

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT the 1994 World Cup Football final at Pasadena, California was a special one. It was the only final in which no goal was scored in regular time. It was obviously also the only final decided in penalty-kick shoot-out with Brazil winning 3-2 against Italy.

The World Cup final must be heading for a goal crisis. Earlier in the 1990 final at Rome, West Germany scored the only goal against Argentina. The Rome final was the first occasion when any World Champions had scored less than two goals. Of course, four years later, the Champions at the Pasadena final did no better.

It may be interesting to see if the 1998 final can come out of the drought.

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Table with 5 questions and multiple choice options. Questions include: How many one-day hundreds has Gary Kirsten scored? How many sixes did Wasim Akram hit to create a world record? Whose mark did Hasan Raza eclipse to become the youngest Test cricketer? For how many years Gordon Greenidge has been appointed as the Bangladesh cricket coach? Who won this year's Merit under-19 national soccer title?

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

SPORTS TALK



Inzamamul Huq

(Pakistani batsman) "It may have a lot to do with history, tradition and culture. Back home our people hate Pakistan losing to India. Under these circumstances I think we play that extra bit tight against India. When we lose, I think our national pride is hurt..."

Kriek on a roll

TOKYO, Nov 3: Johan Kriek, continuing his charge through a lineup of former world Nos. 1 and 2, rebounded from a disastrous start Sunday for a 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 semifinal victory over Bjorn Borg in the Champions tournament, reports AP.

He faces another former No. 1 in Monday's final, John McEnroe, battling out of trouble early in the second set, beat Mel Purcell 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 with some sharp volleying in the other semifinal.

Kriek, whose highest ranking was seventh in 1984 on the regular professional tour, reached the semifinals by beating former No. 2 Guillermo Vilas of Argentina and former No. 1 Jimmy Connors, the current leader on the Champions Tour for players over 35.

Kriek is in his third consecutive final on the tour. He lost to Yannick Noah of France two weeks ago and to Connors last week.

Although he has won one Champions tour title, last year, Kriek said, "This is my best tournament, beating Jimmy, Bjorn and Vilas in the same tournament."



Uttara Sporting Club's portly middle-order bat Mridul plays a forward defensive shot during his side's 17th Damal Smriti opener against fancied Bangladesh Biman at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Bumpy ride for Biman

Sports Reporter

ALTHOUGH the tall national opener who scored only two, perished shortly when Narayan Chandra Tapu consumed the star batsman in the same manner as he did Athar's opening partner; thanks to a portly Mridul who picked up two brilliant catches.

After the early set back, Habibur Bashar Sumon and Hasanuzzaman, the sensational signing of Biman, showed signs of a recovery act putting on 42 runs for the third wicket before both were dismissed in quick succession reducing Biman to 4/57 in 16.1 overs.

Hasanuzzaman, the more aggressive campaigner among the two, hammered an entertaining 21, embellished with three hits to the rope. The itchy feet young right-hand batsman was bowled by Ullash, for whom it could have been double delight had he clung on to a hot return catch offered by Sumon in the 14th over.

However, Sumon, after surviving that close call, hardly showed signs of any motivation in the first match of the domestic season and was trapped in front of the wicket after scoring a sedate 23 off 48 balls. Tapu, who got the prized scalp of Sumon, finished his marathon spell with fantastic figures of 10-3-23-2.

The departure of Sumon inflicted yet another mini-collapse when Shanewaz Shanu and national left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique fell victims to Ullash, the first change Uttara bowler.

Shanu departed for only eight while Rafique, Biman's saviour on many occasions, was bowled as a novice when he

went for a big hit after scoring only 14. And sadly Biman were reduced to 85/6 in 24 overs.

But thanks to a valiant 56-run partnership between Rupom and Mizanur Rahman Babul, who, in an object lesson for their more illustrious teammates, pulled the side from the ditch with some responsible batting.

Rupom, who retained his job as captain for the second successive year, although coming under the microscope for deciding to take the field first after winning the toss, had the last laugh with a gem of an innings, specially in a situation when the chips were down.

Babul, who joined Biman this year, played a perfect foil at the other end before being bowled by Mridul for a price less 27.

