

## Pakistanis survive a scare

## The world Jayasuriya's oyster



SINGAPORE, Apr 7: Never-say-die Pakistan staged a sensational turnaround today to win the Singer Cup after being hammered by Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya for the quickest half-century in one-day cricket, reports AFP.

Chasing a modest 216 on the Padang ground, World Cup champions Sri Lanka collapsed for 172 in 32.5 overs after appearing set for victory when Jayasuriya, who five days ago struck the quickest hundred, was in full flow.

Off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and medium-paceer Ata-ur-Rahman shared six wickets and Waqar Younis and Aaqib Javed grabbed the remaining four to bowl Pakistan to a brilliant victory for the 30,000 US dollar first prize.

Sri Lanka's chances of adding the Singer Cup to the World Cup they won last month disappeared when their top order collapsed after Jayasuriya's dismissal.

"I had the feeling that once we got Jayasuriya, it would not be too difficult," said Pakistan skipper Amir Sohail. "It was a collective team effort."

Jayasuriya, who had Tuesday taken the quickest hundred in a one-day international against the same team, rewrote the record books again by reaching a half-century off just 17 balls.

His fifty, contained five sixes and four fours.

The balding 27-year-old left-hander, who showed no respect for any bowler, was

## Arjuna being discreet

SINGAPORE, Apr 7: Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga praised Pakistan's brilliant lightbulb Sunday but refused to comment on controversial umpiring decisions after his side lost the Singer Cup final, reports AFP.

"Pakistan played better than us today — it is as simple as that," said Ranatunga, whose side had been hoping to win the final to put the icing on their World Cup cake.

He said the defeat by 43 runs would not result in a loss of morale in his side, which would still carry the tag of world champions until the next World Cup.

The Sri Lankans saw at least three close decisions go against them at crucial junctures in Sunday's match at the Padang ground which was umpired by George Sharp of England and Russell Tiffin of Zimbabwe.

The dismissals of Ranatunga, Hashan Tillekeratne and Kumar Dharmasena all could have gone either way, but the skipper was diplomatic.

"I do not want to comment on the umpiring," he said. "You all saw the game, you watched the TV replays, you all decide," he said.

Pakistan captain Amir Sohail, skipping the side in a full tournament for the first time, gave all the credit to his bowlers for defending a "fighting total" of 215.

It was sweet revenge for the Pakistanis, who had been beaten by the Sri Lankans by 34 runs in Tuesday's opening match of the triangular competition.

Sohail picked out off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq for special praise, saying he was the best bowler of his kind in world cricket.

## DPRK lifters' day

YACHTOYO, Japan, April 7: North Korea's Choi Chol Ho won the gold medal in the men's 76-kilogram event at the Asian Weightlifting Championships here Sunday, while a compatriot triumphed in a women's event, reports AFP.

Jon, lifted 152.5 kilograms in the snatch and hoisted 187.5 kilograms in the jerk for a winning total of 340 kilograms.

Iran's Shahin Nasirnia of Iran finished second, while Uzbekistan's Bakhtier Nurulaev was third.

North Korea also triumphed in the women's 76-kilogram event, with Ok Son Kyong placing first with a total of 220 kilograms.

On the previous day, North Korea's Kim Myong Nam smashed three world records to win the gold in the men's 70-kilogram. The number of gold medals for North Koreans thus totaled three on the fourth day of the competition.

After the day's competition, Jon of North Korea, who ranked fourth in the 82.5 kilogram event at the Barcelona Olympics, said that Kim's victory the previous day had "spurred" him on.

