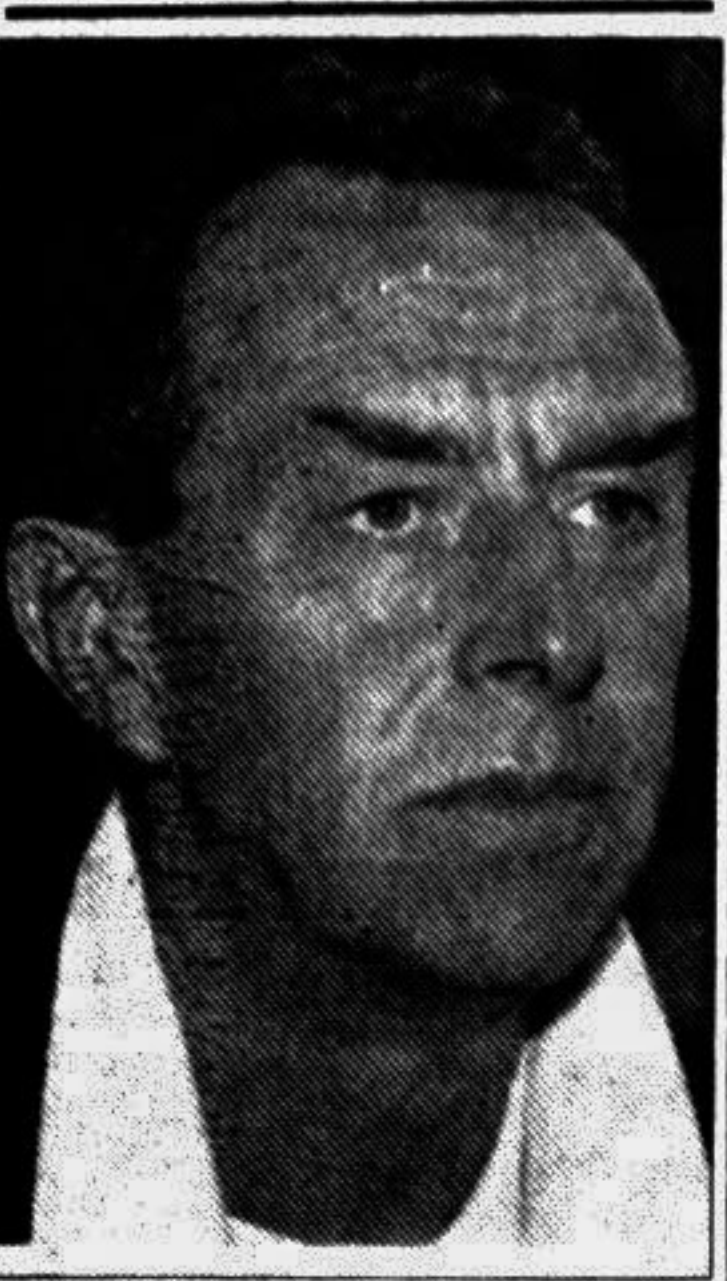


Column One

SPORTS TALK



David Lloyd

(England cricket coach)
"You'd go nuts if you worried
about time lost through rain."

Boost sports
WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-74

✓ Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes 8 pm,
July 25, 97

1 Who lifted the Wimbledon
ladies' singles crown this
year?

Major Hings Vicario

2 How many times has
Sampras won the Wim-
bledon?

Two Three Four

3 Which nation clinched the
Copa America title?

Brazil Peru Bolivia

4 Who became champions in
the World Youth Soccer Cup?

Ghana Colombia Argentina

5 Who won this year's Green
Delta First Division hockey
league title?

Mohammedan Abahani Usha

Name Roll No.

School Address

Phone: ()

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY-RELEASING VITAMINS

Infiniti Open
tennis results

LOS ANGELES, July 22: Fifth-seeded Patrick Rafter of Australia outlasted Lionel Roux of France 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 (7-5), 6-3 Monday in the opening round of the Infiniti Open, reports AP.

The 3,000 dollars event is being played at the Los Angeles Tennis Centre on the UCLA campus.

