

Taylor begins to recuperate

SYDNEY, Aug 22: Australia cricket captain Mark Taylor was recovering in hospital today after surgery on his back his management company said.

Taylor underwent an apparently successful operation on Wednesday to repair a damaged disc, a spokesman told Reuters.

The back injury prevented the left-handed opener from leading Australia on their current tour to Sri Lanka for a four-nation limited-overs tournament.

"It's just a matter of his recovery taking its normal course," the spokeswoman said.

Before entering hospital, Taylor said he expected it would take about three weeks for him to regain fitness after the surgery.

Taylor hopes to resume playing before Australia leave for India in early October to play a one-off Test against their hosts and a limited-overs tournament.

Wicketkeeper Ian Healy has assumed the captaincy for the two-week Singer tournament, starting on August 26, involving hosts Sri Lanka, India and Zimbabwe.

After the test match last year, reports AFP.

The decision caused a lot of controversy since Hick had scored only two Test centuries at the time, and it was felt that his confidence was still in need of a boost so that he could fulfill his unquestionable talent.

Later in the year the Worcestershire batsman added two more centuries, but now, after a succession of low scores, he has yet again been dropped from the England side.

Writing in September's Wisden cricket monthly, Atherton says: "We were 450 runs ahead and needed to be too good to Australia with the new ball, one before tea and one after."

"In retrospect, I don't think I would do the same thing again. It strained relations with somebody I have always got on well with and flattened the atmosphere in the dressing-room at a time when we needed to be really upbeat."

Arantxa tames a toughie

CARLSBAD, California, Aug 22: Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain survived a second-round scare with a 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Naoko Kijimuta of Japan in the 450,000 dollars Toshiba Tennis Classic, reports AP.

The hard-hitting Kijimuta completely outplayed Sanchez-Vicario, ranked No. 2 in the world, in the first set.

Sanchez-Vicario, playing her first match after a first-round bye, said she experienced nausea throughout the first set and was treated between sets.

"She didn't miss too many shots," Sanchez-Vicario said. "It took me a while to get used to the court. But she was hitting the ball earlier than me and going for the winners."

Sanchez-Vicario broke Kijimuta's serve twice to lead the second set 3-0. After Kijimuta broke back to tie at 4-4, Sanchez-Vicario assumed control of the match.

Sanchez-Vicario dictated the pace in the third, jumping ahead 5-1.

"When it was 2-1 in the third, I knew the match was in my hands," Sanchez-Vicario said.

In another match, Kamiko Date beat Japanese compatriot Yone Kamio 6-2, 7-5.

Date, seeded fourth and ranked ninth in the world, recovered from a glitch in the second set to advance to the quarterfinals at the La Costa Resort and Spa.

No. 7 Ai Sugiyama of Japan became the first seed to lose when she squandered a 4-1 lead in the third set and lost 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. France's Sandrine Testud.

No. 8 Nathalie Tauziat of France eased into the quarters with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan.

After storming through the first set, Date found herself down 3-0 to start the second set. She rebounded to tie, at 3-3, including a break in the fifth game when Kamio double faulted on game point.

No room for tradition

NEW YORK, Aug 22: Pete Sampras as No. 1 at the US Open? No shock there. Michael Chang as No. 2? Big surprise — and the latest slap at Thomas Muster, the ATP Tour rankings, and tradition.

The US Tennis Association gins on Monday.

Snyder said tournament officials wanted the seedings to be a more accurate predictor of the event rather than a reflection of the rankings computer.

He said a player's showing in the other Grand Slams, recent performance and record on hard courts were all taken into consideration in making the seeding decisions. He insisted the popularity of a player was not a factor.

"Just like any sport, players can get on a hot streak and I think that should be taken into account," Snyder said.

Chang holds a 15-1 match record during the summer hardcourt season after winning titles in Washington and Los Angeles and reaching the final in Cincinnati.

In other moves, eighth-ranked Andre Agassi, coming off victories in the Olympics and at Cincinnati, was seeded sixth and seventh-ranked Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek was seeded fifth.

Despite a history of disappointing showings at Flushing Meadows, sixth-ranked Croatian Goran Ivanisevic was seeded fourth, while fourth-ranked French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov was seeded only seventh.