Young Nazimuddin Manna, the most successful Biman bowler with four for 35, then joined forces with his skipper to wage a long war.

Manna scored an invaluable 15, and when he was bowled by Jahangir in the last over Biman were at par with their opponents' total of 178, but with two wickets in hand against none of Uttara.

Earlier, the Uttara innings was built around a patient 49 from opener Moin and a quick-fire 33-ball 35 by lower-order bat Raju, who clouted a couple of massive sixes in his whirlwind innings.

Mridul with 30 was the other notable run-getter for Uttara. His polished knock included the first sixer of the season, an effortless hit over bowler Rupom. Incidentally it was off-spinner Rupom, who transformed agony into ecstasy as the sun set behind the secretariat.

TODAY'S MATCH: GMCC vs Azad Sporting Club (DCS).

M United's misery mounts

LONDON, Nov 3: Manchester United's wretched autumn continued on Saturday when they lost 2-1 at home to Chelsea — their third successive league defeat and their first at Old Trafford since December 1994, reports Reuter.

The English champions, fielding a changed side from the one which on Wednesday relinquished the clubs' 40-year-unbeaten home record in European competition, fell behind in the 31st minute when Michael Duberry rose to meet a corner from Dennis Wise.

Duberry's firm downward header bounced between a hesitant Peter Schmeichel and Philip Neville on the goal line silencing the majority of the Premier league record crowd of 55,198.

Chelsea extended their lead just after the hour when Gianluca Vialli latched on to a perfect pass from Frank Leboeuf and threaded the ball between the legs of goalkeeper Schmeichel, who has conceded 14 goals in his last four appearances.

United pressed hard in the later stages and defender David May raised their hopes with a headed goal nine minutes from time.

Not since December 17, 1994 when Nottingham Forest traveled to Manchester and won by the same scoreline, had United been beaten at home in the league.

They had not lost three consecutive league games since April 1992.

Chelsea player-manager Ruud Gullit, still feeling the effects of a knee injury despite his comeback against Tottenham last weekend, described his team's performance as their best of the season.

"I wanted to play with players that were 100 per cent fit, and I wasn't 100 per cent," the Dutchman said, "but I was very pleased with the way the team played."

In today's other top clash — the match between the two sides all neutrals love to hate leaders Arsenal drew 2-2 with fourth placed Wimbledon, who twice came from behind to salvage a point.

The result takes Arsenal's unbeaten league run to 15 matches and leaves them on 25 points, one clear of Newcastle who face north east rivals

Saber opens Damal Smriti

Sports Reporter

Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP did the honours at the curtain raising of the cricket season when he was introduced to the players of Bangladesh Biman and Uttara Sporting Club on the opening day of the Damal Smriti tournament at the Dhanmondi cricket stadium on Sunday.

Twenty-two teams, twelve from the premier league and ten from the first division, split into six groups are to battle out in the round robin first phase.

Six top finishers will feature in the second phase round robin league.

A sizeable crowd attended the opening day's excitement.

NSW XI crush England A

TAMWORTH, Australia, Nov 3. Middlesex teenager Owais Shah hit his second half-century but it wasn't enough for England A to avert a nine-wicket defeat to a New South Wales Second XI in their opening Australian cricket tour match here Sunday, reports AFP.

The eighteen-year-old Shah scored 79 to add to his first innings 76 in one of the few positives to come out of the four-day match for England A.

Shah and a knock of 52 by Surrey opener Mark Butcher pushed the tourists to a second innings total of 217 off 100.1 overs, giving the second string NSW side the easy chore of ruffling up 43 runs for victory, which they did for the loss of just one wicket.

Shah cracked nine fours during a patient innings which lasted 211 minutes.

He was finally out when he was caught at mid-off by Stuart Clark in miscuing an attempted on-Drive of leg-spinner Stuart Macgill, who finished with 5-84 giving him match analysis of 9-118.

Shah and spinner Ashley Giles (11) put on 45 runs for the eighth wicket before Giles was caught behind in the last over before lunch.

Giles, the left-handed Warwickshire spinner, emerged from the match with some credit having snared 5-110 off 38 overs in the New South Wales first innings.

