

Parched pitch plays prank

Sports Reporter
Neither of the two matches of the Jiban Bima Club Cup were held yesterday due to some technical problem related to the water supply system at the Moulana Bhasani Stadium.

According to a Bangladesh Hockey Federation official who spoke to this reporter last night, the matches will be played at the same venue this afternoon.

In the first match, Azad Sporting Club will face Bangladesh Sporting Club in a group A affair at 2:45 pm while the next match between group B sides Farashganj Sporting Club and Bachelors' Club will be held at 4:30 pm.

The remaining fixture of the tournament will be shifted bodily.

BCB meet Aug 20

Sports Reporter
The next meeting of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) executive committee, scheduled for August 21 at the Dhaka Stadium, has been brought forward by a day.

The meeting, which may prove to be very important for the future of cricket in Bangladesh, will now be held on August 20 from 2 pm at the BCB headquarters.

Nat'l soccer team to play in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Bangladesh national football team will play two exhibition matches with Chittagong Abahani and Chittagong Mohammedans on August 20 and 23 at the M A Aziz Stadium here, reports BSS.

Harunur Rashid, MP, general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation said this while talking to a group of the journalists at the CJKP office here today.

The BFF official told the journalists that the total proceeds of these matches would be donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for flood affected people of the country.

Chappell's choices

SYDNEY, Aug 9: Former Australian cricket captain Ian Chappell has ranked India fifth among the nine Test playing countries, saying that unless India learned to consistently win away from home they can't rank as a top-class team, reports PTI.

Chappell, a top TV commentator of the game now, said despite the recent loss of the three-Test series in India, Australia were still the best Test-playing nation, provided leg-spin wizard Shane Warne and paceman Glen McGrath were fit.

South Africa are placed number two, followed by Pakistan, West Indies and India, England are ranked below India, with Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Zimbabwe following in that order.

Writing in the latest issue of 'Inside Edge' Magazine, Chappell has taken into account five factors — batting, bowling, fielding, captaincy and results — to rank the teams.

"India have been the big improvers in recent times thanks to a strong batting line-up headed by Sachin Tendulkar, the world's best batsman," he wrote.

The consistent Rahul Dravid, the flashy Mohammad Azharuddin and a more forceful Saurav Ganguly complete an excellent middle-order, but they are still unsettled at the top, he commented.

Ian Chappell said India's pace attack was in good shape with the experienced Jagavall Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad now backed by the aggressive young Ajit Agarkar.

"However, India still don't travel well and until they learn to consistently win away from home they can't rank as a top-class team," he headed.

Incontrad v'ball

All the eight quarterfinal matches of the Incontrad inter-district men's and women's volleyball championship will be held today at the Mirpur Shahed Subhazwari National Indoor Stadium, reports UNB.

In the men's quarterfinals, Kushtia will take on Chittagong at 8 am, Dhaka meet Comilla at 9:30 am, Khulna face Rajbari at 2:30 pm and Rangpur play Tangail at 4 pm.

In the women's group, Pabna will encounter Kushtia at 8 am, Rajbari meet Dinajpur at 9:30 am, Tangail play Bhola at 2:30 pm while Khulna face Rangpur at 4 pm.

Five women's and one men's group matches were decided yesterday.

In the women's group, Tangail overwhelmed Gazipur 15-0, 15-0, 15-0. Pabna beat Chuadanga 15-2, 15-3, 15-3. Rajbari beat Dinajpur 15-2, 15-5, 15-3. Khulna beat Bhola 15-1, 15-6, 15-9, and Rangpur outplayed Kushtia 15-1, 15-1, 15-3. In the men's group, Kushtia came from behind to beat Chittagong 10-15, 7-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-7.

SA need 219 for victory

LEEDS, England, Aug 9 (Reuters/Internet): Another England collapse, instigated by Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock, left South Africa needing 219 runs to win the fifth and deciding Test at Headingley on Sunday.

Resuming on 206 for four, England mirrored their first innings collapse by losing their

— against Donald and the new ball to finish the day on four not out and preserve England's advantage.

