

Eves' WC hockey qualifiers

HARARE, Aug 3: There was no fairy-tale start to Zimbabwe's women's World Cup qualifying campaign on Saturday as the host nation were annihilated 9-0 by a rampant Scotland in Pool B on the second day of competition here, reports AFP.

The game was a triumph for Scotland's strikers — in particular 25-year-old Rhona Simpson who scored four times — while her colleague Sue Macdonald, who combined with her to form a powerful strike force, scored twice.

Meanwhile, Denise Marston-Smith, England's 20-year-old substitute striker from Clifton, scored a face-saving 60th minute goal to give England a 1-0 victory over India in Pool A.

Spartak stay on top

MOSCOW, Aug 3: Russian champions Spartak Moscow kept their nose in front of Rotor Volgograd on Saturday, cruising past lowly Tyumen 2-0 at home while Rotor, one point behind Crusier Zenit St Petersburg 3-0 in Volgograd, reports Reuters.

Third-placed Dynamo Moscow slipped back, dropping two points at home in a 1-1 draw with Baltika Kaliningrad to fall four points behind city rivals Spartak.

Spartak and Dynamo both have a game in hand over Rotor. Dynamo take on Krylya Sovetov on Wednesday in the delayed Game. The leaders face Torpedo Moscow.

Cup winners Lokomotiv Moscow kept up their bid to prevent the last third of the season becoming a three-team affair.

They moved into fourth place, four points behind Dynamo, with a 3-1 win away at struggling fellow railway club Lokomotiv Nizhny Novgorod.

Moscow army side CSKA, began to claw their way out of the relegation zone with a 3-2 win at Zhemchuzhina.

Shearer hopes for the best

LONDON, Aug 3: Injured England striker Alan Shearer, who could be sidelined until the new year, has pledged to return for club and country more readily than ever, reports Reuters.

"When I was lying in hospital recovering from my operation this week I made myself a couple of promises," who photographed him lying on a couch with his right leg in plaster.

"I'll be back for Newcastle for their bid to win something," Shearer declared.

"And I'll be raring to go for England next summer, when I intend to finish top of the goal charts at the World Cup finals, just as I did in Euro 96."

Shearer tore ligaments in his right ankle in the last minute of a pre-season friendly match against Chelsea last week and underwent an operation in Newcastle last Sunday.

The injury means the England captain will miss his country's World Cup qualifier against Moldova on September 10 and against Italy in Rome on October 11.

Shearer told the Tabloid newspaper that he realised he would be out of action until early next year and said that he was not setting himself any specific target dates.

The paper said he had been told by doctors not to put any weight on his right leg for six weeks.

Despite the long layoff, he remained positive about the future and said his scoring targets were still achievable.

Quka fills WBU vacancy

SAN MANGO D'AQUINO, Italy, Aug 3: Patrick Quka of South Africa captured the World Boxing Union bantamweight title by stopping Italy's Gianmaria Petriccioli in the 11th round of their title fight Saturday night, reports AP.

Quka, 24, of East London, improved his professional record to 20 wins and one loss as he won the vacant WBU title.

