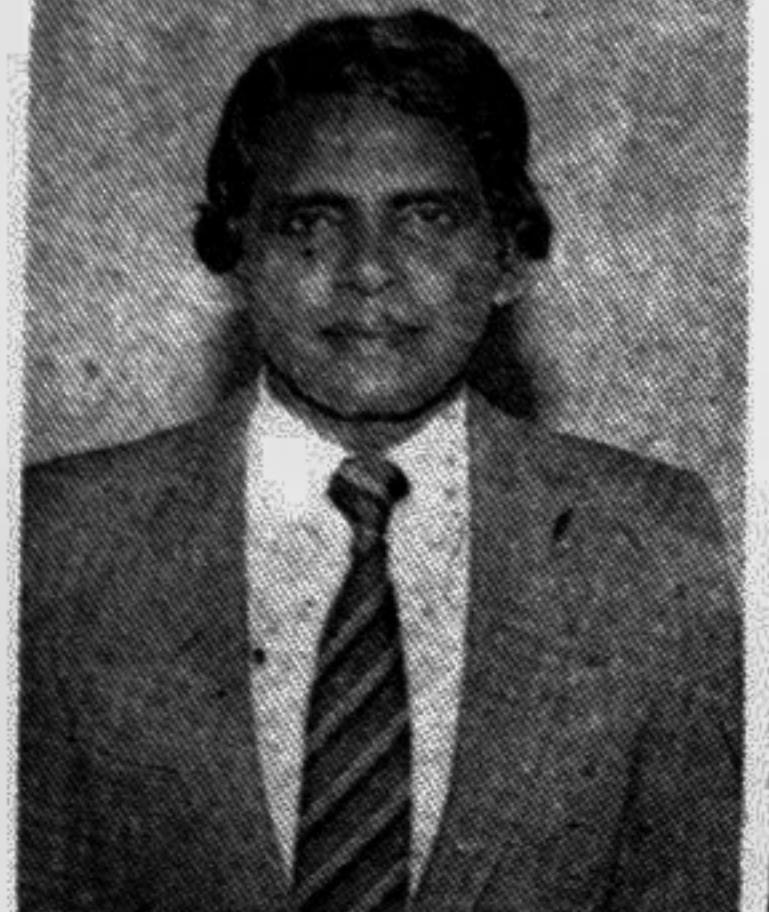


Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT during the glorious war of liberation, when sonar Bangla was occupied by Pakistani forces, our footballers got together in India and



ZAKARIA PINTOO

formed a team under the captaincy of full-back Zakaria Pintoo. The team's objective was to familiarise the world with the reality of Bangladesh, then a few months old and only a babe in the world community. The Swadhin Bangla football team played several matches in different parts of India and each match drew large crowds. Each match began with the hoisting of the Bangladesh national flag, which then had the golden map of the country in the middle of the red circle. Imagine the pride of a nation seeing its flag flying on foreign soil.

The footballers and their officials showed considerable courage on their near and dear ones were under threat of being persecuted by the barbarians in occupied Bangladesh.

Our footballers opened a new frontier in our liberation struggle. We won by a flattening margin.

Today, we salute those freedom fighters and all the others.

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-31

Tick the Correct Answer

(Competition closes 8 p.m. Mar 29, 1996)

- In the 1996 World Cup, Sri Lankan Aravinda de Silva won the man-of-the-match awards
3 times 4 times 5 times
- Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash is
Swedish English Australian
- Tyson regained the WBC heavy-weight crown defeating
Bruno Bowe Buster
- The present Metropolis chess league champions are
Mohammedan SC Biman Anwar
- Number of centuries scored in 1996 World Cup were
14 15 16

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

SPORTS TALK



Kapil Dev

(Former Indian Test all-rounder)

"I always thought that they were really a fantastic and sporting crowd with a lot of knowledge about the game. But they behaved deferentially today and it is shameful."

Commenting on Calcutta crowd who ruined the first semifinal of 1996 World Cup.

Friendly cricket

Sports Reporter
A friendly cricket match will be held between the members of Institution of Textile Engineers and Technologists, Bangladesh (ITET) and the teachers and students of the College of Textile Technology, Tejgaon at the CTT ground this morning to observe the country's 25th Independence Day, says a press release.
Prof Mohammad Abdul Kaleb, the principal of College of Textile Technology, will witness the match as chief guest.