On Saturday, Hussain came to the crease for the second ball of the day after Allan Donald had given the tourists the perfect start by trapping Mike Atherton lbw for his overnight single.

He looked precarious for most of the morning session but

Extras: (b-14, lb-1, w-2, nb-10) 27
Total: (all out in 110.2 overs) 240
Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-81; 3-143; 4-200; 5-206; 6-208; 7-208; 8-229; 9-235

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	35	14	53	5
Donald	29.2	9	71	5
McMillan	11	0	22	0
Ntini	15	4	43	0
Kallis	16	6	31	0
Cullinan	1	0	1	0
Cronje	4	1	4	0

LATEST

Star Sport Monitor

Shaun Pollock and number ten batsman Allan Donald of South Africa strained their every nerve to stymie England's three-pronged seam attack at Headingley last night as they ran into trouble while chasing a reasonable victory target of 219.

When the stumps were drawn for the fourth day, the Proteas were reeling at 185 for eight with the gritty Pollock and Donald remaining unbeaten on 24 and 22 respectively.

Local hero Darren Gough made his comeback Test memorable, inflicting the stunning rot with a haul of five wickets. He was at his miserly best as the sturdy Yorkshireman finished the day with the fantastic figures of 19-6-36-5.

South Africa were 27 for five at one stage. But Jonty Rhodes and Brian McMillan featured in a brave rescue act putting on 117 runs for the sixth wicket. Rhodes hit a brilliant 85 while the out-of-form McMillan weighed in with 54.

last six wickets for 34 runs.

Donald and new-ball partner Pollock both finished with five wickets after bowling unchanged for the 19.2 overs that England lasted before lunch.

But the touring team lost some of the gloss from the session when Gerhardus Liebenberg was trapped lbw for six before lunch. South Africa were 10 for one at the break.

Nightwatchman Ian Salisbury fell to the second delivery of the day, Pollock having him caught behind by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher and Donald claimed two victims in his second over to give South Africa the impetus they craved.

Andrew Flintoff completed a pair in the match when he, too, edged a catch to Boucher and Graeme Hick departed for a single after meekly driving a clever slower ball from Donald to Gary Kirsten at extra cover.