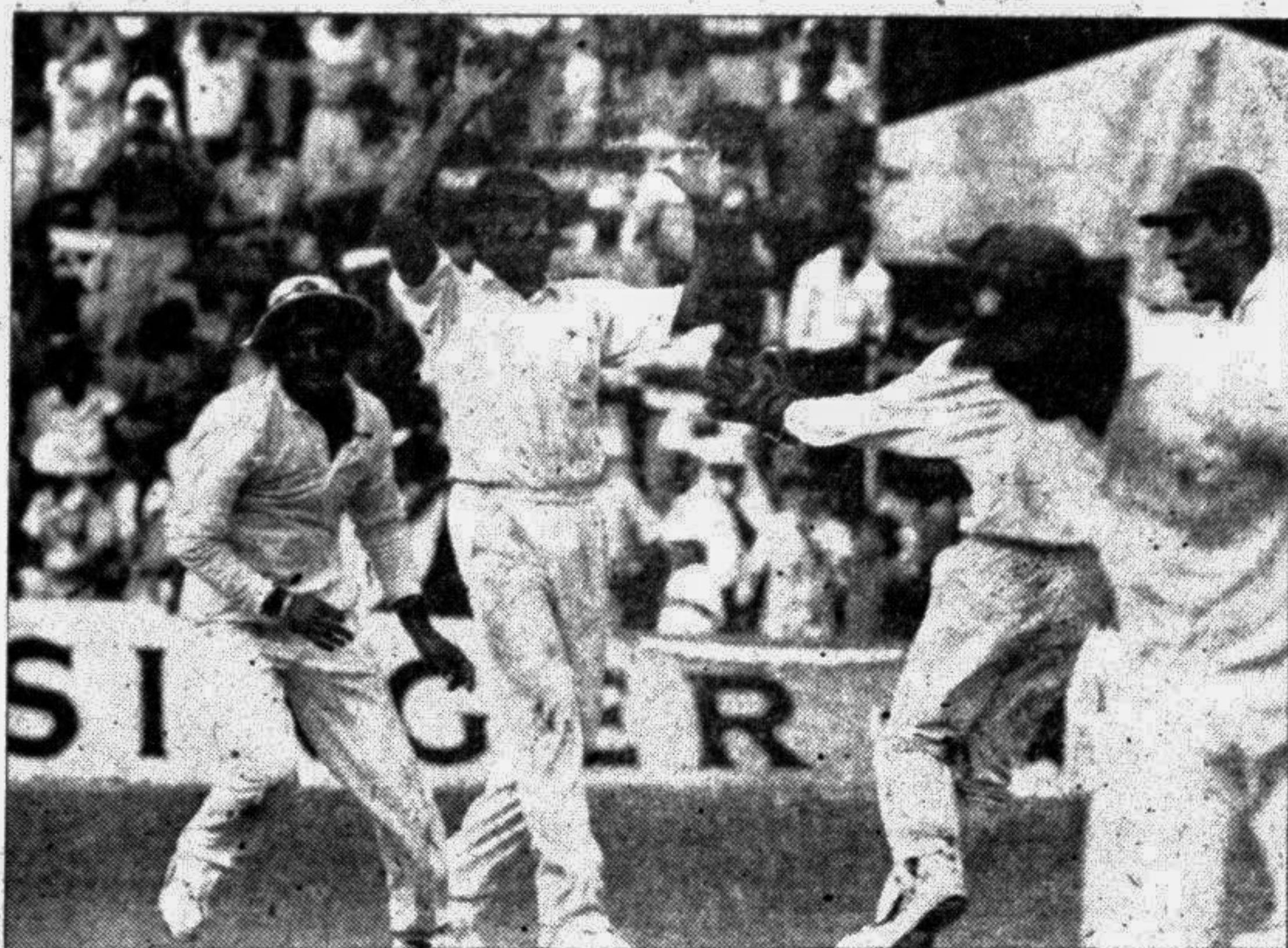
But Jon added he regretted the fact that his total lifting had fallen below 350 kilograms.

"I will aim for the gold medal at the Atlanta Games," he said.

As a whole, China continued to dominate the six-day event, grabbing nine golds so far.

China's Tang Weifang took the women's 70-kilogram title with a combined lift of 227.5 kilograms.

In the men's kilogram event, Li Yunnan of China lifted 36 kilograms to take the gold medal.