Rafter prevailed even though he had two match points in the ninth game of the second set with Roux serving at 15-40.

Roux held on to win that game and broke Rafter in the next game to tie the score at 5-all. Both players were serving in the 118 mph (190 kph) range and held serve to take the set into the second tiebreaker which Roux won 7-3.

Rafter broke Roux in the sixth game of the final set and served it out, winning with a service winner.

In other first-round matches Monday, Sandon Stolle of Australia beat countryman Michael Bebbutt 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); Vincent Spadea beat Stephane Simian of France 6-4, 6-2; Guillaume Raoux of France defeated Gaston Etis of Argentina 6-3, 6-4; and Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark outlasted Sebastian Lareau of Canada 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

Rafter, who had eight aces to just one for Roux, was asked what his thoughts were when he had two match points in the second set.

"I thought 'Just be careful. He can get back into the match.' And that's exactly what happened," Rafter said. "When the pressure came again in the third, I thought I handled that pretty well."

The only other time the two met was at the 1994 French Open when Rafter won.

Crime won't bar Cape Town

PRETORIA, July 22: South Africa's crime problem should not pose a threat to Cape Town's bid for the 2004 Olympic Games. Members of a visiting International Olympic Committee (IOC) fact-finding team said today, reports agencies.

"All major cities in the world have a crime problem," Prince Albert of Monaco told reporters here after he and other members of the IOC team held talks early today with President Nelson Mandela.

Libyan IOC member Bashir Attarabouli said that Atlanta, which staged the Games a year ago, also had a high rate of crime.

"The important thing is security," Attarabouli said, adding that Cape Town's crime problem could be settled "in three, four or five years."

Positive approach missing

Sports Reporter



The boys in the men's league learned yet another lesson in a harsh way when Bangladesh conceded a heavy defeat quite predictably at the hands of world champions Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo yesterday.

Few had expected an upset result when Bangladesh met the mighty Lankans in their second league match of the sixth Asia Cup. Explosive Sri Lankan opener Sanath Jayasuriya, many bowlers' nightmare, tore apart the toothless Bangladesh attack to celebrate his first Cup run with a whirlwind 108 off 83 balls. The hosts' twerkers then did the rest to restrict Bangladesh for 193 for 8.

Although Bangladesh showed few improvements in their approach against the Lankans, the determination in chasing a mammoth total like 297 in 46 overs is still missing.

Bowlers were less erratic, fielders threw their bodies to stop the ball, but they were still under par in ground fielding and catching.

It was once again a treat to watch the awe-inspiring opponents' attack to the sword. The tall right-handed opener, who scored a brilliant 82 in the previous match against Pakistan, almost got his successive half-century before falling for 42.

But after his departure Bangladesh lost their way against an ever increasing run-rate. The margin of defeat, however, would have been more reasonable had the middle-order lived up to their potential.

Aminul Islam Bulbul, one of the recognised bats, contributed 20-plus runs and skipper Akram Khan made 32, but both perished quickly at a stage when they were needed most to cross the 200-mark.

On Thursday, Bangladesh will face the other giants India in their last league tie. Sports buffs will keenly observe how much Gordon Greenidge's boys learn from yesterday's lesson.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Asia Cup one-day international between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Colombo Tuesday:

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Mafizur 108

Atapattu c Aminul b Minhazul 60

De Silva c Mashood b Minhazul 15

Ranatunga c Naimur 15

Salahuddin 51

Mahanaama not out 39
S Lanka not out 10
Extras: (lb-4, w-9) 13
Total (for 4 wts in 46 overs) 296
Fall of wickets: 1-171; 2-177; 3-213; 4-284.

Did not bat: U Chandana, D Liyanage, R Kalpage, S de Silva, M Muralitharan.

Bowling

Saiful 6 0 34 0

Habibul 8 0 50 0

Mafizur 6 0 37 0

Akram 2 0 34 0

Salahuddin 8 0 48 2

Minhazul 9 0 43 2

Naimur 7 0 46 0

BD

Athar b Muralitharan 42

Naimur c Kalpage b Sanjeeva 47

Basher run out 6

Aminul run out 29

Akram st Lanka b Chandana 32

Minhazul c Sanjeeva 13

b Muralitharan 1

Mafizur c Sanjeeva b De Silva 6
Mashood not out 6
Hasbul run out 1
Extras: (b-3, lb-6, w-12, nb-2) 23
Total (for 8 wts in 46 overs) 193

Fall of wickets: 1-76; 2-95; 3-117; 4-167; 5-177; 6-178; 7-190; 8-193.