Johnson gets fair crack of the whip



CAPE TOWN, Mar 25: Does the United States need athletics heroes? The sports top body thinks so, and changed the Olympic schedule to help Michael Johnson cement his role as the latest, reports AP.

Johnson's bid for unprecedented gold medals in the 200 and 400 metres got a boost when the International Amateur Athletic Federation eliminated two over lapping days for the events.

Now, Johnson even gets a day off. Under changes decided by the IAAF's 27-member council on Sunday, the men's and women's 400 metres will be held on days 1 and 4, and the 200 on Days 6 and 7.

"I couldn't ask for a much better schedule than this," Johnson said. "I feel very excited now that I can train and prepare myself to put on a great show at Atlanta this summer."

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo, speaking to Johnson and Carl Lewis in a satellite hook-up, said a "great" Olympics would be made better if America had some track heroes. "And Michael is one of those heroes," Nebiolo said. "He can compete in the best condition. He can become really one of the most great heroes that we have had in athletics."

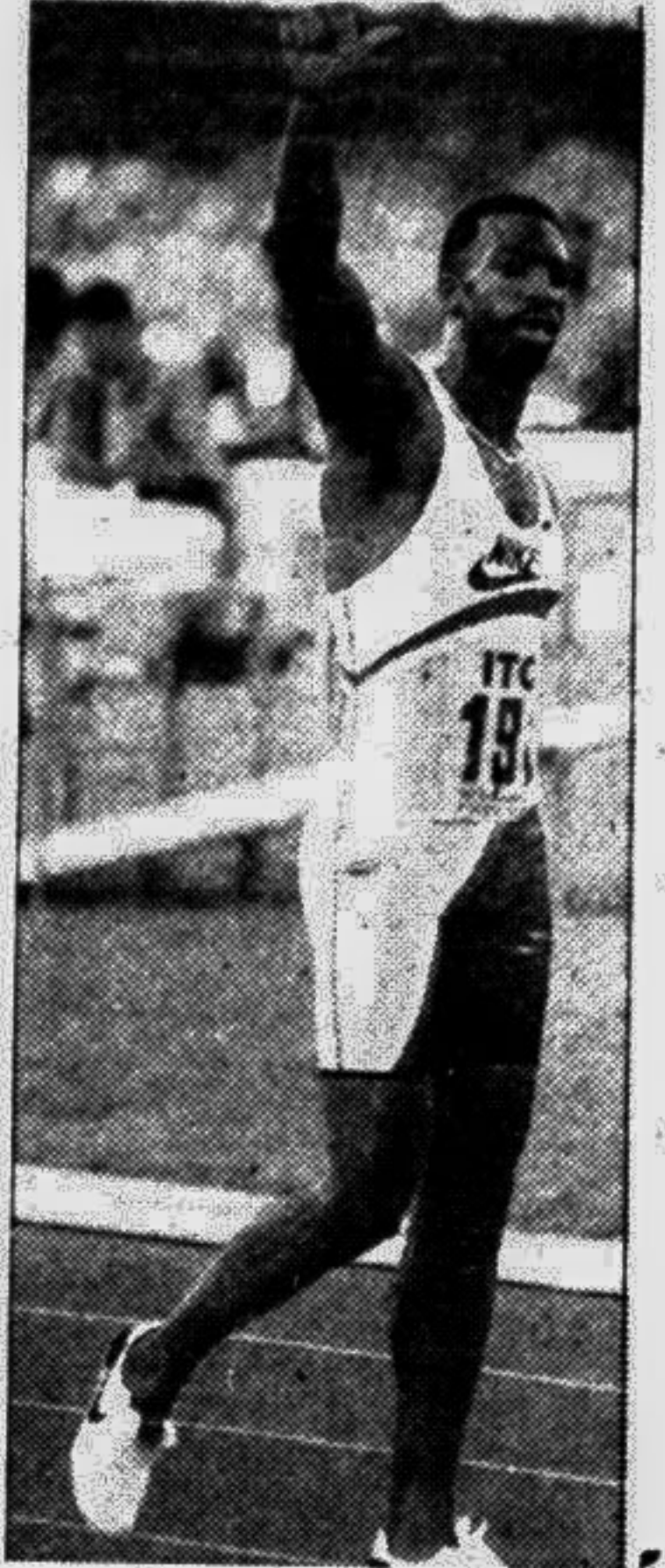
Johnson pleaded with the IAAF for months to alter the timetable so he could repeat his feat at last year's World Championships in Sweden, when he became the first runner in history to win the double.

