47 spanning 219 minutes by opener Tony

Wright which ensured Warwickshire had to bat again.

The only other resistance again came from Symonds, who hit 35 including 23 in one over from Reeve which read 6-4-4-4-1.

The win took Warwickshire ahead of Middlesex who are embroiled in a high-scoring match against third-placed Northamptonshire at Uxbridge were a draw looks the most likely result.

Another century by England reject Mark Ramprakash and 87 from former Test captain Mike Gatting enabled Middlesex to declare at 351 for four in a bid to forge a result.

It left Middlesex 128 behind on the first innings and by the close Northants were 13 without loss in their second innings.

Since being axed after making a pair in the second Test against West Indies, Ramprakash has scored 1,163 runs in 10 championship innings, including three double hundred and three single centuries.

Even if his 111 does not enable Middlesex to win, it should guarantee him a lengthy mention on Monday when England's selectors meet to pick their squad for the tour of South Africa later this year.

A new-look Spanish season starts today Real really disorganised

MADRID, Sept 1: The Spanish League kicks-off at the weekend with Real Madrid's grasp on their newly-regained crown looking decidedly shaky, reports Reuter.

When Real lifted the league title in June for the first time in five years, the balance of soccer power in Spain appeared to have swung firmly back towards the capital from Barcelona.

Three months on, however, Jorge Valdano's team do not look the team they were.

After losing 4-0 to Tenerife in their first serious pre-season test, Real's Argentine coach Valdano nonchalantly blamed close-season teething problems.

But three consecutive defeats to John Toshack's Deportivo La Coruna in the space of a fortnight have raised doubts over the champions' ability to dominate the Spanish League in the style of vintage Real teams of old.

Two of those defeats were dealt in the traditional two-leg league curtain-raiser between champions and Spanish Cup winners, Deportivo trounced Real 5-1 on aggregate.

Madrid made partial amends on Wednesday with a 1-0 win in a friendly against European champions Ajax.

An unruffled Valdano has been recruiting from his home continent in the close season, bringing more South American flair to the Bernabeu Stadium.

He signed compatriot Juan Esnaider from Real Zaragoza to partner star Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano, and bought Colombian Freddy Rincon to complement Argentine midfield inter-

national Fernando Redondo. Danish ace Michael Laudrup remains as their fifth foreign player, adding a touch of Nordic austerity to a classy midfield bolstered by Michel Gonzalez, back from long-term injury.

Real Madrid start their title defence with a tricky local derby with a newly-promoted Rayo Vallecano, eager to embarrass their prestigious neighbours.

Valdano's close-season spending has been modest next to that of Barcelona's Dutch coach Johan Cruyff, determined to clear the air at Nou Camp, where internal disputes marred the Catalan's 1994-95 campaign.

The trio of foreign players around whom Cruyff built his 1992 European Cup-winning team has disbanded — Romario is back in Brazil, Hristo Stoichkov has moved to Parma of Italy and Ronald Koeman has returned to the Netherlands.

Cruyff, yet to win back the respect of barcelona's demanding fans, moved quickly into the transfer market in June, snapping up Bosnian goal ace Meho Kodro, Portuguese midfielder Lui Figo, and Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu.

Barcelona have since signed former Real Madrid player Robert Prosinecki and Spanish international striker Angel Cuellar. They still have Romanian Gheorghe Hagi on the books.

They start their bid to snatch back the title from their bitter rivals with what should prove a comfortable home tie against Real Valladolid.

The race for the Spanish league title has traditionally been a two-horse affair, with Real Madrid and Barcelona winning the 64-year-old

competition 40 times between them, but that may be about to change.

For three seasons Deportivo have been knocking on the door of title success, finishing as runners-up last June for the second time in a row.

The Galicians, buoyed by their hat-trick of wins over Real Madrid, a 7-0 pre-season demolition of Bayern Munich and a 3-0 win over Brazil's Flamengo, believe this is their year.

Saddled with modest financial resources, Deportivo are happy to wear the hand-me-downs from Real Madrid and Barcelona.

They picked up Rafael Martin Vasquez from the champions and Aitor Beguiristain from the Catalans during the close-season break, along with Russian striker Dimitri Radchenko.