Sixteenth-ranked Spaniard Flix Mantilla, who would have been awarded the final seeding under the usual US Open format, was left unseeded, allowing Frenchman Cedric Pioline to join the seeded ranks in the men's draw.

Asked how he hoped it would all pan out on the final Sunday, Snyder said: "I'd like to have what we had last year, women one and two, and men one and two."

The following is the list of men's and women's seeds for the US Open with their world ranking in parenthesis. Several of the players were moved up one place by the withdrawal of fifth-ranked Boris Becker, who pulled out with a wrist injury.

MEN

- 1. Pete Sampras (US) (1)
- 2. Michael Chang (US) (3)
- 3. Thomas Muster (Austria) (2)
- 4. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) (6)

5. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) (7)

6. Andre Agassi (US) (8)

7. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) (4)

8. Jim Courier (US) (9)

9. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) (10)

10. Marcelo Rios (Chile) (11)

11. Malival Washington (US) (12)

12. Todd Martin (US) (13)

13. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden) (14)

14. Alberto Costa (Spain) (15)

15. Marc Rosset (Switzerland) (17)

16. Cedric Pioline (France) (18)

WOMEN

- 1. Steffi Graf (Germany)
- 2. Monica Seles (US)
- 3. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
- 4. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
- 5. Iva Majoli (Croatia)
- 6. Anke Huber (Germany)
- 7. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
- 8. Lindsay Davenport (US)
- 9. Mary Joe Fernandez (US)
- 10. Kimiko Date (Japan)
- 11. Chanda Rubin (US)
- 12. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
- 13. Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (Netherlands)
- 14. Barbara Paulus (Austria)
- 15. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
- 16. Martina Hingis (Switzerland)



GORAN IVANISEVIC

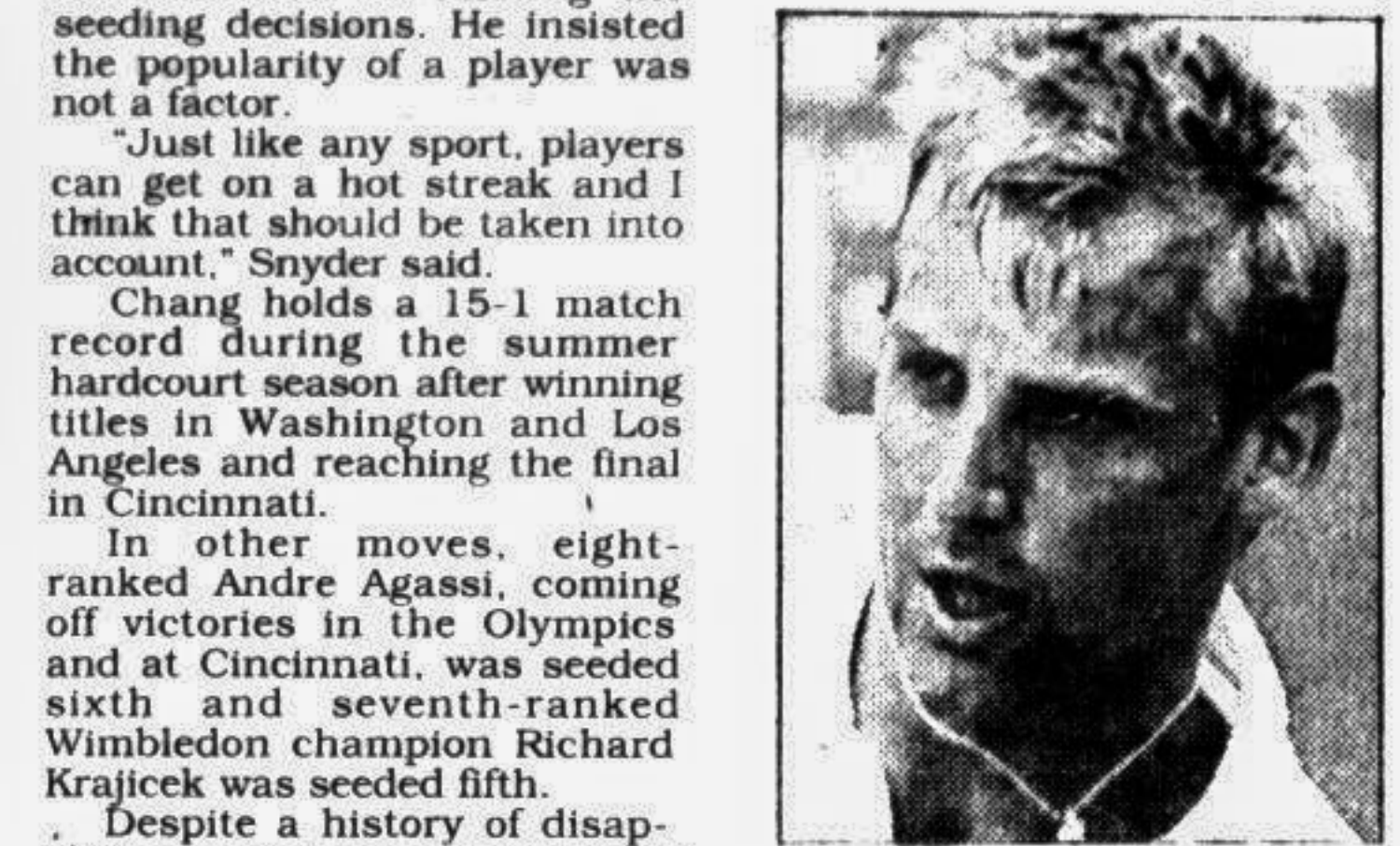
(USTA) broke with its own long standing tradition and took a page out of the Wimbledon handbook on Wednesday by deviating from the ATP Tour rankings in formulating men's seedings for the US Open tennis championships, report agencies.