Pakistani paceman Aataur Rehman (2nd from L) becomes the toast of his teammates after dismissing the last Sri Lankan batsman during the final of the Singer Cup in at the Padang ground, Singapore yesterday. Aataur scalped three victims as Pakistan pulled off a seemingly unattainable victory by 43 runs.

eventually out for a magnificent 76 off just 28 balls when he looked on course for smashing his Tuesday's record for the quickest ton.

There were five sixes and eight fours, each beautifully timed and powerfully struck, before he skied an easy catch to Saeed Anwar at extra cover off fast-bowler Waqar Younis.

In the company of opening partner Ramesh Kaluwitharana, he added 70 runs for the first wicket, beginning with 14 runs off the first over from Waqar.

Kaluwitharana played the role of a sleeping partner in the stand, failing to even open his account before he was bowled by Aaqib Javed, demonstrating Jayasuriya's dominance.

"I am in good form but unfortunately we lost the game," said Jayasuriya, who was named man-of-the-series.

Jayasuriya's dismissal with the score at 96 saw a sensational collapse as four wickets fell for the addition of 10 runs.

Asanka Gurusinha, who struck four splendid boundaries, was claimed lbw by



SAQLAIN

Javed for 20 and World Cup final hero Aravinda de Silva scored just four before being snatched up by wicket keeper Rashid Latif off-spinner Saqlain.

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga fell in the same fashion at De Silva for a duck to reduce Sri Lanka to 106 for five.

## Jansher, Eyles enter British Open final

CARDIFF, Apr 7: Jansher Khan reached his fifth successive British Open final on Saturday when he defeated unseeded French champion Julien Bonetat 12-15, 15-9, 15-9 and 15-6, reports Reuter.

Bonetat refused to be overshadowed by the winner of four British and seven World Open titles and attacked the Pakistani from the start of the semifinal.

His audacious play earned him an opening game he clinched spectacularly by wrong-footing the undisputed world number one with a short forehand boast.

But Jansher adopted his sternest face, lectured the referee about failing to warn the fleet-footed Frenchman for pushing, and set about establishing the real boundaries of his superiority.

He closed the second game with a clinical backhand drop shot, wrapped up the next with a run from 2-2 to 9-4, then took the fourth in just six minutes after an opening burst to 9-0.

Victory put Jansher in today's final against second-seeded Australian Rodney Eyles.

Eyles beat his third-seeded compatriot Brett Martin 13-15, 15-12, 15-3 and 15-9. The match started in scintillating fashion but Martin's lack of mobility because of a weak ankle was gradually exposed.

It was the first time Eyles had made the final. "It has been a long time coming," admitted the Brisbane player, who lost the 1986 world junior final to Jansher when the Pakistani first erupted on to the international scene.

Since then Jansher had won 71 major crowns at senior level.

Hashan Tillekeratne and Roshan Mahanama added 40 runs for the sixth wicket before Pakistan struck again.

Mahanama was lbw to Younis for 14. Kumar Dharmasena was caught by Inzamam off Saqlain for five and Tillekeratne fell lbw to Aataur Rehman for a patient 33.

Rehman polished off the last two wickets to finish with three for 27 after being struck for 22 runs in an over by the rampaging Jayasuriya.

Earlier, Pakistan were bowled out for a modest 215 in 48.3 overs after being asked to bat first by Sri Lanka, who lined up the same side that beat Australia in the World Cup final.

None of the batsmen stayed long enough in the middle to play a big innings against a nagging attack that gave nothing away and was backed by splendid fielding that made Pakistan fight for every run.

Ijaz Ahmed top-scored with 51 off 75 balls, inclusive of two huge sixes near the end, before becoming the last batsman to fall when he was clean bowled by Sanath Jayasuriya trying a mighty heave.

Rameez Raja contributed 37 and with Salim Malik staged a patient 61-run stand for the third wicket, but wickets fell at regular intervals.