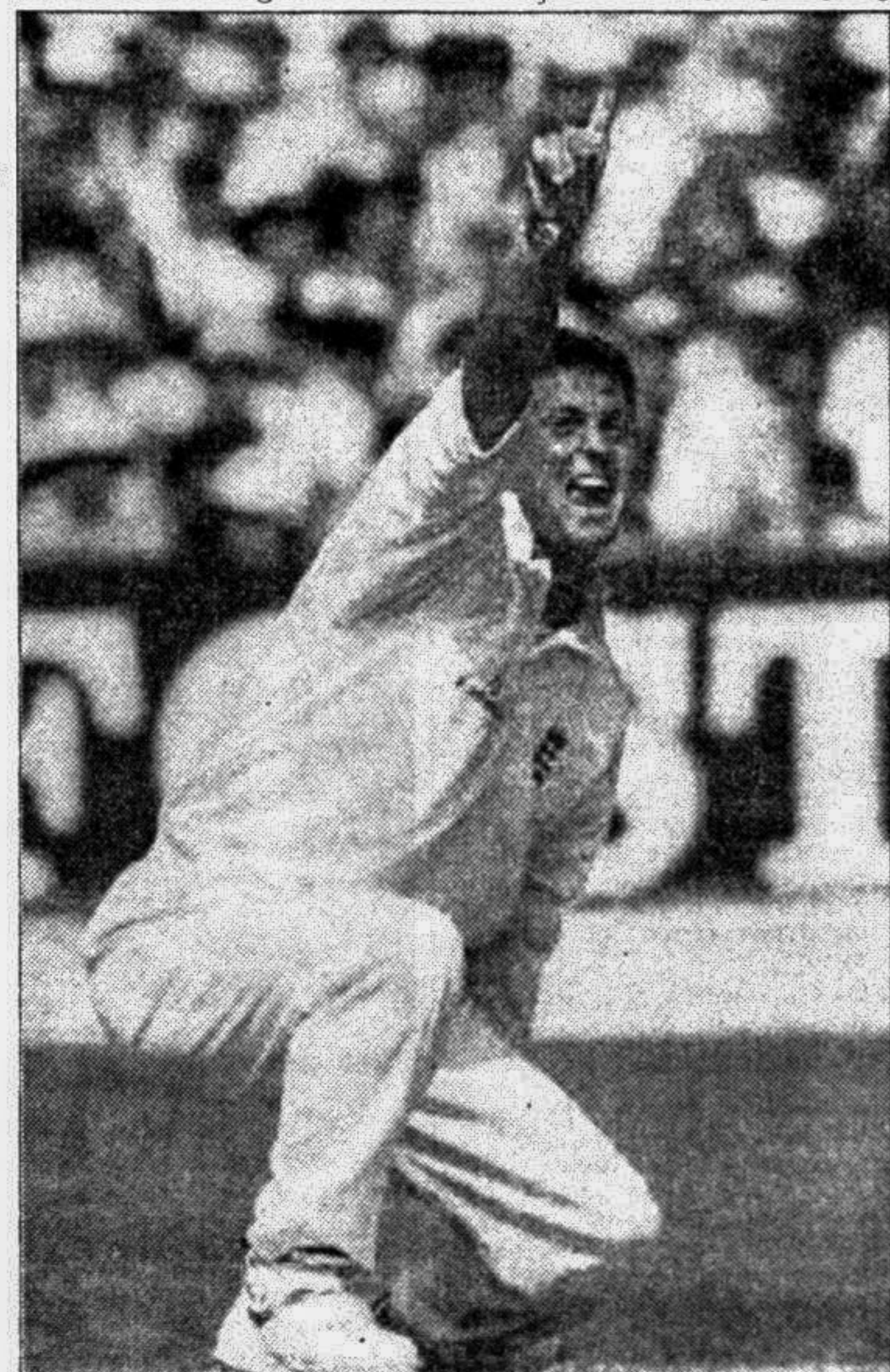
Nasser Hussain unbeaten with 83 overnight, managed 11 more runs before leaving an off drive against Pollock to South African captain Hansie Cronje.

His 94, spanning seven hours eight minutes and 341 balls, may still prove decisive on an unpredictable pitch but he shook his head in the manner of a man who knew his job was not complete.

Donald claimed the last two wickets, with Dominic Cork edging another catch to Boucher and Darren Gough giving Daryll Cullinan a catch at third slip. It was his fourth five-wicket haul of the series, giving him a total of 33 at an average of 19.78.

Pollock's analysis of 35-14-53-5 was his best of a largely disappointing series.

Pollock claimed his third wicket of the innings shortly before the close when Mark Ramprakash was trapped lbw for 25 but nightwatchman Ian Salisbury survived — somehow



Darren Gough of England appeals during the fourth day's play yesterday. — Reuters/Internet photo

grew steadily in confidence throughout the afternoon, driving fluently through the off side. His innings included 11 boundaries and lasted more than six hours.

Opener Mark Butcher had dominated the morning session but fell to the persevering and deserving Shaun Pollock for 37, caught at first slip by Brian McMillan.

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD on the fourth day of the fifth Test between England and South Africa at Headingley on Sunday.

ENGLAND: First innings 230 (M Butcher 116)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 252 (H Cronje 57; A Fraser 5-42)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 206-4)

Butcher c McMillan b Pollock	37
Atherton lbw b Donald	1
Hussain c Cronje b Pollock	94
Stewart c Boucher b Pollock	35
Ramprakash lbw b Pollock	25
Salisbury c Boucher b Pollock	4
Hick c Kirsten b Donald	1
Flintoff c Boucher b Donald	10
Cork c Boucher b Donald	10
Gough c Cullinan b Donald	5
Fraser not out	1

Sri Lanka 308/6

NORTHAMPTON, England, Aug 9: Sri Lanka scored 308 for six off their 50 overs in their one-day match against Northamptonshire today, reports Reuters.

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD of the Sri Lankan innings in the one-day match against Northamptonshire at Northampton on Sunday.