Johnson has won 51 straight 400-metre finals going back to 1989 and 17 straight outdoor finals in the 200.

A double victory in Atlanta would give a high-profile boost to athletics in the United

States, where the sport has suffered from lack of exposure and financial problems.

Lewis, hero of the 1984 Games in Los Angeles with four gold medals, also benefited from the schedule changes as he dreams of mak-



MICHAEL JOHNSON, the US team to compete in the long jump, 100 and 200 metres.

For him, the long jump was changed from Days 6 and 7 to Days 3 and 4, eliminating conflict with the 200 metres.

"I want you to repeat Los Angeles," Nebiolo told Lewis. The council also rescheduled the men's marathon in an

attempt to beat Atlanta's crushing summer heat. The race will be held on the final day of the Games, as tradition dictates, but at 7 am local time rather than 6:30 pm.

The athletics dates at the Olympics remain July 26 to August 4.

The council shifted the triple jump from the second and fourth days to the first two days of the Games. That means Britain's Jonathan Edwards won't have a day of rest in his attempt to break the world record for the fourth time.

The women's 100-meter hurdlers, however, pick up a rest day with their event shifted from Days 6 and 7 to Days 4 and 6.

The men's 800 meters stays the same except for a day of competition shifted from the first day to the fourth day. The women's version moves from Days 1, 2 and 4 to Days 2, 3 and 6.

The council accepted changes of flag for six athletes: Cathy McCandless from the United States to Ireland, Viorica Aufleger from Romania to Israel, Galina Chistyakova from Russia to Slovakia, Sergey Dymchenko from Ukraine to Russia, Una English from Britain to Ireland, and Oksana Mernikova from Belarus to Russia.

The council, meeting after Saturday's World Cross Country Championships, was scheduled to take up the controversial doping case of British runner Diane Modahl on Monday, deciding whether to drop it or refer it to arbitration.

Modahl, a former Commonwealth champion at 800 meters, was banned for four years in 1994 after testing positive for huge amounts of testosterone. The test came under question when it was discovered that her urine sample had been left unrefrigerated.

Davis Cup Bangladesh finish third

Bangladesh finished third in the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group Three (B), which concluded in Dubai, UAE Sunday, reports BSS.

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, Bangladesh recorded victories against four countries — Qatar, Jordan, Brunei and UAE — and lost to Lebanon and Kuwait.

Lebanon was promoted to the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group Two while Brunei and UAE, who finished sixth and last respectively have been relegated to Group Four.

Bangladesh was represented by Hira Lal, Shovon Jamally, Dilip Passia and Tofazzel Hossain.

Olympic qualifiers Asian tug-of-war tomorrow

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 25: A tired Japanese side is undecided about its strategy against South Korea in the final of Asia's Olympic soccer qualifying competition, coach Akira Nishino said Monday, reports AP.

Regardless of the outcome of Wednesday's final, both teams will advance to the Olympics along with the winner of a match between Saudi Arabia and Iraq for third place.

"My players are physically and mentally exhausted. We still have to play in the final and I have to motivate them," Nishino said in an interview with the Malaysian news agency Bernama.

"I have not really analysed the Koreans' game. We still have time to decide on our strategy," he added.

He said he never thought Japan would meet South Korea in the Asian final, and had not made any special preparation.

Nishino also said he did not think the outcome of Wednesday's game would affect the decision by FIFA, soccer's governing body, on whether South Korea or Japan should be host for the 2002 World Cup final round.

Those nations are the only two bidders, and a decision is due in June.

Asian Club soccer from August 7

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 25: South Korea's Ilhwa Chunma will face stiff opposition defending their Asian Club Championship title for the second straight year when the tournament kicks off August 7, reports AFP.