Did not bat: Saiful Islam, Sheikh Salahuddin.

Bowling

Liyanage 3 0 10 0

Sanjeeva 4 0 17 1

De Silva 9 0 39 1

Ranatunga 2 0 16 0

Muralitharan 10 0 29 2

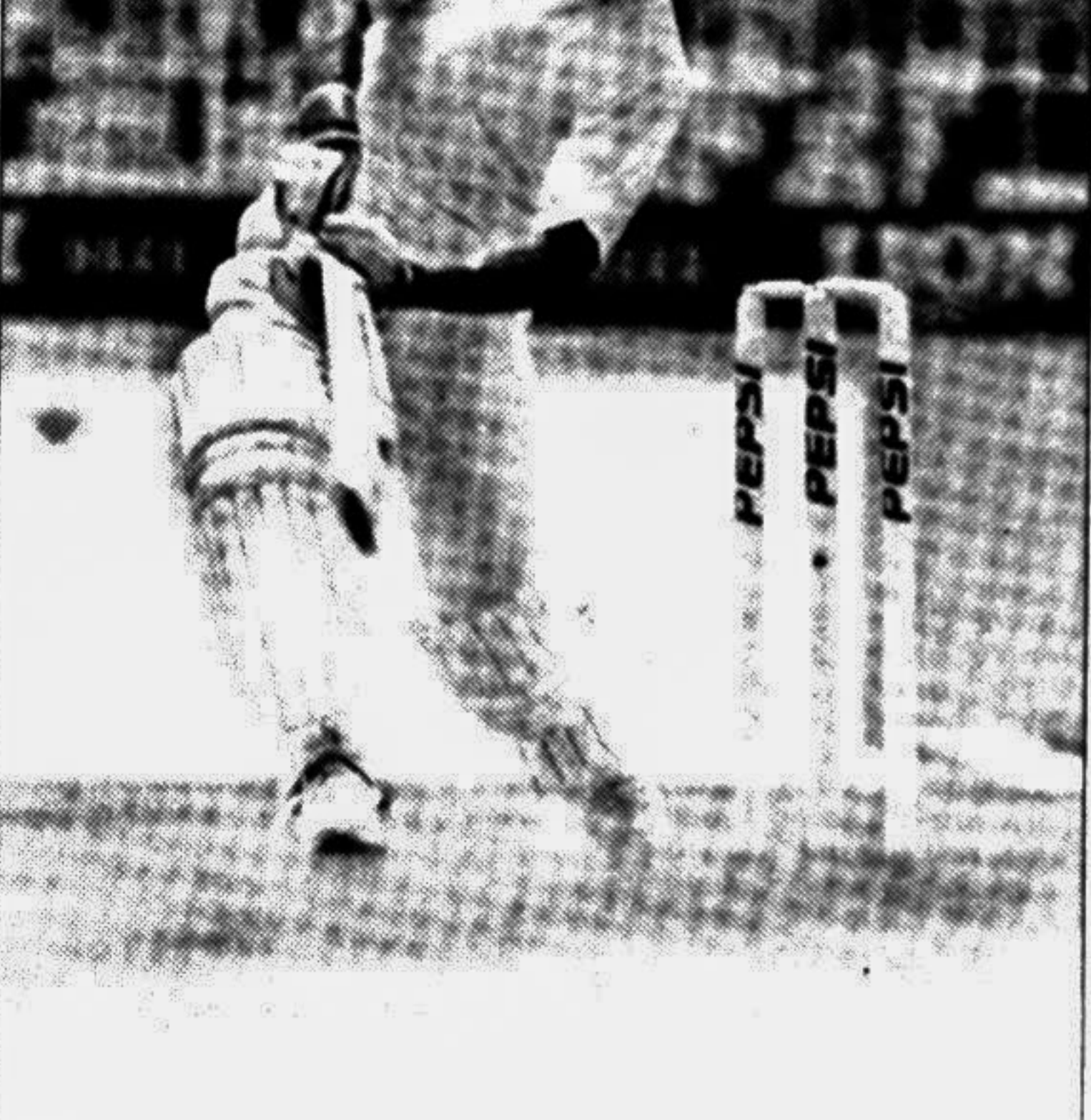
Chandana 9 0 38 1

Kalpage 9 1 35 0

Result: Sri Lanka won by 103 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya.