Unlike Wimbledon officials, the usually conservative association seeded players at the Open strictly according to world rankings since they began in 1973.

USTA president and tournament chairman Les Snyder decided to do things a little differently this year, withholding the list of men's seeds until just prior to Wednesday's draw ceremony with the promise of a few surprises.

Most notable was the bumping of red-hot Michael Chang, currently ranked a career-high third in the world, to the second seed, right behind world number one Pete Sampras.

That dropped second-ranked Thomas Muster of Austria, who has achieved early all of his success on clay, to the third spot for the tournament which be-



THOMAS MUSTER

comes on Monday.

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Becker, Pierce skip US Open

NEW YORK, Aug 22: Australian Open champion Boris Becker has withdrawn from the US Open tennis championships, which begins on Monday, the US Tennis Association (USTA) announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The fifth-ranked German star, who won the US Open in 1989, is still suffering from the wrist injury he sustained at Wimbledon.

The USTA also announced that Mary Pierce of France and American Meredith McGrath had pulled out of the year's final Grand Slam tournament.

Pierce, ranked 12th in the world, is sidelined with an injury to her right shoulder. The 20th-ranked McGrath, who made quite a splash at Wimbledon this year by reaching the semifinals, has a knee injury.

French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov was included in Wednesday's US Open draw, but the fourth-ranked Russian considers himself questionable after pulling out of the Hamlet Cup on Tuesday with a rib injury.

Joyce jolts Reneberg

COMMACK, New York, Aug 22: Unseeded Michael Joyce beat No. 3 Richey Reneberg 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Hamlet Cup tennis tournament, reports AP.

In Wednesday night's program, top-seeded Michael Chang faced Sergi Bruguera of Spain.

Joyce fought back from 0-2 in the second set and produced three aces in reaching a 3-0 lead in the third set, breaking Reneberg's service at love along the way.

"I felt tired and sluggish at the beginning of the match, probably from the long three-setter I had beating Javier Frana (Tuesday)," said Joyce, a former national junior champion. "I started to rely more on my serve, making a conscious effort to get the first one in rather than go for speed."

Joyce, bothered with elbow and stomach problems during the year, added, "This Hamlet tournament has been good for me. It felt good to be able to rally back after a tough match yesterday. I've been handicapped with a sore elbow but to beat a good player like Reneberg builds my confidence."

Reneberg now prepares for his US Open first-round match against Thomas Muster of Austria, the world's No. 2 player and the third seed in the tournament.