Thai Farmers Bank Club, the 1993 and 1994 champions and last year's runners-up, and J-League champions Yokohama Marinos will be among the other top 27 clubs from Asia out to dislodge Ilhwa Chunma this year.

Other contenders are Pohang Atomic, runners-up in last year's Korean League, Iraq's Zawra, Keftchi of Uzbekistan, Kopetdag of Turkmenistan and Al-Rayyan of Qatar in the quarterfinals.

As defending champions, Ilhwa Chunma were given a bye into the second round during the draw organised by the Asian Football Confederation in Kuala Lumpur Monday. They face the winner of the first round between Hong Kong and Sangha.

Gustafsson guns Yevgeny down

ST PETERSBURG, Russia.

Mar 25: Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson upset the form book and partition Russian crown by beating world number seven Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-2, 7-6 in the final of the ST Petersburg Open on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The big-hitting, 29-year-old Swede, ranked only 70th, game the Russian top seed no change to settle, breaking his serve twice in the first set. Kafelnikov gave away six double faults, including to win the second-set tie-break, which he lost 7-4.

Gustafsson, who 10 months ago had sunk to 611th in the ATP rankings after a year's lay-off with shoulder trouble, pinned some of his succession Kafelnikov's service problems and the young Russian's inability to vary his game to the circumstances. "Kafelnikov has a weak service," he told a news conference. "After his mistakes he didn't change his tactics."

Kafelnikov, the darling of Russian tennis fans, promised spectators he would be back to win in 1997.

Harris secures Super Series

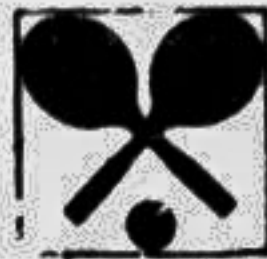
HATFIELD, England, Mar 25: England number one Del Harris survived a five-game duel with Australia's Brett Martin to win the Super Series Squash final on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Harris, a former world junior champion, took just under an hour to dispatch Martin, one of the world's top ranked players, 10-8, 7-9, 9-4, 6-9, 9-2.

Slowed by a stubbed toe sustained in the second game, Martin was unable to chase down Harris' well placed shots in the deciding game allowing the 26-year-old Englishman to claim his first Super Series title.

Jarisher Khan won the third place play-off beating Australian Rodney Eyles 9-7, 9-4, 9-2.