Next match: India vs Bangladesh on Thursday.



Sri Lankan opener and man-of-the-match Sanath Jayasuriya at his destructive best during his hurricane 108 against Bangladesh in their Asia-Cup clash in Colombo yesterday.

—AFP/UNB photo

Asian WC ties' draw held

ZURICH, July 22: Rivals Japan and South Korea — co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup — were drawn in the same group Tuesday for Asian teams seeking to qualify for next year's tournament in France, reports agencies.

Japan and South Korea were drawn in Group A alongside the United Arab Emirates, Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates.

"They fight together for the World Cup 1998," FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter said. "And they work together for 2002."

The two teams have a history of sporting and political rivalry. South Korea have traditionally had the edge on the soccer field, although Japan — boosted by their professional J-league have recently made strides.

Unbelievable!

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 22: Colombian soccer star Anthony de Avila's crucial goal in a World Cup qualifying game was not dedicated to his mother or his coach, but to the jailed chiefs of the Cali drug cartel, reports AP.

The goal, which gave Colombia a 1-0 victory over Ecuador Sunday, thrilled Colombians. The dedication, which honored the late, who for years laundered their huge profits by bankrolling local teams.

De Avila, a 34-year-old forward for the New York-New Jersey MetroStars in the US professional soccer league, played for many seasons on Cali's America club, which the Rodriguez brothers partly owned.

Arrested in 1995, they have reportedly sold their shares.

What's next for Akebono?

TOKYO, July 22: American sumo champion Akebono has had four million yen (54,000 dollars) in cash and a gold bracelet stolen from a safe at a Buddhist temple in central Japan, police said today, reports AP.

An attendant of Akebono found Monday that his belongings had disappeared at Mantoku temple in Inazawa, where that Hawaiian-born sumo wrestler was staying for the Nagoya Grand sumo tournament, police officials said.

On the final day of the tournament on Sunday, Akebono lost in a winner-take-all bout with rival Yokozuka Tananahana.

For the draw, South Korea and Saudi Arabia were seeded in different groups to avoid a clash between the two Asian qualifiers for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Saudi Arabia were drawn in Group B with Kuwait, China, Iran and Qatar.

The matches will be played on a home-and-away basis between September 12 and November 9. The top team of each group qualifies automatically for France.

There will be a playoff between the group runners-up to determine who claim the third berth for Asia in France. The fourth-ranked team will then play Australia — the winners of the Oceania group — in November to decide who advance to France.

Blatter said there had been some opposition to the home-and-away format — not least because of the travelling distances involved.

Saudi Arabia were worried given the commitments of their national players who star in European leagues.

"Our decisions were not greeted with smiles all around," Blatter said.

But he said it would be good for the sport in Asia.

"We will expose Asian football to audiences not only in Asia but everywhere in the world. We will have four home and four away matches. It will be a tight schedule," he added.

The decision to abandon the tournament format met with a mixed reception from Chinese officials.

It's a big change, said Wang Junsheng, the Chinese Football Association general secretary. "The timing for the second round had been decided last year and our league has been arranged according to that schedule. It will take at least eight to ten weeks for our league to finish."

"We will have to re-arrange everything, including the league and the preparation for the national team."

