

Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar takes evasive action to avoid a short-pitched delivery from Chris Lewis on the fifth and final day of second Test against England at Headingley yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Taylor skips Lanka tour

MELBOURNE, Aug 12: Australia Test captain Mark Taylor today pulled out of this month's tour to Sri Lanka to undergo surgery on a back injury, reports Reuter.

Taylor aggravated his back during recent pre-season training and will enter hospital



MARK TAYLOR for corrective surgery next week, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said in a statement.

"It is in my best interests and the best interests of Australian cricket that my condition be addressed as quickly as possible," Taylor said in the statement.

"I have had a chronic back condition for a number of years but until now I have always been able to overcome the problem through treatment," he said.

"The treatment prescribed on this occasion has so far been unsuccessful. I have been advised that the recovery time from an operation is about three weeks," added the left-handed opener.

Wicketkeeper and vice-captain Ian Healy is expected to take over from Taylor for the limited-overs tournament involving hosts Sri Lanka, India and Zimbabwe. The ACB said it will announce Taylor's replacement as player on Saturday.

Australia have yet to commit themselves to playing in the tournament after expressing concerns about player safety in Sri Lanka, which has been fighting a civil war.

Australia refused to play in Sri Lanka during the preliminary rounds of this year's limited-overs World Cup, because of safety fears.

ACB chief executive Graham Halbish said the board would consider the current security situation in Sri Lanka at a meeting on Friday.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka kept faith with their World Cup winning squad for the tournament.

Arjuna Ranatunga, who led the side when they beat Taylor's men in the World Cup final in Lahore last March, is again captain of the party named by the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka.

SQUAD: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha, Hashan Tillekeratne, Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Chaminda Vaas, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, Kumar Dharmasena, Muttiah Muralitharan, Upul Chandana, Mavan Atapattu, Ravindra Pushpakumara.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Premier Division football league:
(Venue: Dhaka Stadium)

YMC Fakirerpool vs Farashganj SC (4 pm)

Mohammedan SC vs East End Club (6 pm)

First Division football league:
(Venue: Mirpur Stadium)

Victoria SC vs Police AC (4:30 pm)

Wari Club vs Mirpur Chalantika SC (6:30 pm)

Open rating chess (Round-7)
Venue: NSC chess room

Headingley Test drawn

LEEDS, England, Aug 12: The second cricket Test between England and Pakistan at Headingley ended in a draw today, report agencies.

Scores: England 501, Pakistan 448 and 242-7, declared.

Pakistan lead 1-0 in the three-match series.

Earlier, England kept alive their faint hopes of an unlikely victory by taking five wickets before tea to have Pakistan 189 for five.

Pakistan, who scored 448 in the first innings and dismissed England for 501, have a 136-run lead with one session to play, and a draw is likely, but not ensured.

England dismissed openers Saeed Anwar (22) and Shadab Kabir (2) before lunch, but a 98-run third-wicket partnership between Inzamam-ul-Haq and Ijaz appeared to have put a draw beyond doubt.

Inzamam scored a quickfire 65 including nine boundaries — most of them pulls of cuts off the backfoot — as he combined with Ijaz to overhaul England's 53-run first-innings advantage.

Saeed's bat, dismissing the left-hander caught behind for 22, making it 34 for two.

On Sunday, Nick Knight converted his overnight half-century into his first Test century as England overhauled Pakistan's first-innings 448 before tea on the fourth day.

Knight's 113 helped England move from 373 for five to 473 for nine before rain forced the players off the field for tea.

A 30-run last-wicket stand after tea between Dominic Cork and Alan Mullally took England to 501 and a first-innings lead of 53.

Knight's century, scored off 154 balls with 16 boundaries, was the fourth of the Test match, which has been dominated by the batsmen of both sides.

Knight resumed his innings on 51 not out, and added just two runs before lunch after

rain had delayed the start of play for one hour and 45 minutes, allowing only fifteen minutes of play before the first break.

Following lunch, Knight scored slowly but confidently off the swing bowling of Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram, and the spin of Mushtaq Ahmed, as he combined with Jack Russell to push England's score past 400.