SRI LANKA
Jayasuriya c Curran b Snape 119
Kaluwaramana st Bailey b Swann 49
A de Silva c Loye b Taylor 60
Ranatunga c Curran b Bailey 33
Atapattu c Snape b Taylor 15
Jayawardene not out 9
Wickremasinghe c Bailey b Follett 1
Perera not out 5

Extras: (lb-7, w-10) 17
Total: (For six wickets in 50 overs) 308

Did not bat: C Hathurusinghe, K Dharmasena, M Bandara, Atilleke

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	10	1	50	2
Follett	8	0	48	1
Penberthy	4	0	33	0
Curran	1	0	15	0
Swann	10	0	50	1
Snape	10	0	55	1
Bailey	7	0	50	1

India name primary WC squad

MUMBAI, Aug 9: Delhi medium-pacer Robin Singh jr was the surprise inclusion in the list of 22 players picked by the national cricket selectors here today for the first World Cup preparatory camp at Chennai from August 21-September 4, reports PTI.

Except for the presence of 28-year-old Robin Singh jr, now touring Holland with the India A squad, there were no surprises in the list which comprised nine batsmen, six medium-pacers (including all-rounders), four spinners and three wicketkeepers.

Karnataka stars Jagavall Srinath, now fully recovered from his side strain which kept him out of the squad from April, Rahul Dravid and Punjab veteran Navjot Singh Sidhu were also named in the list along with Hyderabad's VVS Laxman.

The probabilities, batsmen: Mohammad Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Ajay Jadeja, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Gagan Khoda and Rahul Dravid. Medium-pacers (including all-rounders): Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Ajit Agarkar, Debashish Mohanty, Robin Singh and Robin Singh (jr). Spinners: Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Rahul Sanghvi and Sajraj Bahutule. Wicketkeepers: Nayan Mongia, Syed Saba Karim and MSK Prasad.

Teams for the Sahara Cup series against Pakistan at Toronto and the Commonwealth Games at Kuala Lumpur, both scheduled at the same time

in September, would be chosen at Chennai on September 4, it was announced by the secretary of the Indian Cricket Board, Jaywant Lele.

The players would undergo a conditioning camp under the supervision of coach Anshuman Gaekwad with Australia's Bob Simpson, the board's consultant, present at Chennai to oversee the entire process.

Selection committee chairman Kishen Rungta was confident of fielding two equally strong teams for both the Sahara Cup and Commonwealth Games where cricket is to make its debut.

Rungta said that the selection committee took special permission from board president Raj Singh to add two more players to the original scheduled limit of 20 as they did not want to leave out two deserving candidates without specifying who they were.

"Simpson had written to the board that twenty would be an ideal number but we wanted to add one more batsman and another wicket-keeper to the list and that is why we have selected 22 and not 20," Rungta explained.

Rungta, agreeing that it was only a preliminary list for next year's World Cup, said that an entire season lay ahead of the new selection committee, to be formed at next month's board's AGM, to add or delete some names.

About the volte-face regarding Dravid and Laxman, who the selectors felt were not ideal for one-day games, the chairman explained that they were always of the opinion that these

two batsmen were class players.

"We want to see them come under the guidance of Simpson and see their improvement. He is to study all the players for their strengths and weaknesses," Rungta explained.

Meanwhile, Azharuddin said he was happy with players picked for the camp.

"We will see the players at the camp and select the best team for the Sahara Cup," Azhar told reporters after attending the selection committee meeting at the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) along with Gaekwad.

Azhar, under whom India have won the last three one-day tournaments they had participated in and who has been named captain till the ICC knock-out cup at Dhaka in October, hoped that the camp would help the players improve their fielding and running between the wickets.

Asian snooker from Aug 15

The 15th-Asian snooker championship will be held from August 15 to 23 in Karachi, reports BSS.

In all, 39 players from 17 countries, will take part in this nine-day meet.

Participating countries are: Bangladesh, Brunei, China, China-Hong Kong, China-Taiwan, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Jordan, Macau, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates.

BFF committees to be recast

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has decided to recast all its standing committees. This was decided by the newly elected executive committee in its first meeting held on Saturday at the BFF office at the Dhaka Stadium.