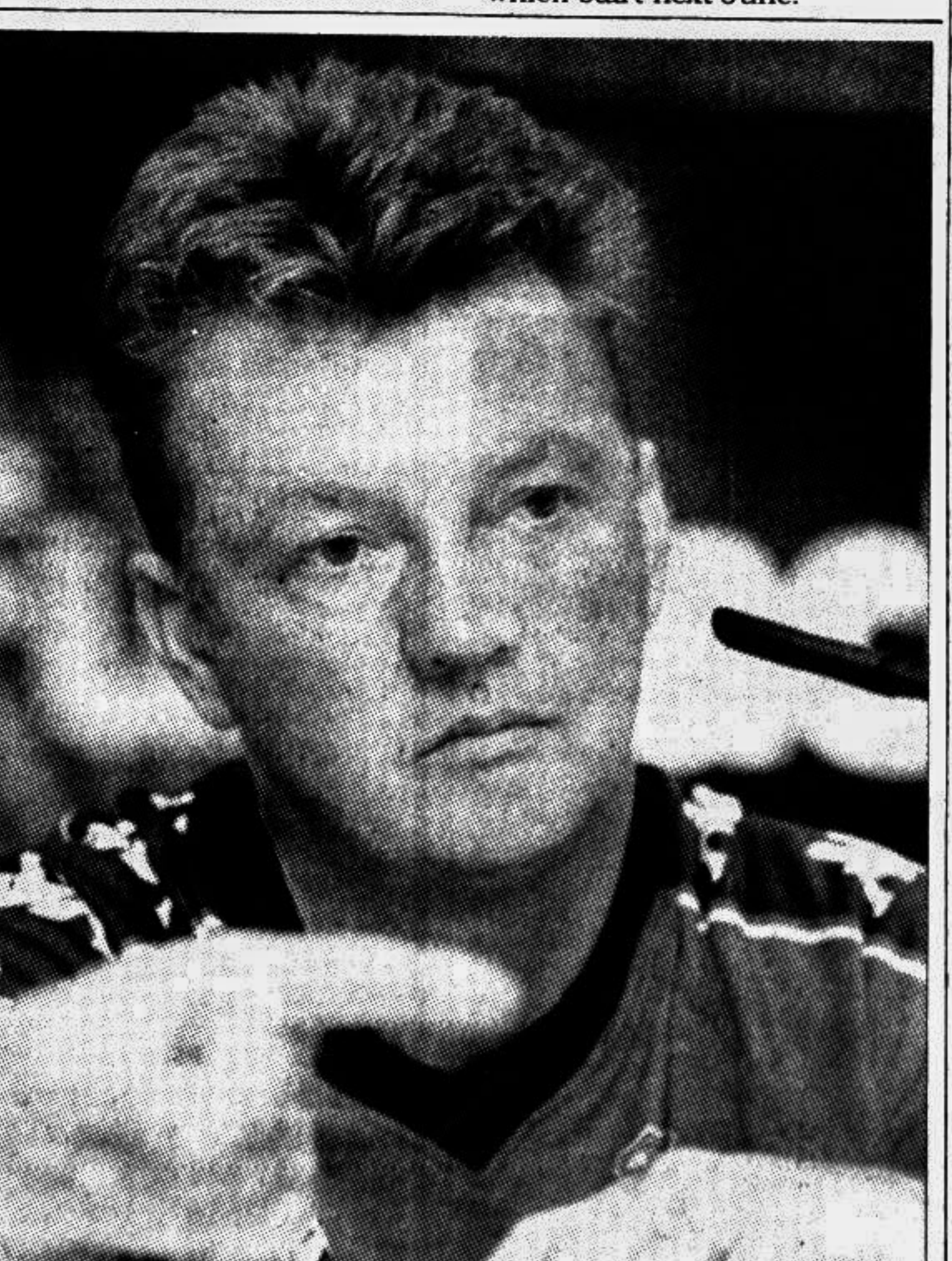
"Frankly, though, home and away is a fair competition, but our problem is with the timing."

Chinese coach Qi Wusheng took a pragmatic approach. "I have no choice," he said. "The decision has been made so we will have to get ready and we will have to get the team into camp as soon as possible."

The fans will be happy about this and, of course, the players will have a good opportunity to play well in front of their own people."

FIFA also decided that a draw would take place on October 13 to establish the pairings for the four playoffs between the runners-up in eight of the nine European qualifying groups.