SCOREBOARD  
of the Singer Cup final match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Singapore on Sunday

PAKISTAN

Sohail b Vaas 18

Saeed Anwar c Muralitharan 17

b Wickremasinghe 17

Rameez run out 37

Malik c and b Muralitharan 27

Inzamam c Tillekeratne b De Silva 24

Ijaz b Jayasuriya 51

Latif b Dharmasena 2

Aaqib c Mahanama b Muralitharan 11

Saqlain c Tillekeratne b Vaas 0

Waqar run out 1

Rehman not out

Extras: (b 6, lb 4, w 6, nb 3) 215

Total: (all out, 48.3 overs) 215

Fall of wickets: 1-29; 2-41; 3-102; 4-106; 5-140; 6-143; 7-175; 8-199; 9-199.

Bowling

Wickremasinghe 8 1 30 1

Vaas 8 0 35 2

Muralitharan 10 0 42 2

Dharmasena 10 1 39 1

Jayasuriya 8.3 0 39 1

De Silva 4 0 20 1

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Sayed b Younis 76

Kaluwitharana b Aaqib 20

Gurusinha lbw Aaqib 0

De Silva c Latif b Saqlain 4

Ranatunga c Latif b Saqlain 0

Mahanama lbw Waqar 14

## Nat'l eves' chess results

Six players are jointly leading in the qualifying round of the 17th national women's chess championship securing three points each after the fourth round matches at the chess room of the National Sports Council, reports UNB.

The players are Syeda Af-sana Parveen Nira, Zakia Sultana, Jahanara Hoq Runu, Masuda Begum, Faizunnissa Poly and Nazrana Khan Eva.

In the day's round, Poly beat Jabunnissa and Eva defeated Farhana Fatema Tanu. The matches between Nira and Runu; and Zakia and Masuda ended in draws.

Ferdous Sultana Munni beat Farhana Sharmeen to move into second place with two and a half points. Rokhsana Gulshan Nikkan bagged two points beating Suriya Khatun Badhan.

Ruhani Amreen Tumpa drew with Nasreen Shamim in the other fixture.

The fifth and last round will be held today. Six players will qualify to play in the final phase.

The final phase, which is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, will start a day later with the participation of 10 players.

The number drawing ceremony of the final phase will be held on Tuesday instead of Monday.

## Dortmund miss the bus

BONN, Apr 7: Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund missed a perfect chance to regain the initiative in the German league title race when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by mid-table Werder Bremen on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Dortmund, beaten 1-0 by leaders Bayern Munich last weekend, were unable to dislodge the Bavarians from the top, after a 35th minute goal from Bremen's Brazilian Junior Baiano cancelled out their 14th-minute goal by Rene Tretschok.

Bayern, who had played one more game than their Ruhr rivals before Saturday, now travel to Borussia Moenchengladbach for an evening game today with a one-point lead.

Dortmund went into the first of two crucial games over the Easter period without key internationals Matthias Sammer and Stefan Reuter, both suffering from muscle injuries. But they will be kicking themselves for not beating Bremen.

The next face an awkward game against relegation-threatened Cologne on Tuesday.

Former European campaigners Cologne, who dismissed their second coach of the season this week, won 2-1 at Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday to give new coach Peter Neururer a superb start in charge.

Austrian striker Toni Polster scored a later winner for the Rhine club in the 87th minute.

After today's clash UEFA Cup semifinalists Bayern play host to St Pauli on Wednesday.

"We put a lot of pressure on after the interval but we got more and more nervous because Bremen defended so well," Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