Chaired by the BFF president, who is also the Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, Mohammad Hanif, the meeting formed a seven-member steering committee which will recommend the new committees to the federation.

The committee includes five vice-presidents—Bir Bahadur MP, Monirul Haque Chowdhury, Anjan Chowdhury Pintoo, Zafar Imam and Nazrul Islam Khan Badal. BFF general secretary Harun-ur Rashid MP, two joint-secretaries—Sirajul Islam Bachchu and Badal Roy, and treasurer Dr Shamim Z Bosunia.

Besides, the meeting also decided to hold the second Bangladesh Cup international football tournament in the capital next November.

Eves' first Ashes Test drawn

GUILDFORD, England, Aug 9: England and Australia drew the first Test of a three-match women's Ashes series Saturday after a feast of high run-scoring but little fun for the bowlers, reports AP.

England finished their second innings on 160 for one after the Australians declared on 569 for six, following England's first innings 414 all out.

England's Jan Brittin set a world record for runs gathered in Test matches, her 146 and 59 not out taking her to 1,690, easily passing the mark of 1,594 owned by former England captain Rachael Heyhoe Flint.

Australia's Joanne Broadbent and Melanie Jones also scored big centuries. Broadbent hit exactly 200, four runs short of Kirsty Flavel's world record scored against England two years ago, while Jones was run out for 131.

The draw at least maintains England's hope of winning the Ashes which looked uncertain when Australia crushed the home team 5-0 in a series of one-day games.

The Ashes series resumes at Harrogate on Tuesday and the two teams meet again at Worcester Aug 21.

Summer Open badminton

The Rupali Insurance Summer Open badminton tournament, organised by Bangladesh Badminton Federation, began yesterday at the NSC wooden floor gymnasium, reports UNB.

On the opening day of the four-day meet, three women's singles matches were held when last report came in.

Runa beat Ankihi 11-8, 11-4. Ruma beat Nilufa 11-4, 11-6, and Dola beat Wahida 11-5, 11-7.

Badminton Federation president Kutubuddin Ahmed inaugurated the four-day meet.

Consultant of the tournament sponsors Rupali Insurance Company M Azizul Haq was present as special guest.

In all, 42 shuttlers are participating in the men's singles, 18 in the men's doubles, 12 in the women's singles and six in the women's doubles.

Surrey, top of the table for most of the season, lead Leices-

Gunners fire ominous shot

LONDON, Aug 9 (Reuters/Internet): Double winners Arsenal sounded a warning to the rest of the Premier league on Sunday when they trounced Manchester United 3-0 in the Charity Shield at Wembley - the traditional curtain-raiser to the English season.

Overcoming blistering weather, Arsenal took control of the match after 34 minutes when Dutchman Marc Overmars gave them the lead and went on to dominate a listless-looking United with further goals from Liberian substitute Christopher Wreh after 57 minutes and a superb third from French striker Nicolas Anelka after 72 minutes.

United's poor afternoon was summed up perfectly when substitute Teddy Sheringham, looking for a consolation goal, fired three metres wide with only David Seaman to beat late in the match.

Arsenal, who ended United's two-year reign as champions with a run of 10 successive wins in last season's run-in, looked far more settled than United, who need to show an improvement before they meet LKS Lodz of Poland in a Champions' League qualifier on Wednesday.

Arsenal as champions, have qualified automatically for the Champions' League and will be playing their home matches in the competition at Wembley and if Sunday's exhibition is anything to go by, their opponents will certainly not relish visiting the Twin Towers.

One player who clearly enjoys playing there is Overmars, who opened the scoring when Arsenal defeated Newcastle in the FA Cup Final last May.

United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel no chance after Dennis Bergkamp, with a backheel, and Anelka, set up the chance which Overmars blasted in superbly.

Wreh, who replaced Bergkamp at halftime made it 2-0 after Overmars outpaced the United defence before finding Anelka who set Wreh up with his chance. Wreh's first shot was blocked by Schmeichel, but he made no mistake from the rebound.