Joyce hits a lot of balls back and I got tired," Reneberg said. "But I'm not going to have any short points with Muster in the Open. So I better get myself going again."

Martin Damm of the Czech Republic advanced to the quarterfinals when sixth-seeded Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco retired in the third set, winning 5-7, 6-3, 3-0. El Aynaoui hurt his right foot.



Noriko Kajiwara of Japan shows the gold medal she has won in the 50m breaststroke of the Paralympic Games at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre in Atlanta on Aug 21. Kajiwara set a new world and Paralympic record with a time of 54.21. —AFP/UNB photo

US Open on Star Sports

Star TV closes another sensational year of Grand Slam tennis with daily live coverage of the 1996 US Open on Star Sports. This illustrious event takes place in Flushing Meadows, New York from August 26 through September 8, 1996.

Star Sports live telecast commences on Monday, August 26, 23:00 (BST), says a press release.

Star Sports' anchorman, Brian Langley, accompanied by Indian tennis legend, Vijay Amritraj, America's Andreea Jaeger, Andrea Leand and Barry Toppkins, will all be on location, and with unlimited access to the player's lounge, practice areas and courtside, Star Sports' anchor team promises the most complete coverage.

Star Sports will provide 120 hours of live coverage including both men's and women's finals. Times of play are divided into day and night sessions, allowing for a break in action. This format will continue through to the semi-finals.

The previous three Grand Slams of 1996 have been won by Boris Becker (Austria), Yevgeny Kafelnikov (French) and Richard Krajicek (Wimbledon) but the Americans are in excellent form to salvage their pride on their home soil.

Michael Chang has been having a wonderful American hardcourt season with titles in Washington and Los Angeles. The new Olympic champion Andre Agassi triumphed in Cincinnati, and the defending US Open champion Pete Sampras recovered from a dismal spell to capture the Indianapolis title. This year's title will be a tough fight among the Americans, especially after Becker's withdrawal and Kafelnikov's rib injury.

Chang receives a huge confidence boost when he is seeded second behind Sampras but ahead of world number two Thomas Muster of Austria. His first round opponent is the dangerous Czech, Daniel Vacek and the big-serving Swiss Marc Rosset will be first seeded player to face Chang should they both

reach the round of 16. Sampras' opening round opponent will be another Czech, David Rik. Muster, however, has a more difficult obstacle — the crafty American Richey Reneberg.

On the women's side, reigning champion Steffi Graf's 35 Grand Slam match winning streak can possibly come to an end. The formidable "Fraulein Forehand" will be severely tested as the injury-plagued Graf is set to be challenged by Spaniards Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Conchita Martinez, and old foe Monica Seles. The chasing pack also includes the strong American contingent of Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport who recently posted

a first career win over Graf, the fast-rising Chanda Rubin and Mary Joe Fernandez. Iva Majoli and Anke Huber, the world number four and five players, are also contenders for the coveted title.

Top-seeded Graf will have a tricky first round match against the Indonesian sever-and-volleyer Yayuk Basuki. Other top seeds face less fancied opponents except Davenport who draws world number 17 Karina Habudsova.

For two weeks of exciting professional tennis of the highest level and all the buzz and fuss from the Big Apple, tune into the US Open live on Star Sports.