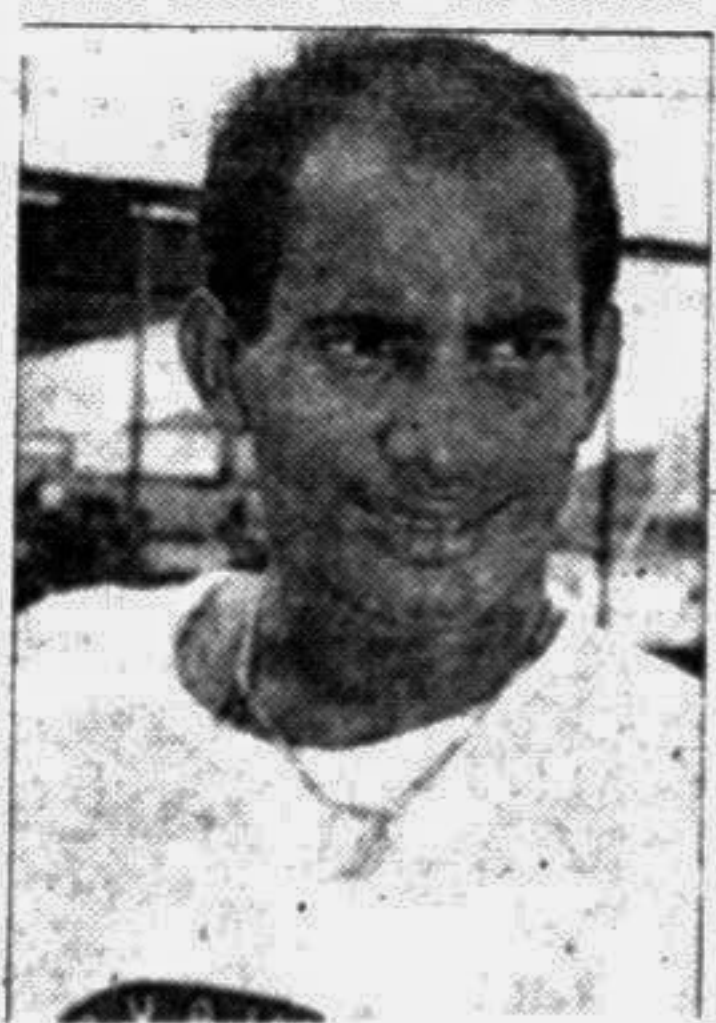
Bayern and Dortmund, who were involved in a bruising encounter last Saturday, have both been battling in Europe this season.

Many of their players have also been on international duty so the team which shows the greatest stamina should have the edge in the run-up for the league title.

At the other end of the table struggling Eintracht Frankfurt, who fired coach Karl-Heinz Korbel last weekend and hired former trainer Dragoslav Stepanovic, lost 2-1 at St Pauli and dropped into the relegation zone.

## Sanath smashes fastest fifty

SINGAPORE, Apr 7: Sri Lanka's master blaster Sanath Jayasuriya today broke the world record for the fastest



JAYASURIYA

one-day 50, reaching his half century off just 17 balls including five sixes and four fours, in the Singer Cup final against Pakistan, reports Reuter.

The previous record for the fastest 50 was recorded by Australia's Simon O'Donnell off 18 balls, against New Zealand in 1990.

Jayasuriya on Tuesday broke the World records for the fastest one-day century, the greatest number of sixes in a one-day innings and the greatest number of runs off a single over in Sri Lanka's clash in the round robin part of the tournament against the same opponents.



World No 1 and British Open champion Jansher Khan collides with Frenchman Julien Bonetat during their semifinal match in Cardiff, Wales on April 6. The Pakistani, who is chasing another Open title, won the match.

## MLS owes Wynalda one

SAN JOSE, California, Apr 7: All-time US international top-scorer Eric Wynalda flirted twice with scoring the first goal in Major League Soccer history before sending home a shot from 15 yards out to give the San Jose Clash a 1-0 victory over the Washington DC United Saturday, reports Reuter.

Before Wynalda struck in the 87th minute, the first game of the new professional league appeared destined for a shootout.

Wynalda, receiving a cross-field pass from Ben Iroha, beat two defenders inside the penalty area before lifting a curling right-foot shot into the far top corner.

"I can't explain the emotion of scoring the goal. It meant more to me than any goal I've ever scored," a tearful Wynalda told reporters in an ecstatic Glash locker room.

Alan Rothenberg, MLS chairman, told reporters he was "greatly relieved" the game did not end in a 0-0 draw, which would have resulted in a shootout.

"I would not have dared write a script with a corner ending."