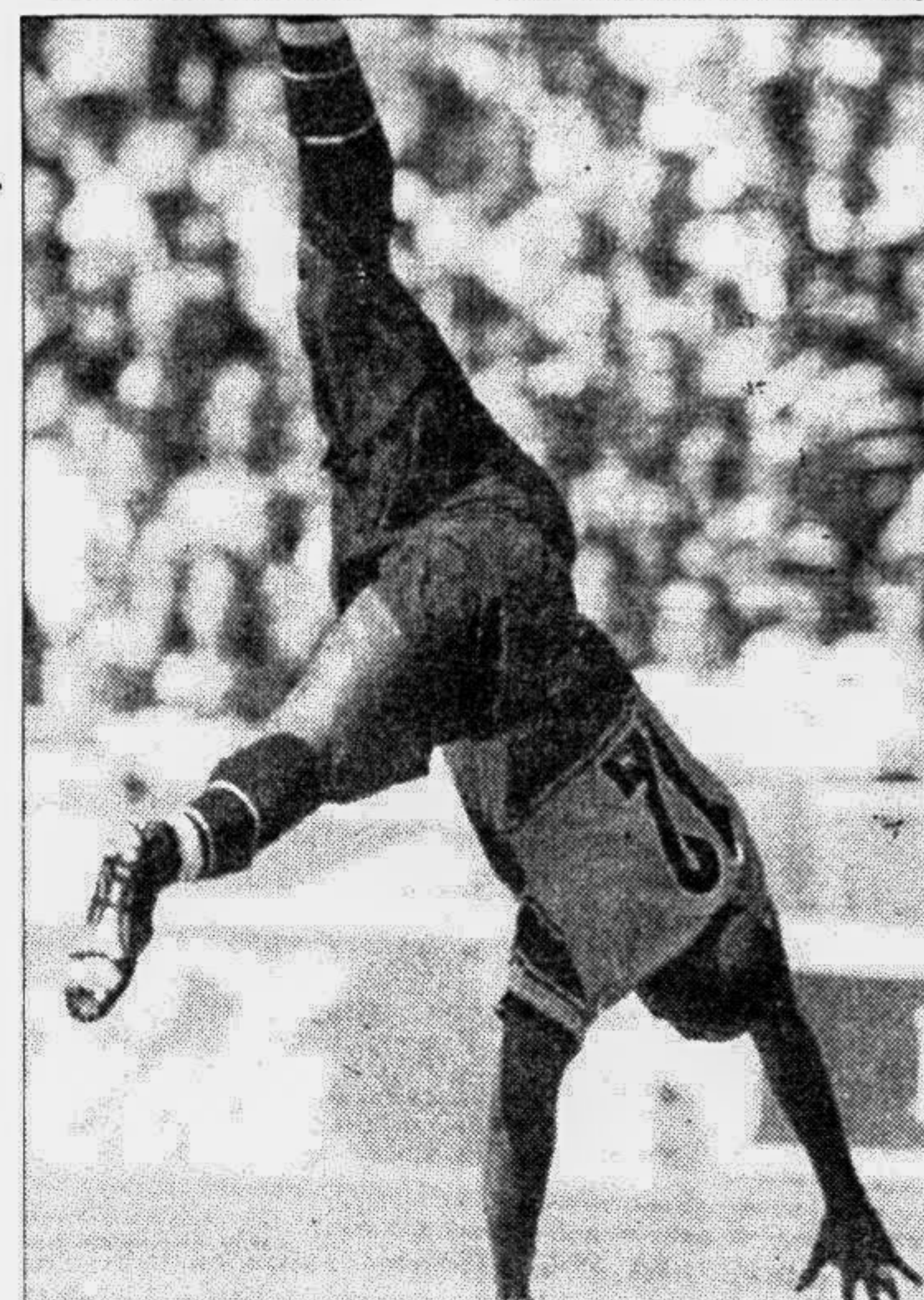
The best goal of the match was Anelka's who also scored in the Cup Final against Newcastle. Arsenal midfielder Ray Parlour sent him away on a chase and the Frenchman held off a determined challenge from

United's new 10.75 million pounds (\$17.55 million) defender Jaap Stam to score with an angled left-foot shot.