Aslam hangs up his boots

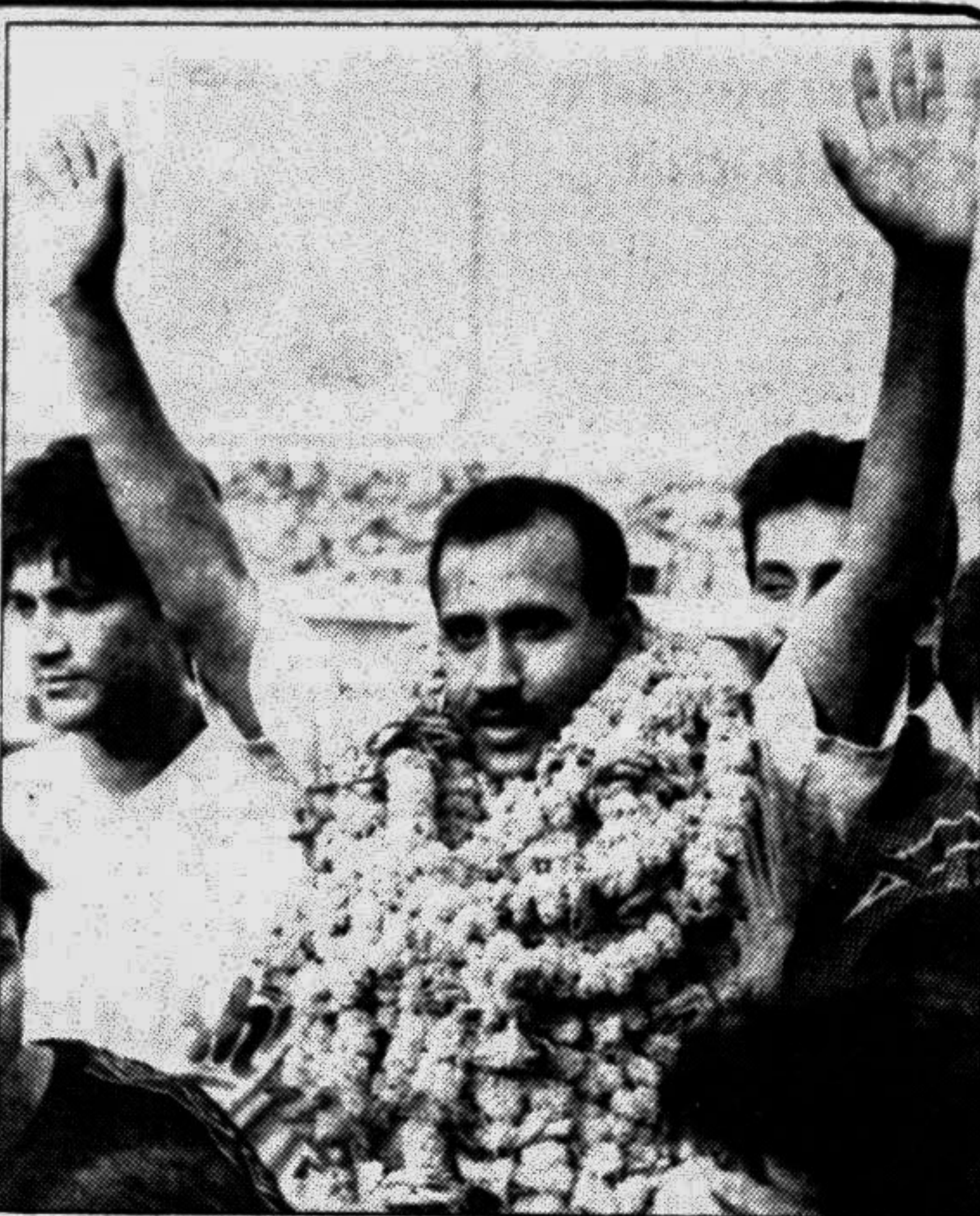
Sports Reporter

Striker Sheikh Mohammad Aslam called it quits during the crucial first semifinal yesterday.

The mercurial marksman, nicknamed as BDR Aslam, solemnly walked into the middle prior to the start of the Mohammedan and Abahani match at the Mirpur Stadium before calling it a day amidst a standing ovation from a strong 15,000 crowd.

The former national player holds the record of the highest scorer for an enviable five times in the league. With a lethal foot and an imaginative head, the lanky forward had never looked behind since he started his luminous career for Victoria way back in 1997. Arguably the best striker the country ever had, Aslam spent most of his hay-days donning the famous No 9 jersey of Abahani.

He scored more than 175 goals in the domestic circuit and 33 for the national team in a career which spanned over a decade. Aslam made his final league appearance for Abahani last year.



Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, an idol in the local soccer arena, waves to the crowd after announcing his retirement from the game just before the Abahani-Mohammedan derby at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday afternoon. — Star photo

County cricket roundup

LONDON, Aug 3: Jon Lewis hammered a career best 160 not out on Saturday to steer David Boon's Durham team to a rare English county championship victory against Derbyshire at Chester-le-Street, reports AFP.

Durham started the day at 48 for three needing a further 209 for victory, but won by six wickets after Lewis shared a stand of 204 with nightwatchman James Bolling, who made a championship best 62.

Sussex veteran Bill Athey fought a lost cause for three — and a quarter hours in a vain attempt to deny Warwickshire's progress to a nine wicket win at Edgbaston.

Athey 40 next month, grafted for 51 overs to make 67, but his only reward was to spare his county a third consecutive innings defeat.

Sussex following on 164 behind, were eventually dismissed for 203, and Warwickshire needed only 40 to wrap up their fourth home win of the season in one-and-a-half day playing time.

Title-chasing Kent suffered some anxious moments before narrowly avoiding the follow-on against Worcestershire at New Road.

Replying to a first innings total of 422, they were finally dismissed for 276 in 78.3 overs with all rounder David Leatherdale taking three for 25.

At one stage, however, shaly Kent looked in danger of failing to reach a follow-on target of 273, despite a 93-run stand in 18 overs between Mark Ealham (56) and Graham Cowdry.