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Date	1st Time	Round/Session
Aug 26	23:00	Round 1. Men's & Women's Singles
Aug 27	05:30	Round 1. Men's & Women's Singles
Aug 27	21:00	Round 1. Men's & Women's Singles
Aug 28	05:30	Round 1. Men's Doubles
Aug 28	23:00	Round 1, & 2. Men's & Women's Singles
Aug 29	05:30	Round 2. Women's Singles
Aug 29	21:00	Round 1. Men's Women's & Mixed Doubles
Aug 30	05:30	Round 1. Men's Women's & Mixed Doubles
Aug 30	23:00	Round 2 & 3. Men's & Women's Singles
Aug 31	05:30	Round 3. Women's Singles
Aug 31	21:00	Round 2. Men's Women's & Mixed Doubles
Sept 1	05:30	Round 2. Men's Women's & Mixed Doubles
Sept 1	21:00	Round 3 & 4. Men's & Women's Singles
Sept 2	05:30	Round 4. Women's Singles
Sept 2	21:00	Round 3. Men's & Women's Doubles
Sept 3	05:30	Mixed Doubles Quarter finals
Sept 3	21:00	Round 4. Men's & Women's Singles
Sept 3	05:30	Round 3. Men's & Women's Doubles
Sept 3	21:00	Mixed Doubles Quarter finals
Sept 4	05:30	Round 4. Men's Singles
Sept 4	21:00	Women's Quarter finals
Sept 5	05:30	Mixed Doubles Quarter finals
Sept 5	21:00	Men's & Women's Quarter finals
Sept 5	05:30	Men's & Mixed Doubles Semi-finals
Sept 5	21:00	Women's Doubles Quarter-finals
Sept 6	05:30	Men's Quarter-finals
Sept 6	21:00	Mixed Doubles final
Sept 6	05:30	Women's Doubles Semi-finals
Sept 6	21:00	Women's Semi-finals
Sept 7	21:00	Men's Doubles-final
Sept 7	00:00	Men's Semi-finals
Sept 8	00:00	Women's Doubles Final
Sept 8	00:00	Women's Final

Pete, Steffi set to sail

NEW YORK, Aug 22: World number one Pete Sampras, seeking his first Grand Slam title of the year, and women's top seed Steffi Graf, aiming for her third, should be able to ease into the year's final major, which begins on Monday, reports Reuter.

Sampras opens defence of his US Open crown against David Rikl of the Czech Republic, while top-ranked Graf begins her title defence against Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia.

Wednesday's US Open draw ceremony revealed that both title holders should run into their first serious opposition in the third round.

Looming in Sampras' future is a likely third-round date with recent nemesis Mark Philippoussis, the rising Australian who took out Sampras in the third round of the Australian Open in January.

Sampras avenged that defeat with a straight sets win over the 19-year-old power hitter in the

second round at Wimbledon and their rubber match in New York could provide some first-week fireworks.

While only a stunning upset will keep Graf from sailing through to a predictable semi-final showdown with third seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the German star could also be tested in the third round where she will probably face 28th-ranked veteran Natasha Zvereva of Belarus.

There will be no repeat of last year's men's final with eighth-ranked Andre Agassi landing in Sampras' half of the draw. Bumping Agassi up to the sixth seeding allowed the possibility that he would run into Sampras as early as the quarterfinals, but they could lock horns in the semis.

Olympic champion, Agassi meets Karim Alami of Morocco in the first round.

Surprise second seed Michael Chang, ranked third in the world, opens against Czech Daniel Vacek, while women's second seed Monica Seles drew

American Anne Miller as her first victim.

Second-ranked Austrian Thomas Muster, who was seeded third, did not have the luck of the draw with him. In the first round Muster faces American Richey Reneberg, who has been playing some of the best tennis of his career of late.

If he survives, Muster is seeded to run into either fifth-seeded Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands or 12th-seeded American Todd Martin in the quarterfinals in Chang's half of the draw.

Perhaps the best, yet most unfortunate, first-round matchup of the men's competition pits eighth seed Jim Courier against retiring star Stefan Edberg.

The popular Swede is playing his final major tournament next week and the two-time champion's Grand Slam farewell could well be a one-match affair.

Rangers' ruthless show

PARIS, Aug 22: Scottish champions Glasgow Rangers qualified for the Champions' League in some style on Wednesday, hammering Russian outfit Alania Vladikavkaz 7-2 away from home to advance 10-3 aggregate, report agencies.

International striker Ally McCoist sent the Rangers on their way after barely 30 seconds with a header from a Brian Laudrup cross. And the furious opening pace continued as McCoist bagged another on 14 minutes before completing his hatrick five minutes later.

Igor Yanovsky managed a goal in between for the team from North Ossetia and a Suleimanov penalty saw them briefly back in the hunt before Peter Van Vossen broke away to hit Rangers' fourth just before the interval.

Afterwards, it was one-way traffic as Brian Laudrup with a brace and Charlie Miller finished off their hapless opponents.

Rangers now go into the lucrative Champions' League competition which could net them around 5-7 million pounds.