England A's next match will be a one-dayer against South Australia in Adelaide on Wednesday followed by a four-day match against the Sheffield Shield champions at the same venue starting on Friday.

France fetch the fourth

RHODES, Greece, Nov 3. France has won the 10th Bridge Olympiad, held on the Greek island of Rhodes with teams from 71 countries taking part, reports AFP.

They defeated Indonesia by a score of 358-269, having taken the advantage at the very beginning and holding it right to the end.

The French side was made up of Herve Mouiel, Alain Levy, Christian Mar, Henri Szwarc, Frank Multon and Marc Boumpis.

Representing Indonesia were Henky Lasut, Eddy Manoppo, Danny Sacul, Franky Karwur, Giovanni Watulingas and Sance Panelewen.

It was the fourth time that a French team had won the title since the tournament was created in 1960.

Wiet rules the ring

TOKYO, Nov 3: Former French kick boxer Valerie Wiet, back from a two-year layoff after having a baby, knocked out Mary Ann Almagor of the United States to dethrone her as a world women's boxing champion here Sunday, reports AFP.

The pony-tailed Wiet floored the hony-tailed Wiet on the second round and punished her with a barrage of punches when US referee Frank Garza stopped the fight 51 seconds into the ninth round of the Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) welterweight title bout.

The scheduled 10-rounder was staged before George Foreman outpointed fellow American Crawford Grimsley to retain his fringe World Boxing Union (WBU) heavy-weight title at the Tokyo Bay NK Hall outside Tokyo Disneyland.

The card also featured HIV-infected Tommy Morrison's first-round knockout win over little known Marcus Rhode and a fight between two former American football players with former Houston Oiler Alonzo Highsmith knocking out former New York Jet Markgastineau in the second round.

After hitting the canvas in the second round, the left-handed Almagor got her second wind and sent Wiet to the floor for a count of eight in the third. The American was also the aggressor in the fourth and sixth rounds.

This was a very important comeback," said the French woman from Nancy, whose previous prize-fighting record was marked with 34 wins, 14 of them by knockout, and five losses, all in kick boxing.

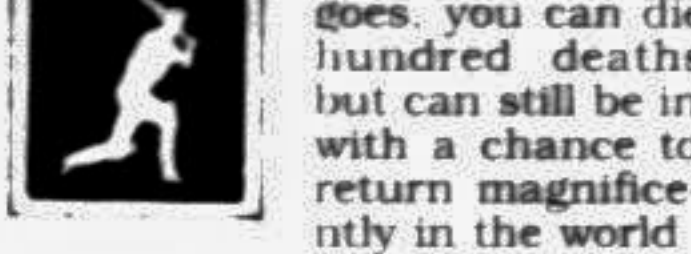
"It is the first time for me to fight in English boxing," she said.

Almagor said after her first defeat in nine professional bouts that Wiet fought in a fair manner. "I'll see her at a rematch," she said.

The WIBF was founded in 1993 by Barbara Buttrick, who in 1948 became the first English woman to fight professionally.

