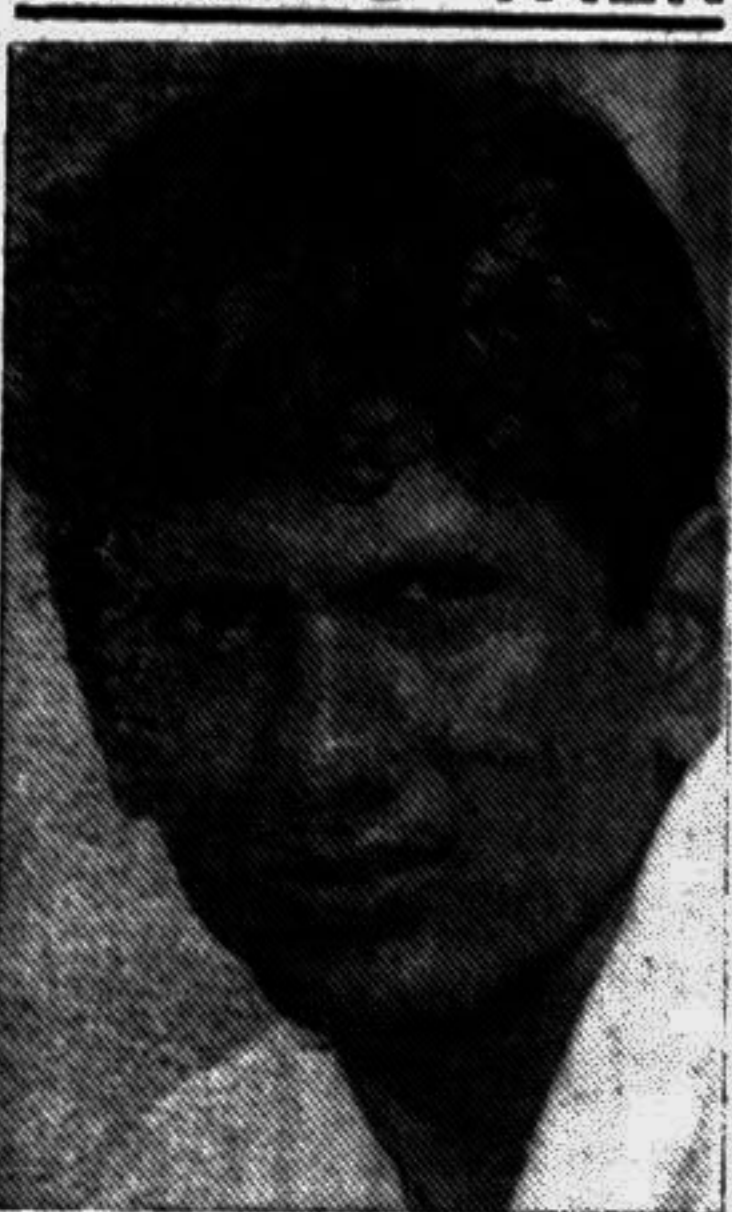


Column One SPORTS TALK



Venkatesh Prasad (Indian pace bowler) "Yes, I do miss him ... but that is not the point here. I have a job to perform."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-76

Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm, August 22, '97

Table with 5 questions about cricket, football, and tennis. Includes options like 'The current New Zealand cricket captain is Fleming' and 'Brazilian star Ronaldo's new Italian club is AC Milan'.

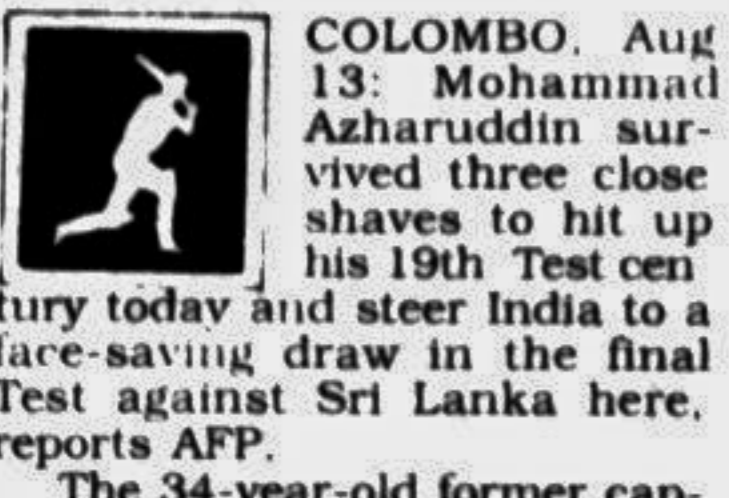
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Kanu to resume national duty

MILAN, Aug 13: Almost one year after the successful Olympic final against Argentina in Atlanta, Nigerian football star Nwankwo Kanu is rejoining his national team, reports AP.