By the close, Worcestershire had stretched their overall lead to 228 by reaching 82 for three with Graeme Hick unbeaten on 56, containing one six and eight fours off 54 balls.

Glamorgan's Steve James gave the England selectors a reminder of his ability as an opening batsman by hitting 162 against Nottinghamshire at Cowley Bay.

The home side, replying to Notts' 202 all out, declared shortly before the close on 353 for six, a lead of 151.

That left Notts an awkward three overs to face but Mathew Downman and Tim Robinson saw them safely to six without loss.

Chris, Gustavo go into final

MONTREAL, Aug 3: Underdogs ruled Saturday in the Canadian Open, with Gustavo Kuerten and Chris Woodruff advancing to the final of the championship, reports AP.

Kuerten, the French Open champion from Brazil, routed top-seeded Michael Chang 6-3, 6-1, and Woodruff knocked off fourth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 5-7, 7-5, 6-3.

"I like the role of underdog a lot," said Woodruff, who also beat 16th-seeded Jan Siemerink, second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic and seventh-seeded Mark Philippoussis en route to the final. "It's great to be a giant-killer, especially if the game is close and the crowd gets behind you."

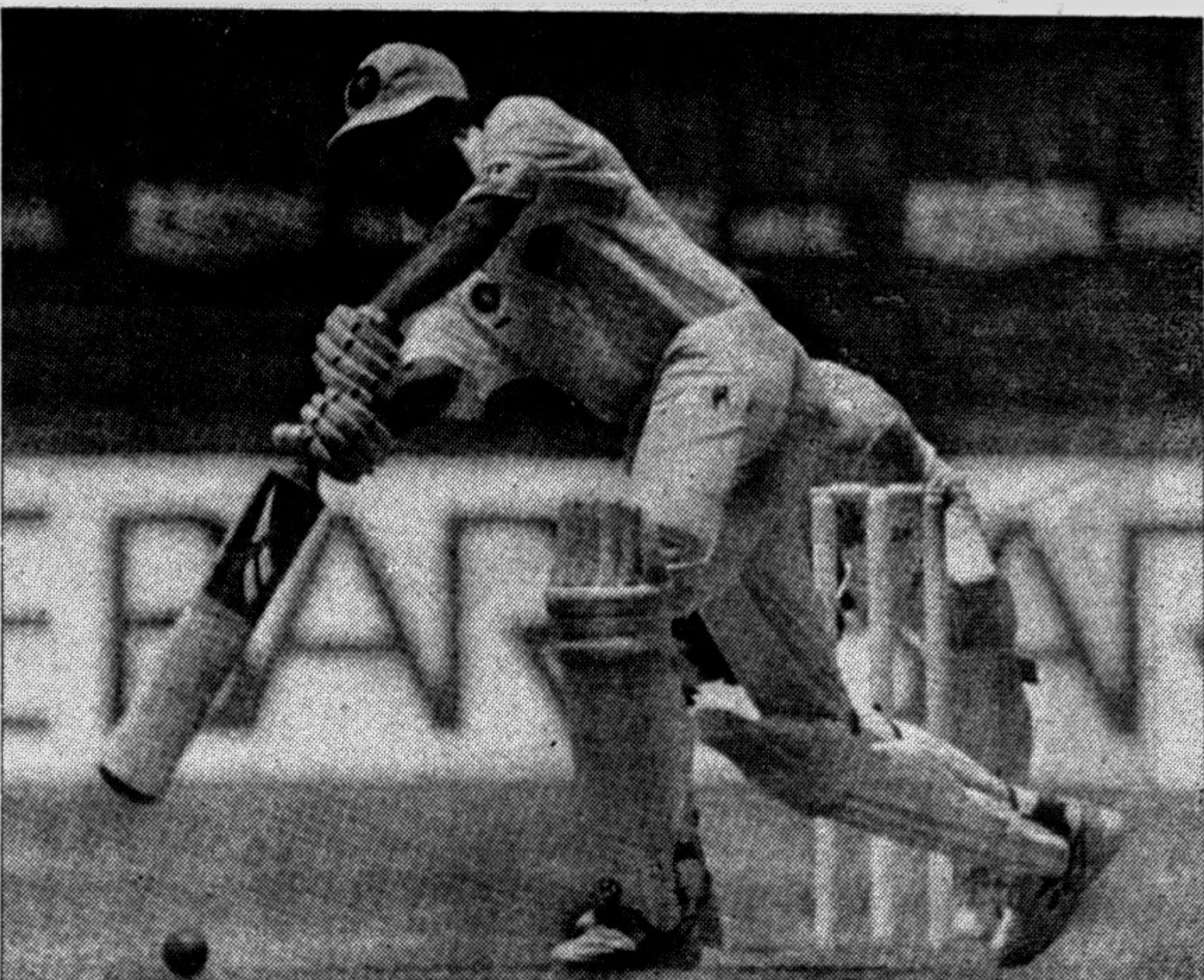
Woodruff, 24, a former NCAA champion at Tennessee, fared far better Saturday than he did last year against Kafelnikov in Cincinnati. In that match, Woodruff let a 5-3 third-set lead slip away.