Knight, usually an opener but batting at No. 6 with Alec Stewart in form at the top of the order, reached his maiden century when Wasim bowled him a short, wide ball outside off, which he promptly cracked through gully for his 16th boundary.

His innings ended when he lifted a Waqar slower ball straight to Mushtaq at mid-on, making it 465 for eight.



England's Nick Knight is ecstatic on reaching his maiden three-figure mark during the penultimate day's play of the Headingley Test on Sunday. — AFP/UNB photo

Sanchez stoops to Seles

MONTREAL, Aug 12: Monica Seles successfully defended her Canadian Open title on Sunday when she defeated second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) in the final, reports Reuter.

Seles, the top seed, won the first five games of the opening set with power hitting reminiscent of the Monica Seles who held sole possession of the world number one ranking in 1991 and 1992. Seles made only four unforced errors despite hitting full-out on almost all her shots.

Seles led 2-0, 15-40 on Sanchez-Vicario's serve in the second set but the Spaniard battled back and forced the set to a tie-break.

Sanchez-Vicario won the first two points of the tie-breaker but then lost a point on a backhand error. On the next point, her racket slipped out of her hand and Seles only had to hit the ball back to win the point.

Sanchez-Vicario, after going to her chair to wipe off her

racket handle, returned and promptly double-faulted to give Seles a 3-2 lead.

Seles didn't lose another point in completing a seven-point run and earning her 11th victory over Sanchez-Vicario in 12 career meetings.

Seles earned the 200,000-dollar first prize in the 926,250-dollar tournament. It was her fourth tournament win in 1996. She also won the Australian Open and events in Sydney and Eastbourne.

"That was a huge break when Arantxa lost her racket in the tie-break," Seles said after her win. "We both played some great tennis and I knew that with the way Arantxa can chase balls and get them back that the match wouldn't be over until we shook hands at the net."

"I thought I played very well from the backcourt but I still wasn't serving very well," said Seles.

"I did all I could," said Sanchez-Vicario, "but Monica just played too well."

About the racket slipping out of her hand at a critical juncture, she added: "At 2-1

(in the tie-breaker), that was a gift for her and she was a little bit lucky."

Comparing her form to 1992 when she was runner-up to Sanchez-Vicario at the Canadian Open before beating her in the final of the US Open three weeks later, Seles said: "Obviously, I was playing great tennis then the way I was dominating, and I was very focused."

"It's hard to be that focused all the time and I don't have that right now."

She added: "I'm not as mentally strong as I was, but then I can't expect to be because I had a break (because of the Hamburg stabbing) at a crucial time in my career. But it's great to be back and I hope I can get there again."

Seles will not play and I hope I can get there again."

Seles will not play any more tournaments before the US Open begins on August 26 in New York. "I've been playing tennis since May 7 and it's time for a break," she said.

"I'm going to take four or five days off and then start re-focusing for the US Open."

Diego down in dumps

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 12: Soccer star Diego Maradona said on Sunday he was quitting his Argentine club, Boca Juniors, and hinted he might even retire, reports Reuter.

Maradona, 35, announced his decision to leave Boca shortly before the club's penultimate game of the season against Estudiantes de la Plata.

"It's all my fault what is happening to Boca right now," the former Argentine captain said before starting the game which Boca lost 2-1, dashing their slim hopes of winning the league.

Maradona, who has a contract with Boca until December 1997, missed a crucial penalty last week in a 1-0 defeat to racing club. It was the fifth consecutive penalty Maradona has missed.

My daughters suffered a lot after that game and that made me think everything over," he said. "This will be my last game at Boca's stadium."

The last game of the season is away to Deportivo Espanol.

"I don't know whether I will continue," he added. "It's something I'll consider in due time."

Boca officials said after the game that Maradona had spoken "in the heat of the moment" and that they would try to convince him to stay.

Maradona said last month he had been offered a contract with a Japa ese club, but that he had turned it down because he wanted to lead Boca to the championship title.

Cantona ruins Keegan's day

LONDON, Aug 12: Eric Cantona broke Newcastle hearts again on Sunday, scoring one goal and setting up another two as Manchester United demolished their Premier league rivals 4-0 in the English FA Charity Shield at Wembley, reports Reuter.