They are joined by Norway's Rosenborg, who ousted last season's Champions' Cup semifinalists Penafthiakos of Greece after overturning a one-goal deficit by winning the return 3-0.

Austria's Rapid Vienna, who beat Dinamo Kiev 6-2 on aggregate, also advanced, as did Turkish side Fenerbahce, who sneaked past Israel's MacCabi Tel Aviv 2-1 on aggregate.

In Bucharest, local outfit Steaua saw off a poor Bruges side 3-0 to go through 5-2.

Widzew Lodz of Poland found lady luck shown on them as they crept through on the away goals rule against Brondby of Denmark.

The Danes went out despite a 3-2 win, as Lasgas Wojtala goal saving the Poles. Earlier, Kim Vilfort appeared to have made the game safe for Brondby with their third.

Elsewhere, Grasshoppers Zurich's Swiss international

Kubilay Turkylilmaz was on the mark for the only goal against Slavia Prague as the Swiss cruised through on the 5-0 cushion established in the first leg.

And Gothenburg kept Swedish interest alive as they battled for a 1-1 draw in Budapest, against Ferencvaros to preserve their first leg advantage and progress 4-1 on aggregate.

Bundesliga match at Frankfurt, defending champions Borussia Dortmund bounced back with a 4-0 victory over Fortuna Dueseldorf Wednesday, while Bayer Munich struggled to a 1-1 draw at home against Bochum.

In other games, Ulf Kirsten scored three goals to lead Bayer Leverkusen to a 3-1 victory at Duisburg, while Cologne beat 1860 Munich 1-0.

Dortmund and Dueseldorf fought out an action-packed match before a crowd of 48,500 that saw the defending champion go ahead on goals by Michael Zorc in the 35th and Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat in the 41st.

Substitute Karl-Heinz Riedle then scored twice late in the game to complete Dortmund's comeback after a 4-2 first-round loss to Leverkusen. Riedle's second goal was set up by Portuguese star Paulo Sousa who made his debut as a second half substitute.

In Munich, 60,000 came to the Olympic stadium to see Bayern's home debut and after a lackluster first half, they cheered in the 52nd minute when Ruggiero Rizzitelli, the new Italian forward, scored his second goal of the season to put Bayern ahead.