Azhar hits chancy hundred India settle for a draw



COLOMBO, Aug 13: Mohammad Azharuddin survived three close shaves to hit up his 19th Test century today and steer India to a face-saving draw in the final Test against Sri Lanka here, reports AFP.

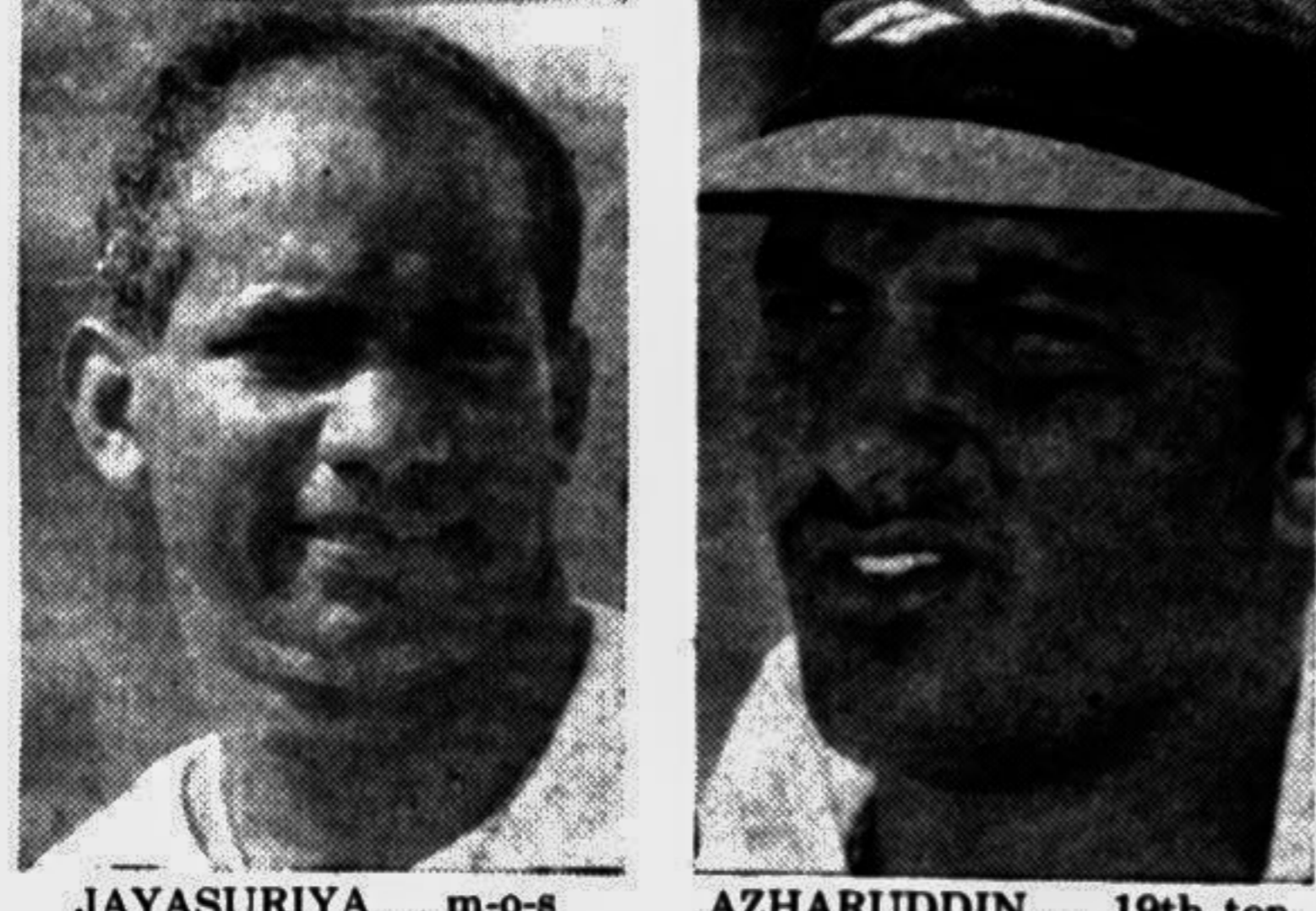
three-match limited overs series on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table showing first and second innings for India and Sri Lanka. Includes names like Tendulkar, Muralitharan, and scores like 332 (A de Silva 146).