The Frenchman, who bagged the only goal in the two sides' tense clash at St James' Park in March — the turning point in last season's title race — opened the scoring for United on 24 minutes, latching on to a pass from David Beckham and stroking the ball inside Pavel Srinicek's left hand post.

Five minutes later he back-heeled to Beckham who drove a fierce cross into the Newcastle box.

Nicky Butt met it with a brilliant diving header to give last year's English league and cup double winners a deserved 2-0 lead, which they held until halftime.

The result was a huge disappointment for the big Newcastle contingent in the 73,000 crowd who had come to watch world record signing Alan Shearer.

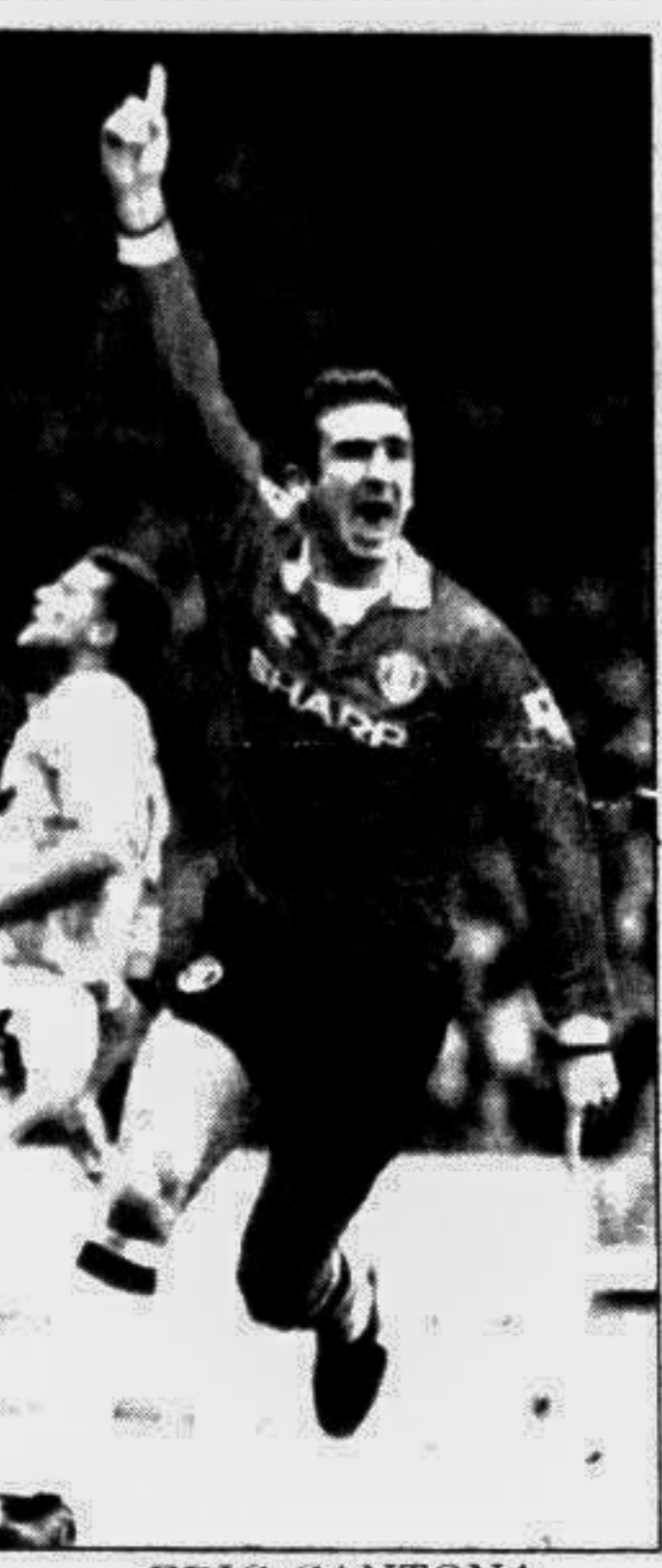
But the 15 million pound (23 million dollars) man hardly got a look in. "We were hopeless in the first half — a little better in the second," the striker said.

"One way of looking at it is that we can only get better."