But the jubilation was over

Man United rope in Roy

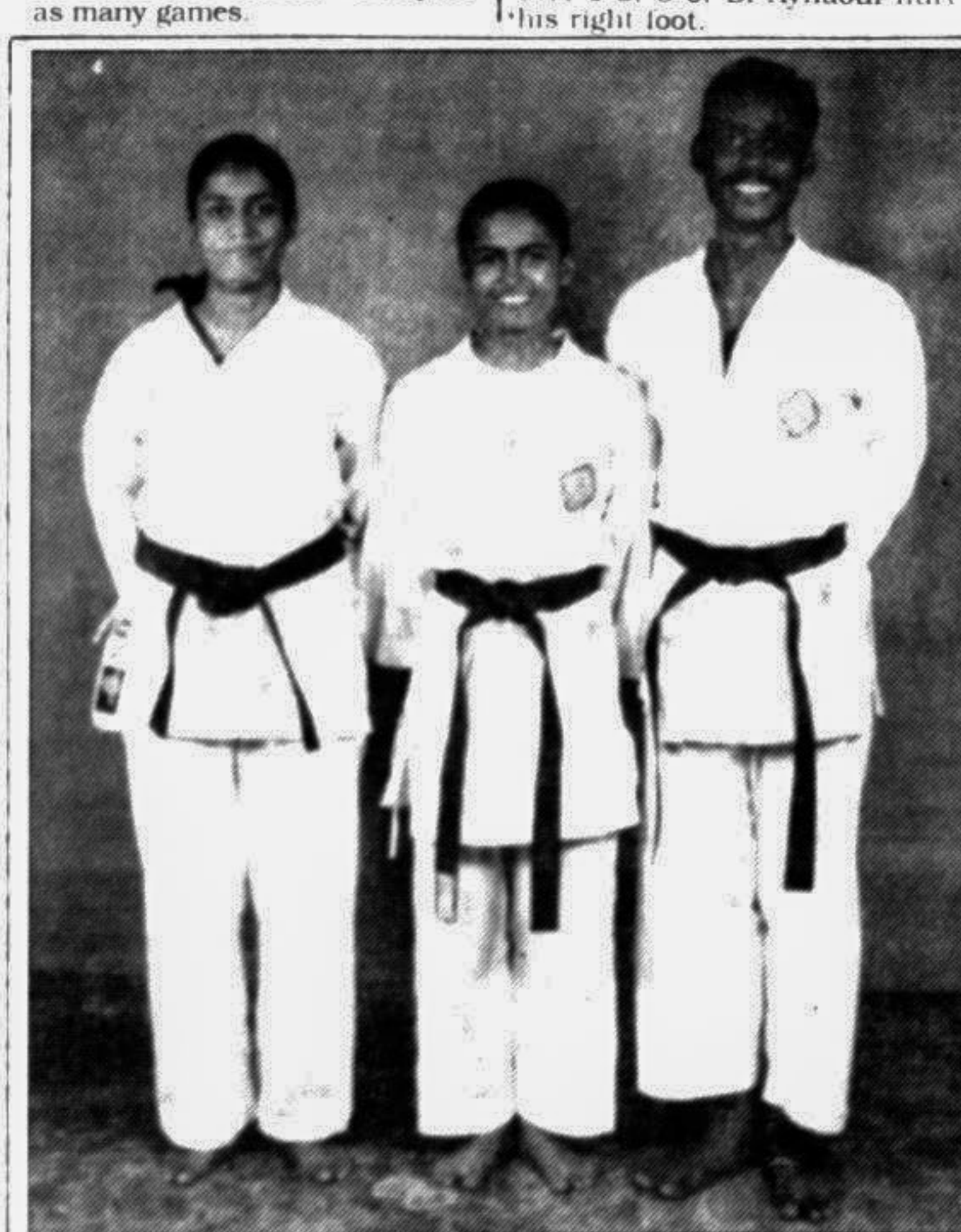
LONDON, Aug 22: Ireland midfielder Roy Keane has signed a new four-year contract with English League and FA Cup champions Manchester United, reports Reuter.

"Roy agreed a new deal before last night's game against Everton and we are delighted," said United manager Alex Ferguson today.

20 minutes later when Peter Peschel tied for a surprisingly strong Bochum team, which has returned to the top league after a season in the second division.

In Cologne, Dorinel Munteanu had a penalty saved by 1860 Munich goalkeeper Bernd Meier in the third minute, but two minutes later Cologne's second Romanian, striker Ion Vladioti scored the only goal.

Markus Marin converted a penalty in the 54th minute for 1-0 Duisburg lead at home but Kirsten, who was nearly sold in the off-season, then struck three goals in arrow to secure Leverkusen's second victory in any games.



CONGRATULATIONS! Alia, Sweety and Bishwajit were recently given black belts at the Bengal School of Shotokan, Dhaka. —Star photo

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Friday 23rd August
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in group programmes)

BT

Morning Session
8:00am Opening Announcement
8:10 News in Bangla 8:15
Alor Dharani 8:40 Chetona 9:05
Educational Film: The World of Mathematics/Numbers and Figures 9:30 Comedy Series: Murphy Brown 10:00 The News
10:05 Mener Muktara: Reticast of Selected Drama 11:15
Cartoon 11:40 Prescription
11:55 Shikha-Dhiska 12:30
Evening Transmission

BBC

6:00am BBC Newsroom in World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 7:00 BBC Newsroom in World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 8:00 BBC Newsroom in World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:00 BBC World News 10:00 BBC News 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 BBC World News 12:00 BBC World News 2:30 Time Out: Raymond's Biopic 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Time Out: The Sky At Night 4:00 BBC Newsweek 6:00 BBC World News 6:05 Under The Sun 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newsroom Asia and Pacific 8:30 Show Asia: Tomorrow's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:05

CHANNEL V

7:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 8:00 Jump Start VJ Trey 9:00 Frame by Frame 11:00 The Vibe VJ Luke 12:00 Rewind VJ Sophia 1:00 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00 Frame by Frame 3:00 Videocon Flashback 3:30 Soul Curry 4:00 Planet Ruby 7:30 By Demand V