Stam, under intense scrutiny following his move from PSV Eindhoven and a poor World Cup for the Netherlands, played well enough, but Arsenal again proved the middle of the United defence is the weakest part of the team.

The match ended with a flurry of substitutions from both sides, and although much of the football was low-key and forgettable, the message from the afternoon was unmistakable.

Arsenal, who became the first team from London to win the Charity Shield outright since Tottenham in 1962, look well-equipped to mount a very



Arsenal's Christopher Wreh celebrates his goal against Manchester United in the Charity Shield at Wembley yesterday. — Reuters/Internet Photo

One United player to emerge with credit was David Beckham, booed every time he touched the ball by the Arsenal fans, following his sending off in the World Cup for England against Argentina. He was United's most influential midfielder and was unlucky not to score with a free kick late in the game.

strong challenge for another English championship — not to mention European honours back at Wembley when the serious stuff begins.

Coach Arsene Wenger said: "It was important game psychologically. It was quite level in the first half. United played well then but both teams tired a little in the second half."

Saqlain dooms Derbyshire

LONDON, Aug 9: Saqlain Mushaq, the 21-year-old Pakistan Test off-spinner, snapped up eight wickets in an innings for the third time this season to bowl county championship leaders Surrey to victory against Derbyshire at The Oval on Saturday, reports AFP.

Saqlain finished with eight for 65 as Derbyshire were all out for 206 despite a fine 99 from Australian Michael Slater after losing their last six wickets for 35 runs.

Saqlain's performance gave Surrey a 226-run win and lifted his first-class wicket tally to 54 so far this season at an average cost of 18.16 runs.

Surrey, top of the table for most of the season, lead Leices-

tershire, who have a game in hand, by 41 points after their eighth victory of the summer.

The title may not be decided until the last match of the season when the two contenders meet at The Oval on September 17.

Surrey have 213 points from 13 matches, Leicestershire 172 from 12, Lancashire 170 from 12 and Gloucestershire 151 from 11.

Glamorgan beat Essex by 216 runs, opening up the possibility of Essex being bottom of the table for only the second time in their 103-year history.

Worcestershire crumbled to their third successive defeat to Nottinghamshire, now led by the former Lancashire batsman

Jason Gallian.

Nottingham's left-arm fast bowler Chris Tolley, who played for Worcestershire until three years ago, had career-best figures of seven for 45 as his former teammates were tumbled out for 186.

Warwickshire, inspired by a hurricane 51 from their captain Brian Lara, who made 226 in their first innings, made a gallant attempt to hit 205 in 24 overs after bowling Middlesex out for 373 at Lord's.

Mike Gatting was on course for his 95th century when he was out for 91. The match was drawn with Middlesex close to victory as Warwickshire slumped to 150 for eight.

Lens, PSG falter early

PARIS, Aug 9 (Reuters/AP): Champions RC Lens and joint title favourites Paris Saint Germain stumbled to away defeats as they began their assault on the French league championship on Saturday.

PSG, with former Bordeaux favourite Alain Giresse now at the helm, lost 3-1 to Girondins Bordeaux after both sides had a player sent off in the first half, while Lens lost 3-2 at Toulouse.

Olympique Marseille, joint title favourites with PSG and with three of France's World Cup-winning squad in their ranks beat Nantes 2-0 at home in front of a capacity 60,000 crowd at the Velodrome.

In Bordeaux home captain Michael Pavon was sent off after a foul on midfielder Yann Lachuer, his second bookable offence, in the 35th minute.

Ten minutes later PSG's captain Bruno Carotti was also shown the red card for a foul on playmaker Ali Benarbia, also a second yellow card offence.

Benarbia, signed from Monaco, had a fine debut pulling the strings and Bordeaux scored twice inside a minute early in the second half through striker Lilian Laslandes and Sylvain Wilford to virtually settle the match.

Laslandes put Bordeaux ahead with a superb goal, turning PSG's German defender Christian Woerns to put a cross shot inside the top far corner of goalkeeper Dominique Casagrande's net in the 55th minute.

PSG's French international goalkeeper Bernard Lama, only recently back in training, was not even on the bench.

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