For the proper perspective-II

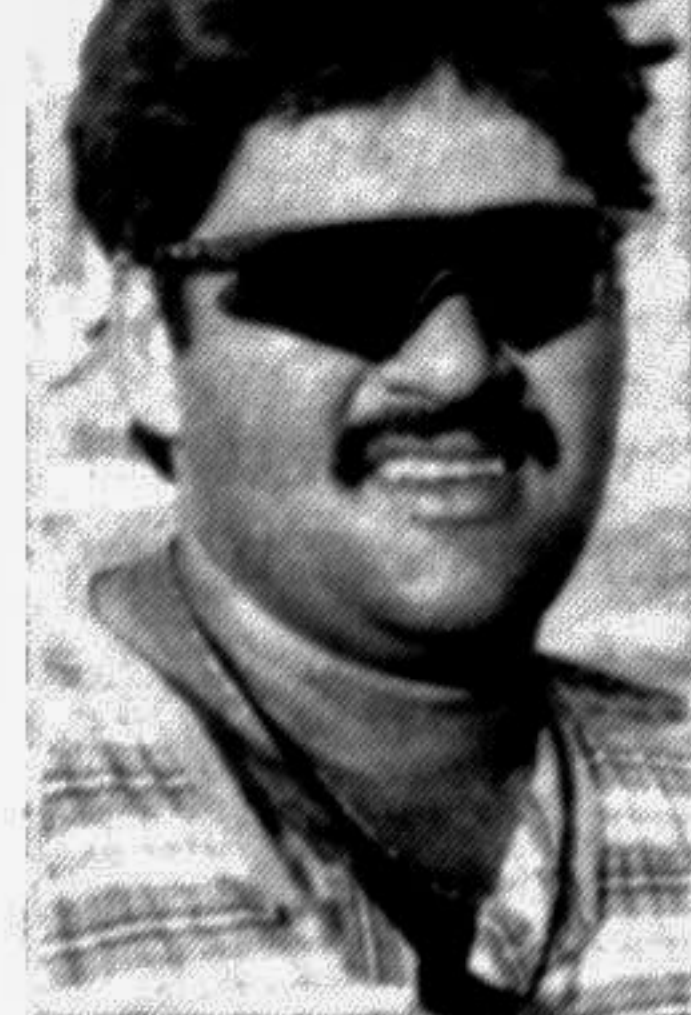
Al-Amin & S Ashfaqul Haque



As the saying goes, you can die hundred deaths but can still be in with a chance to return magnificently in the world of sports. So, the reeking Amarnath chapter is closed and a new one has been opened. From the first week of this month, a new campaign is going to be launched to get the phoenix of our cricketing ambition flying from the ashes of despair and disillusionment.

Gordon Greenidge, the celebrated West Indian opening batsman of the yesteryears whom the board roped in recently as the coach of the Bangladesh cricket team for the next three years, is scheduled to get down to business in a bid to translate our cherished dream into an elusive reality.

In the changed circumstances, the appointment of a foreign coach after Amarnath seems like a necessary hope-generating first move by the newly appointed Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) which is still basking in the recent success of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) trophy from Malaysia.



AKRAM KHAN

For Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the new BCCB president who celebrated his election as a Member of the Parliament by becoming country's cricket supremo, the taking over of the reins from the former foreign minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was a bitter-sweet experience. He started with the most unenviable job of slapping ban on four star cricketers who until yesterday were deemed as inseparable components of the Bangladesh cricket team. With only a few days to go before the ACC trophy, the punitive measure against the quarter for overstaying abroad

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Besides, the kind of mental and physical toughness international cricket demands is still a long way off from our cricketers. Their repeated and inexplicable failures in whatever exposure they have had so far, amply prove that.

The relatively better track record of the BCCB however, provides no cover for the areas where its effort leaves a lot to be desired. To begin with, it is yet to chalk up a concrete plan for the ICC trophy, scheduled to be held in March. The characteristic stipor of the board in

building upon a success of the cricketers was once again cruelly exposed as this new committee (too failed to come up with a programme that would have put the otherwise roving cricketers in some sort useful stint for honing their skills.

With the ICC showdown only four months away, our national players are still hovering around purposelessly due to BCCB's failure to provide them with programme. Initiating the national camp immediately rather than wasting energy in the ACC-hangover would have proved a useful move for the board in its bid to meet the deadline for sending the list of 25 players by December 25 and a final selection of 16 by February next. It seems, at least on paper that we hold a slight edge over fellow associate members in some areas, but the policy makers need to raise that score powerfully.

Few would contend the BCCB is the most efficiently run among all the regulatory bodies in sports arena. Credit should certainly go where it deserves, but the BCCB would do well to adopt a cautious approach in carrying out its plans for ameliorating the standard of the sport in this country. Any attempt for a giant stride on the basis of the recent achievement could turn out to be a major source of frustration and disillusionment if a proper system for sustaining the drive ahead is not evolved. Bangladesh will have a better chance of fuller international recognition if the game is organised properly in the domestic circuit. At the present situation we can hardly do justice to the full ICC membership even if it is bestowed on us: we would be mere number fillers in an assembly where premature and unjustified presence have already created quite a bit of embarrassment. The presence of a country in the highest grade of a game makes a lot of home demand. Even if other infrastructural sides are ruled out, a feeding line of cricketers at different tiers of the domestic set-up is an essential which sadly, we do not have now. Any fancy that winning the Test status would just make that happen will be harbouring too much of naive romanticism.