Alex Ferguson's side started the second half as they ended the first, dominating the midfield and using Beckham and Giggs to good effect on the wings.

nearly won the championship last year for the first time since 1927.

Cantona, at the centre of everything for United, showed the dark side of his character as well as his brilliance, and got himself booked on the



ERIC CANTONA hour for striking out at Newcastle's Belgian fullback Philippe Albert.

able Peter Schmeichel in the United goal, and striker Les Ferdinand began to find space where Shearer could not. But the Reds, who brought on new foreign signing Karel Poborsky of the Czech Republic and Dutch forward Jordi Cruyff for their first taste of English football, looked impregnable in defence.

As the Magpies pushed forward they left holes at the back, and Cantona, captaining his side this season, was in a mood to exploit them.

Five minutes from time, with the rain pouring down, he lofted a long ball from inside his own half into the path of Beckham. The 21-year-old, who had an outstanding game, lobbed the ball over the on-rushing Srinicek to make the score 3-0.

Irish midfielder Roy Keane completed Newcastle's misery two minutes from time with a sweet strike from the edge of the box to complete the biggest Charity Shield win by any side for 18 years.

United, chasing their fourth championship success in five years, were immediately re-instated as 6-4 favourites to successfully defend their title, with Newcastle at 2-1.

For Keegan, who has rebuilt his side at the cost of 60 million pounds (92.5 million dollars) over the past four years, the defensive weakness that plagued his side last year.

The Charity Shield traditionally pits the English league champions against the Football Association Cup winners, but as Manchester United won both competitions last season, Newcastle qualified for Sunday's match as league runners-up.

Delighted Ferguson said: "We are the champions and FA Cup holders and I just told the players to go out and enjoy it, which they did."

"I think most of the pressure was on Newcastle. It was a big game for the following all the hype, while we were able to play our normal game."

Cantona, who was voted the man-of-the-match, said: "It is important to win these types of games. Was I surprised by the scoreline? Well I'll say 'yes' to be polite."

Unhappy Keegan hit out at his team's lack of passion.

He told reporters: "I am a passionate person. I look at my Newcastle badge and I am proud of it. But the hunger and passion was missing from our game. We looked out of sorts and treated it as a pre-season warm-up."

"There looked to be a massive gulf between the two clubs. I just hope I am wrong."

Keegan added: "The key to our game is to get the ball down and pass it about. We didn't do that today and I don't think we matched them for work-rate either."

"We were invited to play as Manchester United won the double. But it's been terrible and I wish they had invited someone else."

One consolation for Keegan was the performance of substitute Faustino Asprilla, the costly Colombian.

"He did more in five minutes than the rest did in 90," Keegan said. "But we know Alan will play better and the partnership with Les will get better."

Surrey top the table

LONDON, Aug 12: Surrey moved to the top of the Sunday League table when they comfortably disposed of Lancashire while former leaders Northamptonshire lost to Kent by four wickets, reports Reuter.

Surrey won on a faster run rate in a rain affected match after they scored 202 for seven and then dismissed Lancashire, set a revised total of 182 for 128 in 31.3 overs.

Surrey paceman Joey Benjamin grabbed the crucial wickets of Mike Watkinson and Neil Fairbrother as he bowled his eight overs for a cost of only 22 runs.

Martin Bicknell then returned for his second spell and fired out Graham Lloyd and Sunday League debutant Paddy McKeown in his first over and ended with three for 25.

Surrey's 40-over total of 202 for seven was built round an innings of 58 in 82 balls by Nadeem Shahid.

Northants' title hopes were dented by Graham Cowdrey, who lashed 52 from 36 deliveries, including a six and five fours, to carry Kent past the home sides' 235 for seven with eight balls to spare.

Cowdrey's innings came when Kent were struggling at 162 for five after a fine spell from Seamer David Capel who claimed four for 44. His victims included Matthews Fleming who hit a robust 72 from 74 balls, including two sixes and six fours.

Surrey top the table with 36 points from 13 matches with Northants two points behind but third placed Nottinghamshire still pose a major threat after beating Middlesex to be four points behind the leaders but with a match in hand.