DE SILVA ... m-o-m his follow through after getting both hands on the ball.



JAYASURIYA ... m-o-s out of the ground and only managed to sky the ball to mid-on.



AZHARUDDIN ... 19th ton Muralitharan 35 5 96 3



SACHIN TENDULKAR ... 100 4-138; 5-248

Scene from the seventh round of the 12th schools chess tournament at the National Sports Council yesterday.

Reid roughs up Indians

COLOMBO, Aug 13: The Indian team have been fined almost double their match fee for their slow over-rate in the second and final Test, the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said today, reports agencies.

The BCCSL said in a statement that members of the Indian team were each fined 195 per cent of their match fee by the referee John Reid as they had bowled 22 overs less than required.

The penalty, which will cost the 11 Indians 1,250 dollars each — five per cent short of their basic match fees for two Tests — is the stiffest ever fine imposed on any team for bowling their overs slowly.

"I am very disappointed that the Indian team has created a record in over-rate fines for the number of overs (22), but an equal concern is that very little effort was made to speed up despite being advised daily of their position," Reid said in a statement.

The Indian team manager R. S. Shetty told that the fine was too harsh, but admitted his team's violation of the rules.

"It is too harsh a fine if you play with medium pacers. But this is not an excuse for bowling less overs in an hour. We are aware of the rules," said Shetty in a telephone interview.

Bobby takes solo lead

Sports Reporter Ruhul Islam Bobby of Monipur High School extended his impressive all-win record to seven in the 12th schools chess tournament defeating Mehdi Hasan Parag of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Govt High School at the NSC chess room yesterday.

Playing with black pieces, Bobby, the national sub-junior champion, adopted Slav defence against Parag and won the board after 48 moves.

Bobby earned a solo lead in the nine-round meet. Parag joined the crowded second spot point behind.

400 report for U-20 camp

Sports Reporter Four hundred young players including 200 from different districts across the country reported to the Bangladesh Cricket Board for the Bangladesh under-20 team trials.

A team of four coaches headed by Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury will supervise the trials which begin at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium this morning.

After one week, 35 will finally be picked for a camp which will be conducted by Gordon Greenidge.

Linford really meant it

ZURICH, Aug 13: Linford Christie said on Tuesday that he was not excited about running anymore and confirmed his retirement as well as his desire to pursue his coaching career, reports Reuter.

Christie announced his retirement, not for the first time, on Saturday and said on Tuesday he was happy with the decision.

"I've always said that when I would wake up one morning and not feel like competing, then that would be the time to stop," he said.

"It would have been nice to give the fans one more meeting but you've got to quit sometime. That's it. I will not change my mind."

The 37-year-old Briton, who attended the recently-ended Athens World Championships as a television analyst, said he had not felt frustrated by not being on the track.

"Watching the 100 and the 200 metres I did not hear the pounding of my heart I usually have when I'm not out there," he said.

Christie will now concentrate on coaching several leading athletes including Namibian Frankie Fredericks, Jamaican Merlene Ottey and Briton Jamie Bunch.



Samir Shakir, the new Iraqi football coach of Mohammedan Sporting Club, makes a point during his team's training session at the T&T ground in Mohakhali yesterday.

Ronaldo reminded of reality



RONALDO

MILAN, Aug 13 (AFP): Inter Milan goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca sent Brazil a friendly reminder on Tuesday that he is not the star of the team.