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ringing to go, and we hope he has been saving himself for these series.

Ambrose, Walsh and Ian Bishop form an experienced pace trio on whom the tourists will largely rely to unsettle the formidable Australian batting.

Walsh, 34, has 309 Test wickets (average 25.05), becoming only the third West Indian — after off-spinner Lance Gibbs and paceman Malcolm Marshall, now team coach — to pass the 300-mark.

Rated one of the best old-ball bowlers in the world, Walsh said he remained fit and enthusiastic despite his advancing years.

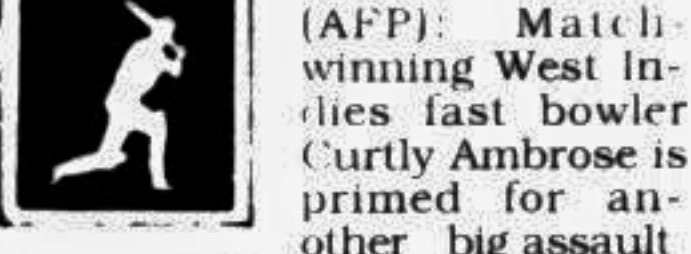
"I am not so sure I can say I am still feeling fresh, but I am still enjoying the game and still doing a reasonable job for the team."

Walsh said Bishop, 29, had overcome a right shoulder injury and was also expected to be in peak touch by the time of the first Test, starting Brisbane November 22.

At full fitness, Bishop is still rated by the West Indies as the fastest of their bowlers.

Meanwhile, the West Indies batsman had a long workout against a trio of leg-spinners among the pool of bowlers provided by the Western Australian Cricket Association for the Sunday nets session.

Ambrose armed for action



CURTLY AMBROSE

It was Ambrose who destroyed the Australian batting in the deciding fifth Test, with a whirlwind first innings 7-25 from 18 overs.

Restricted to a limited degree by a shoulder injury in recent years, Ambrose has lost some of his lightning pace.

Walsh said the plan was to name the strongest team possible, meaning Ambrose would renew his acquaintance with his much-loved Australian pitches.

Ambrose, 33, a towering right-arm express operator, has captured 266 Test wickets at the marvellous average of 21.27. Ninety of those scalps have come in 19 Tests against Australia — at an average of 20.55.

He was the West Indies' trump card in the 1992-93 series here, capturing 33 wickets in five Tests at the remarkable average of 16.42.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS: 1 Celtic, 5 One with super-skill, 8 Jolly, 12 Skunk's defense, 19 Parisian pal, 14 per-bridge, 15 Wings, 16 Hood, 18 Sleets, 20 Trg, 21 Pat and woman's, 22 Faint, 23 Railroad frame-works, 26 One of the Three Bears, 31 — tree (omitted), 32 The neat roommate, 34 Monkey suit, 35 Queens, 37 Olympian cup-bearer, 38 "kerchief, and — my cap, 41 Go no, 42 Exploited, 45 Flag, 46 Bundle of nerves?, 51 Warhol protégé, 52 October rock, 53 Circle section, 54 Photo's choice, 55 Sailor's worry, 56 Appomattox VIP, 57 In no time at all, DOWN: 1 Fluffy accessories, 2 Run in neutral, 3 Leo's remark, 4 Saw things with one's eyes closed?, 5 Activity in rock, 6 "little teapot", 7 Galvanizing stuff, 8 Here and there, 9 Hint, 10 Unimprovable place, 11 Exceptional, 17 Creator, 18 Humboldt locale, 22 Place for wheeling and dealing?, 24 Sticky stuff, 25 Copycat, 26 One of the League, 27 Judicial decree, 28 Pie ingredient, 29 A decent fellow?, 33 Actor O'Neal, 36 One only, 38 Whitman's "Song of —", 40 "Blu Dipinto di Blu", 42 Highly excited, 43 Carina appetizer, 44 Concept, 46 Tree house?, 50 Raw rock.



IAN BISHOP

But Walsh believes he will still be a formidable spearhead on the bouncy Australian pitches.