Notts coasted to a nine-wicket win with 6.5 overs to spare at Trent Bridge after dismissing the visitors for 137. New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns was the most successful bowler with four for 22.

Former captain Tim Robinson then steered Notts to victory with an unbeaten 66 made from 88 balls and including five fours.

Andre clips Chang's wings

MASON, Ohio, Aug 12: Defending champion Andre Agassi recorded a 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 victory over Michael Chang Sunday, beating him for the second successive year in the final of the 2.2-million-dollar ATP championship, reports Reuter.

The sixth-seeded and seventh-ranked Agassi, who came directly from his Olympic gold medal performance in Atlanta, defeated three top-five players in a row to defend his title.

He beat fourth ranked Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russian in the quarterfinals, second-ranked Thomas Muster of Austria in the semifinals and the third-ranked Chang in the final.

For the third-seeded Chang, playing in his fourth consecutive final at the ATP championship, the loss marked his first defeat since the first round of Wimbledon.

A low-time champion here, Chang came into the tournament having won the two previous tournaments in Washington, DC and Los Angeles.

Agassi leads Chang 11-6 in their head-to-head series, but the two Americans are now even at 2-2 for matches in 1996.

The player who has won the opening set of their past 17

encounter has gone on to win the match 15 times. Agassi opened the one hour, 43-minute match with a service break, but in no way believed he has staked his claim for victory.

"When I match up with Michael, there are a lot of moments when the momentum swings quickly in short sports," said Agassi, who earned 300,000-dollar. "When we play a two-set match, I expect three or four service breaks. Neither one of us will hold serve all the time."

The two tended not to overpower each other because neither can be considered an aggressive serve-and-volleyer. They have to take the advantage from the backcourt, which makes holding serve a little more difficult.

"In a lot of ways we play like women's tennis, meaning you're up a (service) hold," Agassi said, as opposed to being up a service break.

Chang, who served at a low 46 per cent first-serve efficiency, conquered Agassi's serve in the eighth game to climb back even at 4-4 in the first set.

In the tenth game of the first set, Chang led 5-4 and had four set points on Agassi's serve. But Agassi stepped up the level of his play and saved himself from going down a one-set deficit.

Down 2-4 to Chang in the tie-breaker, Agassi won the next five points to end the first set. After exchanging early service breaks in the second set, Agassi took the match by breaking Chang's serve in the final game of the match. At 30-40 in that tenth game, a Chang forehand smacked into the top of the net and dropped back on to his own side of the net.

Chang, who earned 160,000 dollars, let be lacked a little sprain in his legs and suggested that Olympic gold medal gymnast Amanda Borden, a local resident who was in the crowd, might have been able to help him out.

"I played well, but I can play better," Chang said. "I think I needed a little bit more bounce in my legs. Maybe Amanda could've helped me out."

Linford bids Crystal Palace adieu

LONDON, Aug 12: Linford Christie won his final race at the Crystal Palace stadium on Sunday, but there were just 6,000 spectators to see it.

One of the smallest crowds for an international meeting, there for years, reports Reuter.

Christie, who confirmed he is quitting top-class racing at the end of the season, won a 150 metres race in 15.08 seconds.

After a lap of honour in the rain, Christie said: "All good things must come to an end, next year I'll be sitting in the crowd keeping dry."

Britain's team captain, who lost his Olympic 100 metres title after two false starts in Atlanta, preferred to swell on those who did turn out. "They are the ones who keep the sport going," he insisted.

Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Athletic Federation, said "It was probably too close to the Olympic."

Tony Jarrett, who crashed out in the 110 metres hurdles heats in Atlanta, punched the air in delight after outpacing Olympic and world champion Allen Johnson and British teammate Colin Jackson in 13.32 seconds.

Steve Backley won the men's javelin on countback after finishing level with Australian Andre Curry on 82.10 metres.

Fellow silver medalist Jonathan Edwards took the men's triple jump with 16.93 metres — his shortest winning leap for nearly two years — but him jumper Steve Smith, who collected a bronze at the Games was down in fifth place in his event.

Andre clips Chang's wings



American golfer Mark Brooks kisses the Wannamaker Trophy after winning the 78th PGA Championship in Louisville, Kentucky on Aug 11. — AFP/UNB photo