Wynalda, who scored a memorable goal for the United States in the 1994 World Cup against Switzerland with a swerving free-kick over the defensive wall, saw a similar effort in the 66th minute saved

by a stretching Washington goalkeeper Jeff Causey. Fourteen minutes later Wynalda, a veteran of the German Bundesliga, beat Causey with a low diagonal shot, but the ball whistled inches wide of the far post.

United, led by American World Cup star John Harkes, seemed to tire in the second

half, and Bolivian striker Marco Etcheverry was a big disappointment.

The game, televised nationally on ESPN, was the first in the ten-team MLS.

US Soccer officials had pledged to the world soccer body FIFA that there would be a professional league in operation by 1994 as part of the bid that brought that year's World Cup to the United States.

The league is two years late, but officials are optimistic it will be more successful than the North American Soccer League (NASL) which folded in 1984.

There has been no major outdoor league in the United States since then, even though soccer has grown in popularity and the national team has come from nowhere to be ranked 14th in the world.

The first yellow card in the new league was shown to DC striker Raul Diaz Arce after only four minutes when he brought down San Jose's Nigerian defender Michael Enenma.

First-half play was tentative, with few chances by either team. The best chances fell to the Clash, whose Chilean forward Victor Mella had a shot blocked in the 15th minute and five minutes later defender Tim Martin shot over the bar after Washington's US international defender Jeff Agoos lost the ball.

Pre-match ceremonies featured a musical celebration of soccer by hundreds of local youths and a skydiver who landed in the centre circle of Spartan stadium.

Among signs in the sell-out crowd of 31,683, there was one saying "Bosnians are here. We love said," a reference to DC United defender said Fazagic, who is from Sarajevo.

He took a header from Florian Maurice on his chest, flicked it over a defender and ran on to slam it into the net.

But referee Marce Batta disallowed the effort for dangerous play, apparently because Roy had raised a foot to waist height.

Lyon's best player, pocket dynamo Ludovic Giuly, kept trying to make things happen but his efforts were constantly frustrated by Metz's tight marking of potential match-winner Maurice.

Metz cast defender Rigobert Song as Maurice's shadow and the Lyon striker learned the tune right away as the Cameroon World Cup player clattered him from behind twice in the first few minutes.

Maurice's frustration with the close attention he received resulted in a yellow card for protesting at the end of a first half.

## French League Cup Metz's

PARIS, Apr 7: Metz won the French League Cup soccer final on Saturday in a penalty shootout with Lyon after a 0-0 draw punctuated only by two disallowed goals in the last five minutes of extra time, reports Reuter.

Metz earned an automatic berth in next season's UEFA Cup when striker Cyrille Pouget netted from the spot to make it 5-4 in the shootout after Jacques Songo had saved the previous kick by Lyon's Brazilian sweeper Marcelo.

Both teams had missed with their opening penalties. Stephane Roche blasting over the bar by Lyon and Metz captain Sylvain Kastendieck doing exactly the same straight afterwards.

But France's second League Cup final will go down as an event to be forgotten, except by Lorraine fans after a match

dominated by tight defensive play, over-muscular tackling and little initiative.

Pouget said: "We reached our objective which was a place in the UEFA Cup. It was a very tough match. It's always a bit of a lottery when it finishes like that."

Metz were the first team to get the ball in the net in the regular game when substitute Stephane Adam beat Pascal Olmeta to the touch line as the Lyon keeper — one rushing out of his goal to intercept a through ball five minutes before the end of extra time.

But the linesman's flag went straight up for offside and Adam's celebrations were cut short.

Three minutes later, Lyon, the better and more enterprising teams on the day, looked to have earned a just victory with an excellent strike by midfielder Eric Roy.

After today's clash UEFA Cup semifinalists Bayern play host to St Pauli on Wednesday.

"We put a lot of pressure on after the interval but we got more and more nervous because Bremen defended so well," Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

Bayern and Dortmund, who were involved in a bruising encounter last Saturday, have both been battling in Europe this season.