In Saturday's first game of the season Toshack's team face a new-look Valencia, with 10 new signings in their 24-men squad.

The league, like Valencia, has a new look to it this year, having been expanded from 20 to 22 teams to rectify a pre-season farce over accounting errors at two First Division clubs, Celta de Vigo and Sevilla.

Valladolid and Albacete, relegated at the end of last season, find themselves back in the top flight again.

Durjoy designs BCCB XI's win

Sports Reporter The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) Eleven, who are currently touring the Indian city of Hyderabad to take part in the Moin-ud-Dowla Gold Cup cricket tournament, won the second of their two warm-up matches when they defeated the Hyderabad Cricket Association 'A' team by six wickets yesterday.

According to a BCCB source last night after winning the toss the local team decided to bat first piling up 132 runs for the loss of five wickets. Rafique, the wily left-arm spinner picked up two wickets for 14 while pacer Saiful returned with figures of 2/33.

The Bangladeshi outfit reached their target by the 36th over, losing only four wickets.

Talented all-rounder Naimur Rahman Durjoy, who has been promoted to the middle order in the absence of the ever-dependable Nannu and Bulbul, played an instrumental role in the victory scoring 36 runs.

Athar Ali Khan, with 25, and Javed Omar Belim with 26 provided able help to the robust Durjoy.

Earlier, the BCCB XI lost by 13 runs to the Hyderabad Cricket Board Invitational XI on Thursday.

Zia shares lead

Sports Reporter International Master Ziaur Rahman is sharing the lead with two others at the end of the fourth round of the International Ratings tournament organised by the Bangladesh Chess Federation at the NSC chessroom.

Zia, who plays for the Biman team, Taibur Rahman Sumon of Khulna University and Enamul Hossain Rajib of the Bobby Fischer Chess Club all have secured full four points.

The fifth round of the competition commences on Monday after a two-day break.

Napoli become history too

LECCE, Italy, Sept 1: Third Division Lecce added to the embarrassment of Italy's Serie A clubs when they beat Napoli 1-0 in the second round of the Italian Cup on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Striker Francesco Palmieri sent local fans into a frenzy when his left footed shot beat goalkeeper Giuseppe Tagliapietra in the 68th minute to give the southern club a deserved win in a match they dominated.

Napoli joined Parma, AS Roma, Torino, Bari and Piacenza in a group of top clubs beaten by Second and Third Division opponents on Wednesday.

Gremio get heroes' welcome

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, Sept 1: Thousands of delirious fans lined the streets of Porto Alegre to welcome back newly-crowned Libertadores Cup champions Gremio on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The Brazilian team, who on Wednesday drew 1-1 away to Atletico Nacional of Colombia to win the two-leg final 4-2 on aggregate, paraded through the streets of the southern Brazilian city on a fire engine.

Gremio, who took the title for the second time after previously in Colombia for Wednesday's second-leg but fell behind in the 10th minute to a goal by Victor Aristizabal.

The Brazilians had another fright 10 minutes later when Aristizabal was desperately close with an almost replica effort but after that they had little difficulty in subduing the Colombian attack.



MONICA MANIA! Admirers of Monica Seles seem to be enjoying every moment of their idol's 6-2, 6-1 demolition of Erika De Lone in the second round of the US Open at Flushing Meadows, New York on Aug 31. — AFP/UNB photo

Monica in wonderland

NEW YORK, Sept 1: Dinner at Barney's was more like 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' for Monica Seles.

The world's top-ranked tennis player, here for the US Open, found herself a Cinderella in her own dream world, much the same way as the 1961 film heroine portrayed by actress Audrey Hepburn, reports AFP.

"It was just an unbelievable feeling. It stayed with me," Seles said of her shopping adventure and meal in the trendy Manhattan department store.

Seles is making her Grand Slam comeback at the Open after spending 27 months recovering from being stabbed in the back during a 1993 match in Hamburg, Germany.

From that nightmare has come a star-studded return to the form that saw her win eight of nine Grand Slam titles. Seles advanced to the third round Thursday by beating American Erika de Lone 6-2, 6-1.