Graf going great guns

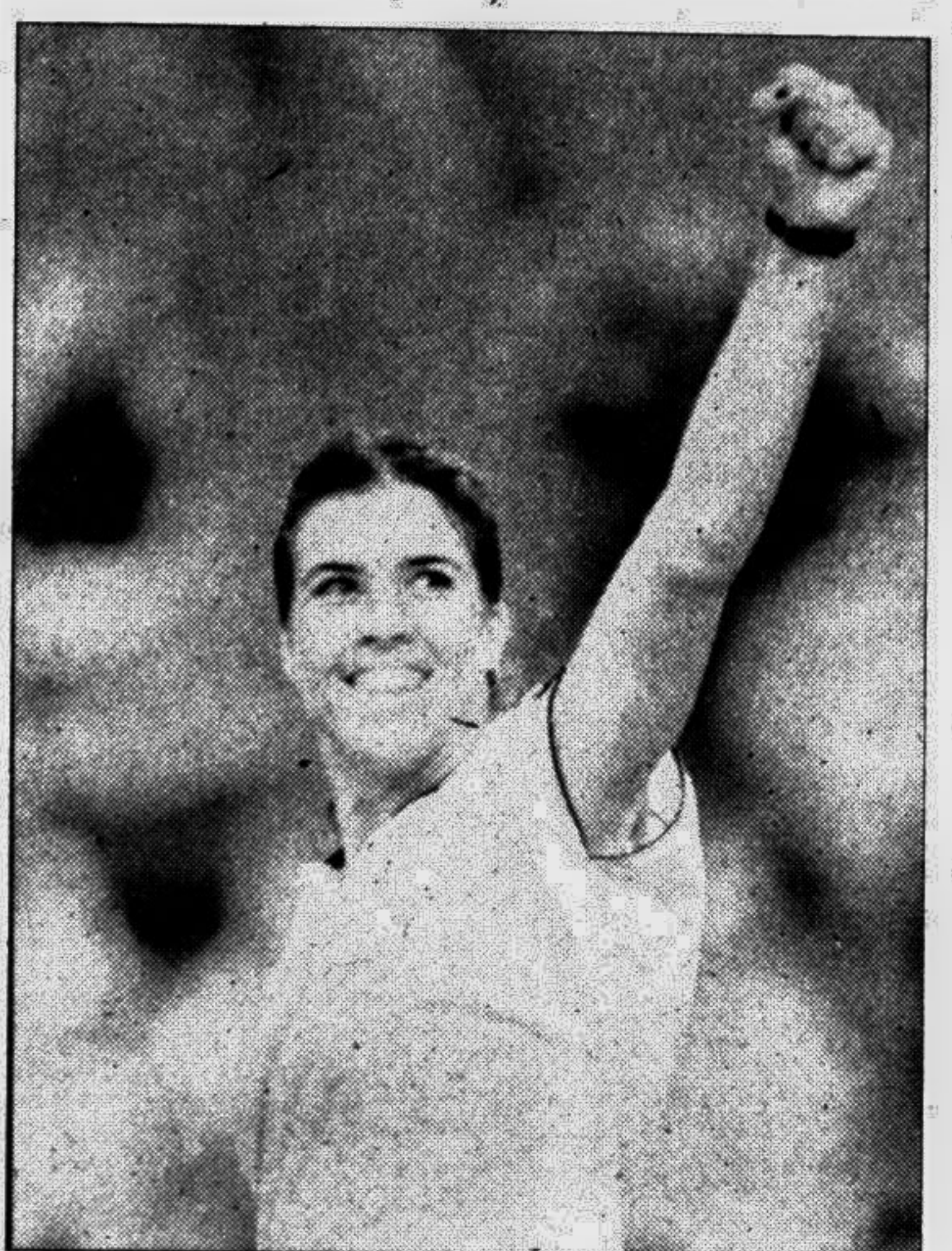


KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, Mar 25: Unseeded and unranked as of yet in her return to tennis, Jennifer Capriati was tested, but toughed it out for a 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 win over 10th-seeded, 15th-ranked Amanda Coetzer of South Africa Sunday at the 4.1 million dollars Lipton

Graf has an amazing 35 winners and only three unforced errors. In comparison Fernandez had 15 winners and 11 unforced errors.

"I felt great," said Graf, who plays ninth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez next. "I didn't know I had that kind of statistics. I think it was a pretty solid match."

Second-seeded Pete Sam-



Jennifer Capriati of the USA celebrates after defeating Amanda Coetzer of South Africa in their third round match of the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne on March 24. Capriati won 6-4, 0-6, 6-1.

—AFP/UNB photo

Championships, reports Reuter.

"It feels great to beat someone ranked like her and I'm happy I did it," said Capriati, who meets fourth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini in the fourth round. "I'm very happy and I'm very excited."

Top-seeded Steffi Graf of Germany needed only 66 minutes to sail through American doubles expert Gigi Fernandez 6-3, 6-2.

pras faced a stiff one hour, 25 minute challenge from 42nd-ranked Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland before winning 7-5, 7-6 (7-3).

Capriati, who turns 20 years old next week, is hitting her groundstrokes as heavily as ever. And even when she appeared momentarily tried in the second set, she was able to regroup and dominate Coetzer.

"Never say you're out of it, until you're out of it," Capriati

said. "I knew she's quick and I had to be ready to go for every ball. I knew I had to be ready to stay out there."

By match end, Capriati had scored 30 winners, but had also racked up 55 unforced errors, with a large majority of the errors taking place in the disappointing second set.

In the third set, the young American was unstoppable. She started with a service break compliments of two errors by Coetzer at deuce — a double fault, followed by a forehand wide.

Her momentum never wavered from that point on as she allowed Coetzer to hold serve only one time in the fifth game of the third set.

Typically at this event, conditions are windy and can play havoc with the ball.

Sampras has not been having the best of years, even though he won titles at San Jose and Memphis. He lost in the third round of the Australian Open to Mark Philippoussis, withdrew from the quarterfinals of Rotterdam in February with a sprained foot and only reached the quarterfinals of Indian Wells, the lead-up tournament to the Lipton.