These playoffs will be held on October 29 and November 15, with the best finisher qualifying for the 32-team finals which start next June.



Barcelona's new Dutch coach Louis van Gaal briefs the press after his first training session with the club in the Spanish city on July 21.

—AFP/UNB photo

Schools kabaddi final today

Sharmin Textile Mills Model School will take on Bangladesh Rifles School and College in the final of the All Sports schools kabaddi tournament today at 5 pm at Outer Stadium, reports UNB.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader will be the chief guest on the occasion and distribute the prizes.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Harun-ur-Rashid and Chairman of All Sports M Ali Ashraf Khan will be the special guests.

General Secretary of Asian Amateur Kabaddi Federation AK Saha of India will also be present at the function, to be chaired by Bangladesh Kabaddi Federation president Habibur Rahman Molla.

Raja resentful

COLOMBO, July 22: Pakistan captain Rameez Raja criticised the Sinhalese Sports Club ground authorities on Monday for preparing a sub-standard wicket for their Asia Cup game against India, reports Reuter.

"The wicket was not for one-day cricket. You watch batsmen scoring runs and bowlers taking wickets, but not the coin deciding the fate of the game," said Rameez.

The match, called off after nine overs on Sunday because of rain and poor light, was rescheduled for Monday. But it was abandoned without a ball being bowled after heavy overnight rain.

"I have this grievance against the curator. He had about seven to eight days to prepare the wicket," Rameez said. Pakistan were reduced to 30 for five in the short period of play on Sunday.

"Especially when you are playing a top class tournament, a crunch game between Pakistan and India, you don't come up with a sub-standard wicket," Rameez said.

Lancs win under lights

MANCHESTER, July 22: It was only a friendly, but Lancashire scored their most historic victory when they defeated Yorkshire at Old Trafford in the first floodlit cricket match to be played in England, reports AP.

Day-night limited-overs matches have been played in Australia, India and South Africa for years, but Monday night's match was a first in the country where cricket began. It also featured the introduction of "split innings" cricket, which may well become part of the international cricket scene.

Each side has 25 overs in daylight and 25 under the floodlights, a concept which is meant to eradicate any disadvantage there may be when batting second.

Lancashire and the visiting Yorkshire had both scored 122 after their first 25 overs, but the host team struggled in the twilight adding just 117 for their second dig. Neil Fairbrother scored an unbeaten 108 in Lancashire's 239 for eight.

That left Yorkshire with just 118 to make in their last 25 overs. But, as hoped, the floodlights brought drama and Yorkshire lost their last four wickets in five balls to fall short by 13 runs allowing Lancashire to pick up the 10,000 pound (16,700 dollars) winner's prize.

The crowd of 6,000 included a few dozen rowdy spectators who were evicted from the ground. But for the most part the players wear colored kits and use a white ball and yellow stumps — as successful as it was novel.

The first-ever county match under lights will be played Wednesday when Warwickshire host Somerset.

Steffi slips to fifth

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, July 22: Reuter: Top 20 players in women's singles tennis as ranked by the WTA Tour (points shown in the right):

- 1 Martina Hingis 5778.0000
- 2 Jana Novotna 3559.5000
- 3 Monica Seles 3181.5083
- 4 Iva Majoli 3165.5000
- 5 Steffi Graf 2680.5000
- 6 Amanda Coetzer 2545.2000
- 7 Lindsay Davenport 2437.5000
- 8 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 2436.0882
- 9 Anke Huber 2256.4188
- 10 Mary Pierce 2201.0000
- 11 Conchita Martinez 1973.2206
- 12 Irina Spilrka 1857.0760
- 13 Mary Joe Fernandez 1708.0000
- 14 Schultz-McCarthy 1593.0726
- 15 Kiberly Po 1563.0000
- 16 Barbara Paulus 1488.2813
- 17 Ruxandra Dragomir 1439.5000
- 18 Karina Habsudova 1325.0000
- 19 Sabine Appelmans 1254.5000
- 20 Sandrine Testud 1254.5000

ATP Tour's top twenty

PARIS, July 22: Leading ATP Tour tennis rankings (along with points) issued Monday:

- 1 Pete Sampras 5,388
- 2 Michael Chang 3,743
- 3 Goran Ivanisevic 2,788
- 4 Alex Corretja 2,526
- 5 Thomas Muster 2,412
- 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov 2,224
- 7 Sergi Bruguera 2,192
- 8 Thomas Enqvist 2,143
- 9 Marcelo Rios 2,085
- 10 Carlos Moya 1,918
- 11 Boris Becker 1,859
- 12 Mark Philippoussis 1,820
- 13 Felix Mantilla 1,815
- 14 Richard Krajicek 1,752
- 15 Petr Korda 1,677
- 16 Albert Costa 1,658
- 17 Tim Henman 1,584
- 18 Patrick Rafter 1,560
- 19 Todd Woodbridge 1,539

F'ganj, Rahmatganj exit

Sports Reporter



Upset was the order of the day as two Premier Division sides Farashganj Sporting Club and Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society were crushed out of the Rupali Insurance 14th Federation Cup football tournament losing their first round Group B matches to two first Division teams Shantinagar Club and Beams Shantinagar Club and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Sports Club respectively at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Farashganj, who secured the sixth place in the Premier Division last year with their impressive brand of football, suffered a solitary goal defeat to Shantinagar Club last year's Second Division league champions.

The sterile 90-minute affair

mostly affected by the muddy outfield of the Mirpur bowl, had the Farashganj booters failing to do any justice to their reputation against the spirited Shantinagar boys and they conceded the goal in the sixth minute of the first half.

It was a combined move through which an unguarded Shantinagar striker Shiraj got the ball at the top of the Farashganj box and sent that home with a power-packed grounder past custodian Nowshad.

Farashganj tried their best to equalise in the remaining 84 minutes with a series of offensives. But poor marksmanship and some brilliant stops by Shantinagar keeper Kismat saw all their efforts frustrated.

It was a welcome victory for the Shantinagar which gave them a perfect start to the new

season. In their next match, group B final scheduled at the same venue on July 15, they will take on BRTC Sports Club who recorded a 2-1 victory over Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society in another match.

In a see-saw encounter, Badrul Amin Munna put BRTC ahead in the 16th minute sending the ball home with an angular shot capitalising on a Liton Khan pass while Shawkat Ali Roman doubled the margin with a placing shot after two minutes.

On the other hand, Monir Hossain pulled one back for Rahmatganj in the 40th minute.

TODAY'S MATCHES

East End Club vs Mirpur Chalanika (4 pm)

Agrani Bank SC vs Wari Club (6 pm)

Warne's all-round warm-up



LONDON, July 22: Leg-spinner Shane Warne showed sharp form as Australia warmed up for this week's fourth Test against England with a draw against Middlesex on Monday, reports agencies.

Warne bowled out Middlesex openers Paul Weekes and Jason Pooley with his second and seventh deliveries on his way to figures of three wickets for 55.

Middlesex needed a steady innings of 47 from former England captain Mike Gatting, now a national team selector, to finish the day on 201 for six in their second innings. Gatting eventually departed lbw to Steve Waugh.

Earlier, Warne had struck 39 in Australia's first innings before captain Mark Taylor declared at 432 for seven.

The fourth Test starts at Headingly, Leeds on Thursday with the series at 1-1.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on Monday at the end of the three-day match between Australia at Middlesex at Lord's:

MIDDLESEX: First innings

305

Extras: (b-2, lb-10, nb-10, w-1) 23

Total: (for 7 wts) 432

AUSTRALIA: First innings

overnight 351/6

Elliott st Brown b Dutch 83

Taylor b Dutch 27

Blewett b Tufnell 40

M Waugh not out 142

S Waugh c Gatting b Johnson 57

Ponting c Shah b Tufnell 5

Healy c Pooley b Bloemfield 16

Warne c Pooley b Dutch 39

Extras: (b-2, lb-10, nb-10, w-1) 23

Total: (for 7 wts) 432

Result: Match drawn

Fall of wickets: 75; 154; 168; 271; 299; 341; 432

Did not bat: Michael Kasprovic, Jason Gillespie and Glenn McGrath.