Seles made her escape into fantasy Wednesday while waiting to meet a friend for dinner. Away from the bodyguards and demands of the tennis world, the 21-year-old tried on hats by herself in the store's accessory section.

"I had never been in there before. It was quite a unique store," she said. "It's amazing the stuff they have in there, food-wise and clothing wise and shoe-wise."

"Here I am and this music is playing — I think it was Frank Sinatra — and I am in this hat department and there is absolutely nobody there. It's almost closing time and I am trying on all these hats, 100 hats that I try on without a sales person ever coming to me and I just

felt it was out of movies, like when you see Audrey Hepburn."

Seles was in for another surprise after dinner. "This one person asked me for an autograph and then the whole restaurant started clapping," Seles said. "It was one of the nicest things, I mean, in New York, you just don't imagine that."

Seles never did buy a hat. But she did enjoy a walk in the park. She was able to relax and that helped her release much of the tension she had felt during her first Open match.

"I wasn't as nervous, nothing like, not even maybe 20 per cent, of what I was like on Monday," Seles said. "My concentration is better. After a few points I look up there and realize I'm here actually playing. My mind is wandering a little bit. Before it was 100 per cent. Now it is 70 per cent."

Tennis owe's them one

NEW YORK, Sept 1: Andre Agassi's rise to the top and the stirring comeback story of Monica Seles have led a resurgence in tennis barely a year after the sport was struggling at a low point, reports AFP.

So with the US Open being contested here in the shadow of Madison Avenue's promotional machine, sponsors are paying millions of dollars to link their products with the sport's stars.

The targets range from such traditional characters as the 74-year-old Open fixture with the outlandish replica court on his cap to rich, younger fans who have made every session here a sellout.

A survey on the opening day of the 9.98 million-dollar Grand Slam event found 52 per cent of the people attending the tournament will write off the tickets as business expenses on their taxes and only 29 per cent actually paid for the tickets they were using with their own funds.

"The demographics are great. Tennis, after being in the doldrums for a while, is

finally coming back," said Mercedes-Benz spokesman Albert Weiss.

The German automobile company has spent 30 million dollars in sponsorship money on a sport that features homeland heroes Steffi Graf and Boris Becker.

Abahani CJKP hockey champs

CHITTAGONG, Sept 1: Chittagong Abahani Krira Chakra clinched the title of the CJKP hockey league which concluded at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Chittagong Abahani collected full ten points from five outings while Mehediabag Sangskritik Sangsad finished runners-up with seven points.

In the concluding match Mehediabag Sangskritik Sangsad shared points with M H Sporting club in a goalless draw.

pras, two Americans who have promoted snack foods, cameras, shoes and their sport-buses and billboards throughout the city feature Agassi.

The women's game struggled without Seles, who missed 27 months after being stabbed in the back. She returned a month ago to worldwide attention. Open viewership on television jumped 50 per cent for her first match but returned to previous levels without her.

Even the National Basketball Association has jumped onto the tennis bandwagon. The league, now mired in the same labour turmoil that marred US baseball and ice hockey, had international stars film promotional messages for television advertisements around the world.

The Open's pull is so strong that baseball, which has seen a 20 per cent drop in crowds following last year's wipe out of the world series, has advertised during broadcasts of matches to try and lure back spectators.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Scenery chews, 4 Half of all parents, 7 Charley horse, 12 Stout relative, 13 Jennings' network, 14 Fuel ship, 15 Nancy's man, 16 Blissful locale, 18 Finish, 19 Torment, 20 Teen's room?, 22 OED closer, 23 Daisy Mae's creator, 27 Have bills, 29 More's ideal place, 31 Remark to the house, 34 Chauffeur's handfull, 35 Home of Kubla Khan, 37 Place-kicker's pride, 38 Benevolent org.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with clues: FSUWGSQU ZGDSXPZ NEVTQ EQ NTF ZGDXXG RDXTGXZ T ZWERP VDPXG Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HEARD AT CONVENTION OF FAMOUS COMEDIANS: "FUNNY WEATHER WE'RE HAVING TODAY."

CRYPTOQUIP Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals L The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.