Although Sampras defeated Hlasek, a player who was considering retirement last summer when his ranking fell to 124, he did not seem on top of his game.

"Today wasn't pretty tennis, but I fought pretty well and hung in there," said Sampras, who meets 16th-seeded Todd Martin in the next round.

"It's not very fun to play in conditions that you're not sure where the ball is going or where your toss is going. But you're got to go out there with a good attitude."

Hlasek opened the match with a service break, but Sampras rebounded in the fourth game when the Swiss native served two double faults, including one on game point. An additional break in the 12th game gave Sampras the set.

The second set was a dead heat heading into the tiebreaker.

Sampras opened by double faulting, but hit a winning forehand service return on the very next shot. A minibreak on the seventh point and a Hlasek double fault on the final point of the match put Sampras into the next round.

Fourth seed Michael Chang extended his current win streak to seven matches with a tough victory over Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman 6-3, 6-2.

Lothar wants a recall



LONDON, Mar 25: Lothar Matthaus and Eric Cantona will be forgiven a wry smile if Germany and France struggle without them in warm-up matches for the European Championship finals on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

Germany's ex-captain and the reformed Frenchman are doing their best to influence Bertie Vogts and Aime Jacquet to pick them again after long absences from international action with telling league performances.

Matthaus, having led West Germany to World Cup triumph in 1990 would early love to win the European title after the disappointment of 1992.

Returning to form after two Achilles tendon operations, Matthaus scored Bayern Munich's winner in a 2-1 victory at Bayer Leverkusen at the weekend to keep them just one point behind defending champions Borussia Dortmund in second place.

Bayern chairman Franz Beckenbauer said Vogts should bring the 35-year-old Matthaus back into his squad in time for the European Championship finals in England in June.

"A fit Matthaus can help any team. If he can keep up his form and has no more setbacks, Bertie Vogts has to do something," West Germany's 1990 coach Beckenbauer said.

Germany's warm-up match in Munich on Wednesday is against Denmark, the side who upset the then world champi-

ons in the European final in Sweden four years ago.

France, then under former great Michel Platini, had an even more disappointing 1992 European Championship and also aim to make up for failing to reach the 1994 World Cup finals.

But Jacquet has so far over-looked Cantona, a reformed character since his eight-month ban and then key figure in Manchester United's surge to the top of the English Premier league with a goal in each of United's last five games.

Jacquet's France meet Belgium in a warm-up in Brussels. In Cantona's home country, Auxerre threw the title race wide open with a crushing 3-0 win over leaders Paris St Germain, but their trainer Guy Roux played down their chances even though they are only two points behind with six games to play.

The Willy Roux, who maintains throughout each season that his team are playing to avoid relegation even though they qualify for Europe almost every year, said: "Of course, we're thinking of the title but our schedule is much too tough."

In Spain, too, the gap has closed between leaders Atletico Madrid and their nearest challengers Barcelona, who will both be in action again on Wednesday in another full league programme, although without some of their international players.

Atletico, now six points in front, cross Madrid to neighbours Rayo Vallecano ahead of

their weekend derby with Real Madrid, while Barcelona entertain Tenerife.

Barcelona will be without Romania's Gheorghe Popescu and Gheorgh Hag, who will be in Belgrade for their country's warm-up against Yugoslavia.

Atletico will have to field a replacement up front for striker Lyuboslav Penev, who will be playing for Bulgaria against England at Wembley.

Spain's under-21 side play a European Championship quarter-final — effectively an Olympic qualifier — in the Czech Republic and have deprived Atletico of Snati Denia and Roberto Fresnedoso and Barcelona of Oscar Garcia.

In Italy's Serie A, the situation is more clear-cut after AC Milan's victory over Parma and Fiorentina's home loss to Juventus on Sunday.

Milan's impressive 3-0 win, coming after a league defeat by Internazionale and UEFA Cup elimination by Bordeaux of France, stretches their lead over second-placed Juventus to eight points, with eight games to play. Fiorentina dropped to third.

Sampdoria's Swedish coach Seven Eriksson, speaking on Italian radio on Monday, said: "When you're talking about Milan, the word crisis is too strong."