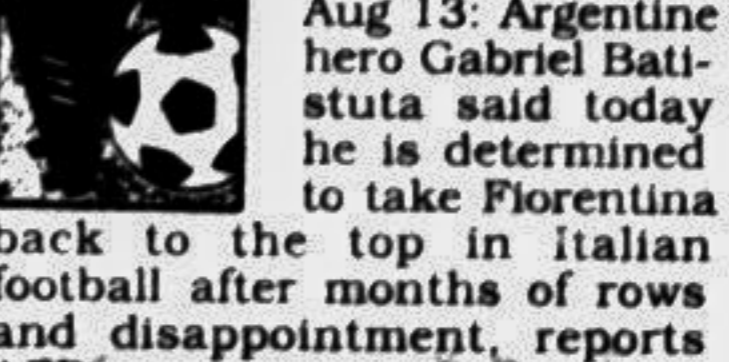
Pagliuca said, "I'd rather be happy to see that he travels as little as possible. I realise that, for Brazil, Ronaldo is just too important."

"But it's only fair that Inter have him for the big matches, because those are the ones that decide the championship."

"And then you have to remember that it's president Massimo Moratti who pays his wages."

As for his teammates, well he says things because he knows that he's a sensible lad and he knows what he's got to do.

Batistuta bestirs himself



BATISTUTA

FLORENCE, Italy, Aug 13: Argentine hero Gabriel Batistuta said today he is determined to take Fiorentina back to the top in Italian football after months of rows and disappointment, reports AFP.

Batistuta has now buried the hatchet with club president Vittorio Cecchi Gori after recently threatening to quit over a bitter contract dispute. He also wants to make up for the team's uninspiring season in 1996-97.

"Relations with the club are fairly okay," he said. "I've been through some difficult times, but I feel better now, what really helped us was the support of the rest of the team and of the fans."

"I asked for things which I felt were fair, but if he (Cecchi Gori) doesn't share that opinion it certainly doesn't make him a nasty person."

"He's looking after his interests and I'm looking after mine and sometimes those two things don't coincide."

Looking to the season ahead Batistuta's two objectives are a good performance in the Serie A and another in the World Cup finals with Argentina.

"A lot of us here are absolutely desperate to make up for things," he said. "The match with Barcelona is still burning us — and so does the burning won't be playing in Europe next season."

Fiorentina finished up mid-table in the Serie A, and went out of the European Cup Winners' Cup semifinals to Ronaldo's Barcelona, amidst a hail of missiles and flares from angry fans.

"Now we've just got to make the right kind of start — a few good results will help us get our confidence back," he said.

"We're already trying out new tactics and if the fans are with us it will make everything easier."

After playing 4-4-2 under Claudio Ranieri, Fiorentina have switched to a 3-4-3 formation under new coach Alberto Malesani.

"I don't usually pay much attention to tactics, but I like this 3-4-3 and so does the rest of the team," said Batistuta.

"It means sacrifices sweat and running hard, and you have to be careful, not take too many risks. But it's an interesting idea."

"As in past seasons Fiorentina's success it will depend almost entirely on the scoring ability of the man they call Batigol." He only managed 13 last time around and hasn't scored in any of their recent friendlies against Tottenham Hotspur, Lazio and Bologna.

The 28-year-old is meanwhile also planning to give his best in his national colours in the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

"I don't want to go there as a tourist, but as one of the leading figures in the tournament," he said. "I want to be playing, not watching."



Some of the 400 young players, who reported to the BCB for the under-20 team trials, gather at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday morning.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Public Works Timber Workshop Division Mirpur, Dhaka Tender Invitation Notice Memo No. TWD/26/452 Dated 5-8-97 21-4-1404BS

Linford really meant it ZURICH, Aug 13: Linford Christie said on Tuesday that he was not excited about running anymore and confirmed his retirement as well as his desire to pursue his coaching career, reports Reuter.

BCB calls up five more Sports Reporter Bangladesh Cricket Board yesterday called five more players in the ongoing camp of Bangladesh 'A' cricket team.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 1 Big bash 5 Sternward 8 Anathema 12 Pre-diplo-ma worry 13 Bill's partner 14 Malefic 18 Tragic 19 Nostalgic 18 Hollywood newcomer 20 Seedy joints 21 State of matter 22 Craze in a way 28 Ruth stat 30 Seek damages 31 Send, the modern meaning 32 Prefix meaning 'equal' 33 Close friend, in slang 36 One of Lear's daughters 38 Curbing 39 Prohibit 40 Dilapidated automobile 43 Somnam-