This time, Woodruff used four consecutive aces to take a 5-2 lead in the third set. Then after Kafelnikov made it 5-3, Woodruff put the 6-foot-3 Russian away with an ace on match point.

"It's experience," Woodruff said. "I've been out here long enough now to close out a top player. I was a little inexperienced last year in Cincinnati."

Kafelnikov, playing only his second hard-court tournament of the year, won the 1996 French Open and has 12 career ATP Tour titles.

"He was more focused this time and he played better on the crucial points," Kafelnikov said. "It was my best performance of the tournament and I didn't win the match. He definitely deserved to win."



A wrists Azharuddin works on the ball during his 126-run stay at the crease on the second day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and India in Colombo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Triple tons beef India up

COLOMBO, Aug 3: India's cricketers made their highest Test total against Sri Lanka, rattling up a massive 537 for 8 declared on the second day of the first cricket Test at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday, reports AP.

On a placid wicket and after applying the safest of precautions against any unexpected collapses, the Indians batted with genuine purpose to an apparently pressuring total as they progressed to declare with 12.2 overs of the day's quota remaining.

The 537 total surpassed India's previous best of 446 made against Sri Lanka in Colombo in 1993.

After opener Navjot Sidhu and Rahul Dravid laid a firm base with a second wicket stand of 147 on the first day, the Indians gave out a lesson of what Test cricket is all about to the limited-over match experts. They showed excellent temperament in building up the total, with Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin stroking centuries.

The temperament was passed down up to lower order batsman Anil Kumble, who remained not out on 27 scored in 112 minutes of batting.

But middle-order batsman Saurav Ganguly was an exception when he drove a ball from left-arm spinner Sanath Jayasuriya only to see the delivery and up in the hands of Roshan Mahanama at slip.

Ganguly had not opened his account and stood his ground for sometime before making his way back to the pavilion after Sri Lankan umpire K T Francis raised his finger.

Tendulkar and Azharuddin stretched the Sri Lankans for the first time in many years as they shared in a 221-run alliance for the fourth wicket.

They stayed together for 60.5 overs before parting with the total at 451 after India resumed from an overnight 280 for 3.

The stand was broken when Tendulkar attempting a big hit was caught at long-on off Muralitharan. He struck 20 fours for a score of 143 in an overall team tally of 59 boundaries.

Azharuddin was out in the first ball after tea when he gave Muralitharan a return catch for 3.

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his first Test delivery.

Atapattu made 26 with five fours in 42 minutes while Jayasuriya was unbeaten on 12.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the first Test between India and Sri Lanka on Sunday:

INDIA: First innings: Monglia c Jayawardena b Pushpakumara 7; Sidhu c Kaluwitharana b Vaas 111; Dravid c and b Jayasuriya 69; Tendulkar c Jayawardena b Muralitharan 143; Azharuddin c and b Muralitharan 126; Ganguly c Mahanama b Jayasuriya 0; Kumble not out 27; Chauhan c Vaas b Jayasuriya 23; Jayasuriya c Atapattu b Pushpakumara 9; Extras: (b-10, nb-12) 22.

Total: (for 8 wickets declared) 537. Fall of wickets: 1-36; 2-183; 3-230; 4-451; 5-451; 6-479; 7-516; 8-537.

Did not bat: V Prasad, N Kulkarni.

Bowling O M R W: Vaas 23 4 80 1; Pushpakumara 19.3 2 97 2; Jayawardena 2 0 6 0; Muralitharan 65 9 174 2; Silva 39 3 122 0; Jayasuriya 18* 8 45 3; Atapattu 1 0 3 0.

SRI LANKA: First innings: 12. Atapattu c Monglia b Kulkarni 26; Mahanama not out 0; Extras: (nb-1) 1; Total: 39.

Fall of wicket: 1-39. To bat: A de Silva, A Ranatunga, M Jayawardena, R Kaluwitharana, C Vaas, R Pushpakumara, M Muralitharan, J Silva.