Many of their players have also been on international duty so the team which shows the greatest stamina should have the edge in the run-up for the league title.

At the other end of the table struggling Eintracht Frankfurt, who fired coach Karl-Heinz Korbel last weekend and hired former trainer Dragoslav Stepanovic, lost 2-1 at St Pauli and dropped into the relegation zone.

Scene from yesterday's round of the 17th national women's chess championships.

—Star photo

## Atlanta gulps 'the real thing'

ATLANTA, Apr 7: When Atlanta was trying to enlist support for its longshot Olympic bid, organizers naturally turned to the city's most powerful company, which just happened to be one of the game's oldest corporate benefactors, reports AP.

When he visited Coca-Cola's headquarters, organising head Billy Payne was told politely he had come to the wrong place for help. Try the local bottler, Coke said.

Even though Atlanta is home to The Coca-Cola Co, 70 per cent of its sales are outside the United States. It couldn't risk alienating other cities seeking the 1996 Summer Games.

One the city was awarded the Olympics, however, Coca-Cola unabashedly threw its full corporate muscle behind Atlanta.

"Atlanta is special because it's our hometown and chance to welcome a lot of friends and guests and business customers from around the world," said Chuck Fruit, Coca-Cola vice president of media and presence marketing. "Beyond that, the Olympics is not an Atlanta event, or a Georgia event. It's a worldwide event."

When it suits, Coca-Cola readily plays up its humble origins and red clay roots. Few products are as associated in the public's mind with their hometowns as Coke is with Atlanta, where the soft drink was invented by a druggist in 1886.

So Coke is pouring it on for the Atlanta Games like never before, spending untold millions to plaster its logo and the Olympic rings on everything from billboards to commemorative cans to a 12-acre

"Olympic City" theme park. "They'd be severely criticised if they didn't have a big presence," said John Bevilacqua, who managed Coca-Cola's Olympic sponsorship programme for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and now runs an Atlanta consulting firm.

"Their own people would crucify them if they didn't."

Coke won't say how much it is spending on the Atlanta Games, but several analysts have estimated Coke's Olympic expenses will total between 200 million dollars and 250 million dollars. Others have put the figure at as much as 600 million dollars.

The numbers that have been made public indicate a staggering bill.

A worldwide sponsorship deal with the International Olympic Committee was worth 40 million dollars. Locking up all the soft drink commercial time on NBC's Olympic broadcast cost 60 million dollars, and Coca-Cola is seeking similar exclusivity deals in other major international television markets. The torch relay is costing about 20 million dollars, and "Olympic City" has been estimated to cost about 30 million dollars.

Undisclosed are the expenses of entertaining large numbers of visiting bottlers, clients and contest winners during the games.

The company took a lead role last year in helping the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games distribute 35 million ticket order forms and is the "official presenter" of the nationwide Olympic torch relay that begins April 27.

The torch relay alone promises to be an 84-day, 15,000-mile commercial for Coke, with banners, signs and soft-drink stands along the route. The company itself will choose one-fourth of the 10,000 people who will carry the Olympic flame.

In Atlanta, the company will operate two big Olympic pin trading centers, including one at the Centennial Olympic Park and another at an international plaza outside the World of Coca-Cola, a museum that is one of the city's top tourist attractions.

During the games, Coca-Cola expects 20 million 8-ounce servings of its products to be gulped in Atlanta. Except for Crystal Springs bottled water, which is an Olympic license, only Coke brand soft drinks will be sold at Olympic arenas. Coke also will blanket the streets with concession stands and roving vendors.

Given an immense stage to promote Powerade, the sports drink it developed to compete with market leader Gatorade, Coke will give athletes all they can swallow — especially near television cameras.

Coca-Cola's omnipresence makes it difficult for some to believe the company wasn't involved in the formative stages of Atlanta's Olympic bid. In fact, Payne's group initially received money and backing only from Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. the Atlanta bottler that is partly owned by The Coca-Cola Co.

has ever surfaced, but Coke took