"Milan can always have a Sunday or a Wednesday when things go wrong, as they did in France, but with all the class players they have and with an eight point advantage, there's no way that Milan will lose this year's championship now."



An airborne Tottenham Hotspurs booter Justin Edinburgh (R) trying to protect the ball from Andy Cole of Manchester United during their English Premier league clash at Old Trafford on March 24. United defeated Spurs 1-0. — AFP/UNB photo



A six-a-side cricket tournament will be held in Bangkok under the auspices of Royal Bangkok Sports Club from April 2 to 7. Commonwealth Cricket Club of Dhaka (picture shown above) is also going to take part in the tournament. — Star photo

Villa lift League Cup



LONDON, Mar 25: Aston Villa's resurgence under manager Brian Little reached a significant milestone when they beat Leeds United 3-0 to win the English League Cup final in style at Wembley Stadium on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Less than a year after avoiding relegation from the Premier league by a point, Little's re-built side dominated the match.

They deservedly won with a thundering 25-metre left foot drive from Serbian Savo Milosevic, a 55th minute volley from Ian Taylor, the only locally Birmingham-born player in the side, and an 89th minute strike from Dwight Yorke.

The victory guarantees Villa a place in next season's UEFA Cup and could be the first half

of a fine double. They are still in the FA Cup and play Liverpool in the semifinal at Old Trafford next Sunday.

Leeds never looked like winning and apart from a brief spell at the start of the second half were outplayed by Villa who deservedly lifted the Cup for the fifth time, equalling Liverpool's record.

Villa's dominance was suitably reflected in the superb execution of their three goals.

The first by Milosevic was as good a goal seen in a Wembley final and appropriately came from the player who cost Villa a club record 3.5 million pounds (5.4 million dollars) when they signed him from Partizan Belgrade last summer. Milosevic has had a miserable, confidence-sapping time in English penalty boxes this winter, but rose to the occasion in the 21st minute.

Collecting a pass from man-of-the-match Andy Townsend just inside the Leeds half, Milosevic ran 20 metres before unleashing an unstoppable 25-

metre drive that dipped and flew past a startled John Lukic. Taylor's 10 minutes into the second half was taken just as emphatically.

The move started when Alan Wright's long cross was cleared by Lucas Radebe straight to Taylor, who volleyed home with his left foot from 12 metres.

Lukic had no chance with Villa's third a minute from time which Milosevic set up for Yorke after leaving two Leeds defenders struggling in the box.

The Trinidadian's shot flew into the roof of the net for his 23rd goals of the season. It was excellent consolation after missing out through injury on Villa's 1994 League Cup win over Manchester United.

Leeds simply never got going apart from the opening few minutes of the second half when Andy Gray, whose father Frank and uncle Eddie also both played for Leeds, and Gary Speed, tested Mark Borsch.

But once Taylor scored Villa's second Leeds were always chasing a lost cause.

Manager Howard Wilkinson brought on Brain Deane for youngster Mark Ford at half-time and Swede Thomas Broolin for Radebe after 66 minutes.

But they made little impact against the Villa defence, the meanest in the league, in which Gareth Southgate, Ugol Ehiogu and Paul McGrath were impregnable.

Villa manager Little, who has transformed the club since taking over from Ron Atkinson in November 1994, said: "I thought we were always the better side."

"Apart from a few minutes early in the second half, we controlled the match and when we stepped it up again we never looked like losing."

Leeds manager Wilkinson admitted: "we never played well. We played too many square passes. They deserved it."

At the end thousands of Villa fans, many of whom were originally critical of his appointment, were signing Little's name in delight.

Soccer greats on stamp

LONDON, Mar 25: Bobby Moore, who captained England to victory in the 1966 World Cup, heads a line-up of soccer greats commemorated on a set of stamps to celebrate this summer's European Championships, the British Post Office announced on Monday, reports Reuter.

The other players featured are Dixie Dean, Billy Wright, Danny Blanchflower and Duncan Edwards.

The five players were selected by a public vote after a shortlist of players was recommended by the Football Associations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As no living people, other than members of the royal family can appear on British stamps, the voting choice was limited to players who are no longer alive.