Bowling O M R W: Prasanna 3 0 16 0; Kuruvilla 2 1 10 0; Chauhan 2 1 1 0; Kumble 2 0 12 0; Kulkarni 0.1 0 0 1.

Mates let Caddick down

TAUNTON, England, Aug 3: Somerset fielders deprived fast bowler Andrew Caddick of superlative figures, but failed to stop the seamer from bowling himself back to Test contention on Saturday, report agencies.

Somerset dropped as many as five catches in the morning, as Australia batted themselves into a 39-run lead before rain curtailed the day's play after lunch.

After Australia had been dismissed for 323, Somerset were 147 for three in the 148 minutes play possible in the rain interrupted afternoon.

A pocket of the crowd hurled abuse at leg-spinner Shane Warne as Robert Ecclestone (65 not out) and Simon Ecclestone (47) shared a frustrating 85-run stand to give Somerset a 108-run lead with two days remaining.

As the remarks echoed across the ground, skipper Steve Waugh complained to the two umpires — Nigel Plew and John Steele.

Play was stopped for a couple of minutes when the umpires asked for Somerset chief executive Peter Anderson to come on to the field.

They then asked Anderson to summon police, even though there were 10 security staff employed by the club at the county ground. Two people were ejected, but no arrests were made.

Two security officials were deployed in the troubled area before the match continued.

Caddick, finished with five for 54 after starting the day with three for 30 in 10 overs. He took two for 24 in six overs, before left hander Brendon Julian took charge with a belligerent 71 off just 61 balls.

Caddick began the day in impressive style — removing the two overnight batsmen — Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan.

Caddick claimed Waugh (62) with a disconcertingly bounced delivery, two overs after the stand-in Australian skipper was dropped by Keith Parsons in the slips.

Parsons, suffered a dislocated finger that needed surgery and is expected to be out of action for the rest of the season.

It was a timely return to form by Caddick, who was dropped for left-arm swing bowler Mike Smith.

England's three-man selection panel was to meet Saturday night to pick their squad for the fifth Test starting in Trent Bridge on Thursday.

Caddick will be a definite inclusion ahead of Smith. Smith failed to claim a wicket in England's innings defeat, which has put them 2-1 behind in the six-match series.

Caddick's recall will be one of the two changes contemplated by David Graveney, Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, as England look to piece together a winning combination.

Australia resumed the day on 182 for four but soon slumped to 211 for six.

Julian hit spinner Steve Herzberg for three sixes and also struck 10 fours before he edged a catch behind.

Julian and Ian Healy (33) put on 106 runs for the seventh wicket in 71 minutes.

Fast bowler Andre van Troost, whose 11 overs on the first day had cost 92, again was heavily punished — although he did return to claim two of the last four wickets.

Van Troost finished with two for 132 while Jones' two wickets cost him 32 runs.

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SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the second day of a four-day match between Somerset and Australia on Saturday.

SOMERSET: First innings: 284 (K Parsons 71, R Turner 58; S Waugh 5-57).

AUSTRALIA: First innings: 323 (S Waugh 62; A Caddick 5-54).

SOMERSET: Second innings: Turner not out 65; Holloway c Langer b McGrath 17; Ecclestone c McGrath b M Waugh 47; Lathwell st Healy b Waugh 11; Jones not out 5; Extras: (nb-2) 2; Total: (for three wickets) 147. Fall of wickets: 1-33; 2-118; 3-138.

Bowling (to date): O M R W: Kasprovicz 5 2 11 0; Julian 5 2 22 0; McGrath 7 1 24 1; Blewett 4 0 33 0; Waugh 11 3 25 1; M Waugh 9 1 31 1.

Rain halts Borg-McEnroe semis

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, Aug 3: Rain halted the Bjorn Borg-John McEnroe semifinal match in its third set Saturday at the Challenge tournament for over-35 players, reports AP.

Borg was ahead, 6-3, 6-3, 1-0. The semifinal will resume Sunday morning.

Jimmy Connors defeated Yannick Noah Friday in the other semifinal 6-7, 7-5, 6-1.

The singles title match has been moved up to 11:30 am Sunday to avoid rain forecast to the area in the afternoon.



Mexican Daniel Garcia in ecstasy after clinching the men's 20-km gold at the World Athletics Championships in Athens on Aug 2. Garcia clocked 1 hr 21 mins 43 seconds. — AFP/UNB photo

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide. Monday 4th August. (All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programme). BTU, BBC, CHANNEL V, STAR MOVIES, STAR SPORTS, STAR PLUS, ZEE TV, SONY ET. Includes detailed TV listings for various channels and times.