"He has not played a lot of cricket in England in the past summer, which is very good news for us," Walsh said.

"We want him fresh and

ready to go, and we hope he has been saving himself for these series."

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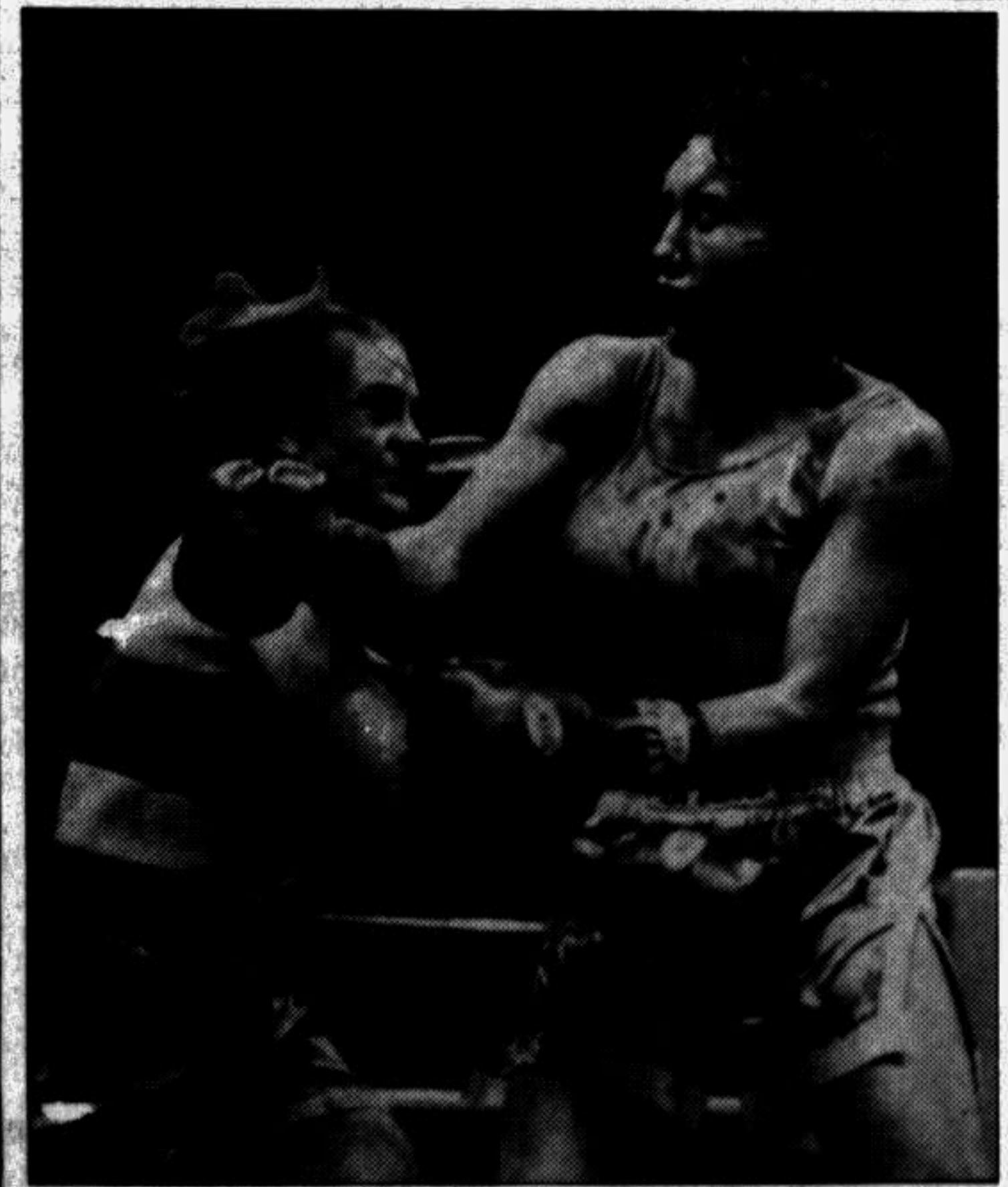
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Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) super welterweight champion Mary Ann Almagor (R) and her French challenger Valerie Wiet exchange a flurry of blows during their bout in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo