

Wills International Cup 18 cameras to cover every angle

Sports Reporter

There will be as many as eighteen electronic eyes to provide the details of the action on the field during the coming Wills International Cup, which will be televised across the globe when the nine-nation cricket carnival commences at Dhaka from October 24.

World Tel, for whom it will be their second visit in Dhaka after the successful maiden assignment during the Independence Cup last year, have been endowed with the job to broadcast all the eight matches live from the Bangabandhu National Stadium. All nine Test-playing nations are taking part in the knock-out tournament, organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to raise funds for the future development programme of the game.

It was learnt that the American-based company will use 18 cameras, four more than they used during the Independence Cup, including five super slow motion electronic eyes. Of the eighteen cameras, fourteen including two stumpy vision and a couple of fixed lenses square of the wicket for run out decisions, will be installed at the ground. Besides, like the previous occasion, one camera will be stationed atop the 24-storied neighbouring Shilpa Bank Bhaban and another on top of one of the flood-light towers for aerial view. Moreover, one camera will be placed underneath the electronic scoreboard at the western gallery of the stadium. It was also learnt that this time around their will be another camera for close looks of the commentators at the top floor of the VIP gallery.

Although it was earlier proposed that the opposite end of the VIP gallery, known as the Paltan end, will be named after former Indian Test cricketer Raman Lamba who died as a result of a head injury while during a league match last season at this very ground.



CRAWLEY COMES GOOD: England batsman John Crawley tries to play one towards the on-side during his superb unbeaten 156 in the one-off Test against Sri Lanka at The Oval yesterday.

Sri Lanka 79 for one

Sports reporter

Sri Lanka were 79 for one in reply to England's huge first innings total of 445 at close on day two of the one-off Test at The Oval yesterday.

Opener Sanath Jayasuriya was unbeaten on 59 while Mahela Jayawardene remained not out on four. The tourists lost Marvan Atapattu for 15 when the stylish opener was judged lbw to Dominic Cork.

Earlier the England innings was dominated by John Crawley who hammered a Test best 156 not out inclusive of 19 fours and a six.

Earlier on Thursday England batting enigma Graeme Hick put his team on top and raised his hopes of a place on the forthcoming Ashes tour with an unbeaten 107.

Hick's first century for 11 Tests carried England to 228 for four at the close of the first day after the early loss of Mark Butcher (10) and the dismissals in rapid succession after lunch of Steve James (36) and captain Alec Stewart (2).

Sri Lanka, who put England in on a bare pitch in sunny conditions, contained their opponents effectively until midway through the second session but the lack of a genuine cutting edge to their attack inhibited their progress.

Hick, who had scores of 6.2 and 1 in his previous two Tests

this season when the pressure was on at the climax of the series against South Africa, batted with relative freedom and confidence on this occasion for his fifth Test hundred but his first since making 41 at Centurion Park in South Africa at the end of 1995.

"I was in a catch 22 situation," said Hick. "If I got runs in this match everyone would have said I should have done. If I had not, I would have heard all about it."

I have felt in good nick all season. The South Africa Tests were very disappointing for me but it was nice to get runs here.

England, playing Sri Lanka in a Test in this country for the first time since 1991, suffered a setback before a ball had been bowled when former captain Michael Atherton was ruled out because his ongoing back trouble had flared up, giving Glamorgan opener James his second Test cap.

James, who had been called up on the eve of the match on Wednesday when Atherton's fitness was in doubt, had made 10 and 0 on his only previous Test appearance, against South Africa at Lord's in June, but at least made slightly more headway this time after England were put in to bat.

He soon lost opening partner Butcher, who got an outside edge to Pramodji Wickremasinghe and was caught by Sanath Jayasuriya at second slip for

10, but then helped Hick to repair the damage in a second wicket stand of 82.

Stewart fell for two to a poor stroke.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the England's first innings on the second day of the one-off Test against Sri Lanka at The Oval on Friday:

ENGLAND: First Innings	
James c & b Muralitharan	36
Butcher c Jayasuriya	10
b Wickramasinghe	
Hick c Kaluwitharana	107
b Wickramasinghe	
Stewart c Tillakaratne b Perera	2
Rampurash c Jayawardene	53
b Muralitharan	156
Crawley not out	
Hollooke c Atapattu	6
b Muralitharan	14
Cork b Muralitharan	2
Salisbury b Muralitharan	6
Gough c Kaluwitharana	4
b Muralitharan	32
Fraser b Muralitharan	32
Extras (b 1, lb 11, w 2, nb 9)	23
Total (all out in 158.3 overs)	445
Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Butcher), 2-78 (James), 3-81 (Stewart), 4-209 (Rampurash), 5-230 (Hick), 6-277 (Hollooke), 7-333 (Cork), 8-343 (Salisbury), 9-356 (Gough), 10-445 (Fraser).	
Bowling	
Wickramasinghe	30 4 81 2
Perera	40 10 104 1
Dharmasena	18 3 55 0
Muralitharan	59.3 14 155 7
Jayasuriya	11 0 38 0

Back to the basics for Agarkar

CHENNAI, Aug 28 (Express News Service/Internet): Indian medium-pacer Ajit Agarkar spent some time with pace guru Dennis Lillee at the MRF Pace Foundation on Wednesday.

Agarkar, though successful in international cricket, has a bowling action which would result in back injury sooner than later. Foundation coach TA Sekhar had told the Indian Express many months ago about the defects in feet placement of the youngster, who has a mixed action in pace bowling parlance.

Many bowlers, who have similar action, have suffered back and groin injuries.

Agarkar, who was meeting Lillee for the first time, spent an hour with him. Lillee said Agarkar was going too far side-on which results in twisting of his spine if he bows for long hours.

GANGULY XI WIN

Meanwhile, in a limited over match between the Indian probables played at the MAC Stadium today, Sourav Ganguly XI cantered to a seven-wicket victory over Ajay Jadhav XI with Ganguly (55), Rahul Dravid (52 n.o.) and Hrishikesh Kanitkar (54 ret'd.) coming good.

Brief scores: Jadhav XI 197 for 7 in 40 overs (VVS Laxman 54, Ajay Jadhav 49, Sairaj Bahutule 29, Venkatesh Prasad 2-36, Harbhajan Singh 2-14).

Ganguly XI 199-3 in 36.4 overs (Saurav Ganguly 55, Rahul Dravid 52 n.o., H Kanitkar 54 retired).

Diego, Daniel may meet in all-star match

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 28: Former Argentine national team captains Diego Maradona and Daniel Passarella, who have exchanged critical comments in the media, could face one another at an Argentine all-star game in November, reports AP.

The game, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 25, would be the first meeting of the two since they started blasting each other in the months leading up to the World Cup.

Passarella, captain of the 1978 World Cup winning side who coached Argentina in France '98, drew Maradona's ire for what the former star described as mismanaging the team before and during the tournament.

Maradona was particularly irked his close friend, Claudio Caniggia, was left off the roster.

According to local reports, Passarella has accepted the invitation to play the game, billed as a tribute to former Argentine star Enzo Francescoli.

Hick stakes a claim

LONDON, Aug 28 (Mirror/Internet): Graeme Hick batted for his Test future like a miser here yesterday — but he ended up quids in. The England batsman who was once branded a flat-track bully was all self-denial in one of the most painstaking innings of his 49-Test career.

Hick, battling for a permanent England place and a trip to Australia this winter, knew that this was his last chance. After wretched scores of 6, 2 and 1 against South Africa, he knew he dared not fail in this one-off Test against Sri Lanka.

He has already been handed seven Test recalls in seven years. He surely could not expect recall number eight if the selectors axed him again. Hick was obviously hellbent on not blowing another chance.

He was determined to show that he can play with the same mastery style that has brought him so many of his 97 centuries at lower levels. Yet, perversely, his fifth Test hundred may not have secured his place on the Ashes tour. Hick will probably be competing with his partner John Crawley for the final batting place.

Crawley may yet edge Hick out of the tour party if chief selector David Graveney or captain Alec Stewart wants the reserve batsman to be able to open. True, Hick was not tested by the searing pace and bounce which Aussie quickies reserve for English batsmen.

For the moment, though, nobody should deny him the

pleasure of his first Test century in almost three years. He crafted this one with so much care, and was clearly set on eliminating all risk. It was an innings quite out of character, and not the way he likes to bat. After the thrilling series against South Africa, this was stodgy fare.

But Hick and his main partner Mark Ramprakash did a priceless job in their fourth-



GRAEME HICK

If, as the pundits predict, the pitch finishes up by turning square, Ranatunga's decision will be even more puzzling. Maybe he thought his best chance of getting on top was to undermine England's batsmen in the first two sessions. He may have thought England might be vulnerable with a re-vamped batting order which for the first time this summer, was without Mike Atherton, Nasser Hussain, and Graham Thorpe. Or perhaps Ranatunga feared that England's bowling heroes from the Springbok series would wreck his batting if the pitch had juiced up overnight.

He must have imagined that Darren Gough, Angus Fraser, and Dominic Cork were going to make the ball snake about. Long before the close, Ranatunga must have been regretting that his free-scoring strokemakers did not bat first in what will surely be the best of the conditions.

At one stage he may have thought he had got away with his bizarre decision. At two O'clock England were 81-3, with Stewart walking back to the pavilion. The England captain was peeved with himself for falling. So peeved, in fact, that he thought twice about whacking the stumps with his bat.

He had played a casual swish outside his off-stump and away from his body. It was almost as if he was conducting slip-catching practice. And, with respect to Sri Lanka's persevering bowlers, all four wickets were down to poor shots by Messrs James, Butcher, Stewart, and Ramprakash.

Cricket in Russia

MOSCOW, Aug 28 (AFP): The President is in danger of being run out, the economy is stumped and bad liquidity has stopped play in rouble trade.

But cricket lovers from the subcontinent hope to lift the covers on the gloom by staging a rare match tomorrow in Moscow.

It's an unlikely setting for a limited-over 'international', but 22 Indians and Pakistanis aim to dodge the promised showers to wield the willow to good effect, players said today.

"Although there may be tensions between our two countries back at home, we don't want to be influenced by that," said Samar Shakil, who is to captain the Indian side against their rivals.

"We don't find it's a problem to gloss over these diplomatic and border disputes," added Shakil, chief representative in Moscow of Thamin Enterprises, a Singaporean company.

As players are a bit out of touch, stuck in a country with absolutely no cricketing pedigree whatsoever, a taped-up tennis ball is to be used. This will not make batting any easier, Shakil insisted.

"You still really feel it if you get hit with it," he said.

The game in any case is only 25-overs-a-side, which should ensure that both sides are out by tea, even if President Boris Yeltsin isn't. The presence of both Indian and Pakistani ambassadors at the Dynamo Stadium in northern Moscow should add to the sense of occasion.

The two sets of players first staged their needle match in Moscow last year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan.

"We won by six wickets last year and are really keen to repeat the performance," said Shakil.

Leics doing well without Lewis, Mills

LONDON, Aug 28: England all-rounder Chris Lewis and David Mills were dropped from Leicestershire's county championship game against Nottinghamshire for disciplinary reasons, reports Reuters.

The pair had arrived late for a practice session on Tuesday without an "acceptable excuse". Leicestershire confirmed on Thursday.

Their absence was overshadowed on the second day of the game at Workop by a record fifth wicket partnership between acting captain Phil Simmons (194) and Ben Smith (158 not out).

They put on 322 out of the Leicestershire total of 457 for five for an overnight lead of 398. Notts had been shot out on the opening day for just 61, the lowest total by any county in this season's championship.

West Indian Simmons struck 30 fours and one six before falling just short of a double century. Smith hit 21 fours.

West Indies captain Brian Lara added only three to his overnight 141 for Warwickshire at Worcester where the home side are facing one of their heaviest defeats by their local rivals.

Replaying to Warwickshire's 544, Worcestershire were dismissed for 236 before slumping to 29 for five as they followed on.

At Scarborough Essex wicketkeeper Barry Hyam held on to six catches to help dismiss Yorkshire for 314. Australian Darren Lehmann made 99.

Essex were 97 for three in their second innings at the close, still 17 behind.

BFF names U-16 squad

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) dropped four players from the team that finished first in the qualifying round in Nepal when they announced a 24-man national team including four officials for the final round of the Asian Youth (under-16) championship, beginning in Qatar from September 3.

Captain Biplob, who led Bangladesh from the front during the qualifiers, was one of the four players who were axed for the 10-team final phase due to over-age. The other three are Azad, Zet and Pranotosh.

Bangladesh, who have been pencilled in Group B, will play their first match against defending champions Oman on the inaugural day. They will play their second match against Bahrain on September 5 before taking on South Korea on September 8. The minnows in the fray will take on Japan in

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their last group league match on September 11.

Top two finishers from the group will play in the cross-country semifinals. It may be mentioned here that three top finishers from the meet will

Schools chess on

Seventy-eight players earned full points after winning their first round matches of the 13th Bata schools chess tournament at the NSC chess room, reports UNB.

The leading players: Javed, Parag, Royal, Ratul, Robin, Newton, Farhad, Sabbir, Masud, Sajib, Sagar, Jerry, Hira, Jyoti, Abid, Suprakash, Udas, Mustafa, Faruque, Zahid, Nazir, Rizvi, Arif, Selim, Zia, Obaid and Halder.

The second round matches will begin today from 3 pm at the same venue.

161 players are taking part in the nine round Swiss League basis matches.

earn tickets for the next World Youth (under-16) championship.

Zafar Iman, a veteran sports organiser from Rajshahi and a vice-president of the BFF, will lead the team, which is scheduled to leave for Qatar on Tuesday. Abdul Gaffar, the former national player and a member of the BFF technical committee, will be team manager while former national custodian Syed Hasan Kanon will be the coach. The team also includes a doctor.

The Bangladesh squad: Abu Syed, Rafiqul Islam, Babul Bhaskar, Feroj Mahmud, Mohammed Sujon, Anwar Faisal, Mahmudul Hasan, Masud Alam, Hanif Prodhan, Monwar Hossain, Rokonzaman, Shahnoor Rahman, Obaidur Rahman, Kamal Hossain, Gul Mohammed, Tariqul Islam, Masud Khan, Chandan Sen, Rashidul Alam, Tanvir Chowdhury, Jafar Imami chef-de-mission, Abdul Gaffar (manager), Syed Hasan Kanon (coach) and Shawkat (doctor).

Aravinda's cricketing world

In cricket, Aravinda de Silva and Sri Lanka remain synonymous for years. The silky strokeplay and ability to produce the best when chips are down have earned the most accomplished batsman of Sri Lanka 4,977 runs and 16 centuries in his 73 Test matches. He was recently interviewed by **Geoffrey Dean of The Electronic Telegraph.**

Where did you go to school?
 DS Senanayake College, Colombo.

Did you enjoy your school days?
 Those were the best days as I enjoyed them as much as my cricketing ones. I had no responsibilities to worry about.

Who were your cricketing heroes?
 Viv Richards. It was his approach to the game and the way that he played that I really loved. I played against him and had the privilege of getting him out in the Reliance World Cup in 1987 when I also had the privilege of seeing many balls that he hit flying over my head at long-on. I also used to enjoy watching Gordon Greenidge and Greg Chappell.

What other sports did you play at school?

Athletics, table tennis, snooker, tennis and squash. I played tennis at club level and won a few tournaments, as well as taking part in a national snooker tournament. Most of all, I enjoyed motor racing, but my father wouldn't let me take part.

Is school cricket flourishing in Sri Lanka?
 The standard is pretty high, but they need to get more youngsters involved. They must maintain the interest in the game which is so popular after



ARAVINDA DE SILVA

we won the World Cup.

Did you always want to be a professional cricketer?
 Yes, definitely. I had to decide at a certain age between doing A Levels and playing cricket. My father wanted me to concentrate on cricket, and I was actually out of the country for my A Levels. I was in Australia in 1983 and then in England in 1984.

What were your favourite subjects?
 Mathematics was the only one I really liked, although I enjoyed English as well.

How did your career progress?
 It was a gradual process. Since 1983, I've been picked to go on every Sri Lankan tour. I tried to get maximum use and experience out of every opportunity I had touring.

What advice do you have for anyone wanting to make a career out of sport?
 The only thing they have to realise is that there's no easy way other than to work really hard. If you reach the top, maintaining it is harder, but the benefits are great if you can do that. There are many sacrifices - having to stay away from your family on tour, and there are hardships while training.

European soccer draws

MONACO, Aug 28 (AP): Draws for the UEFA Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup made on Friday:

UEFA CUP

Group A
 Sparta Prague (Czech Republic) vs Real Sociedad (Spain), Dynamo Moscow (Russia) vs Skonto (Latvia), Blackburn (England) vs Lyon (France).

Group B
 Fenerbahce (Turkey) vs Parma (Italy).

Group C
 Vitoria Guimaraes (Portugal) vs Celtic (Scotland), Stuttgart (Germany) vs Feyenoord (Netherlands), Arges (Romania) vs Celta Vigo (Spain), Silkeborg (Denmark) vs Roma (Italy).

Group D
 Lodz (Poland) vs Monaco (France), Anderlecht (Belgium) vs Grasshopper (Switzerland), Litex (Bulgaria) vs Grazer

(Austria), Fiorentina (Italy) vs Hadjuk Split (Croatia).

Group D
 Kosice (Slovakia) vs Liverpool (England), Sporting Club (Portugal) vs Bologna (Italy), Maribor (Slovenia) vs Wisla Krakow (Poland), Vejle (Denmark) vs Real Betis (Spain).

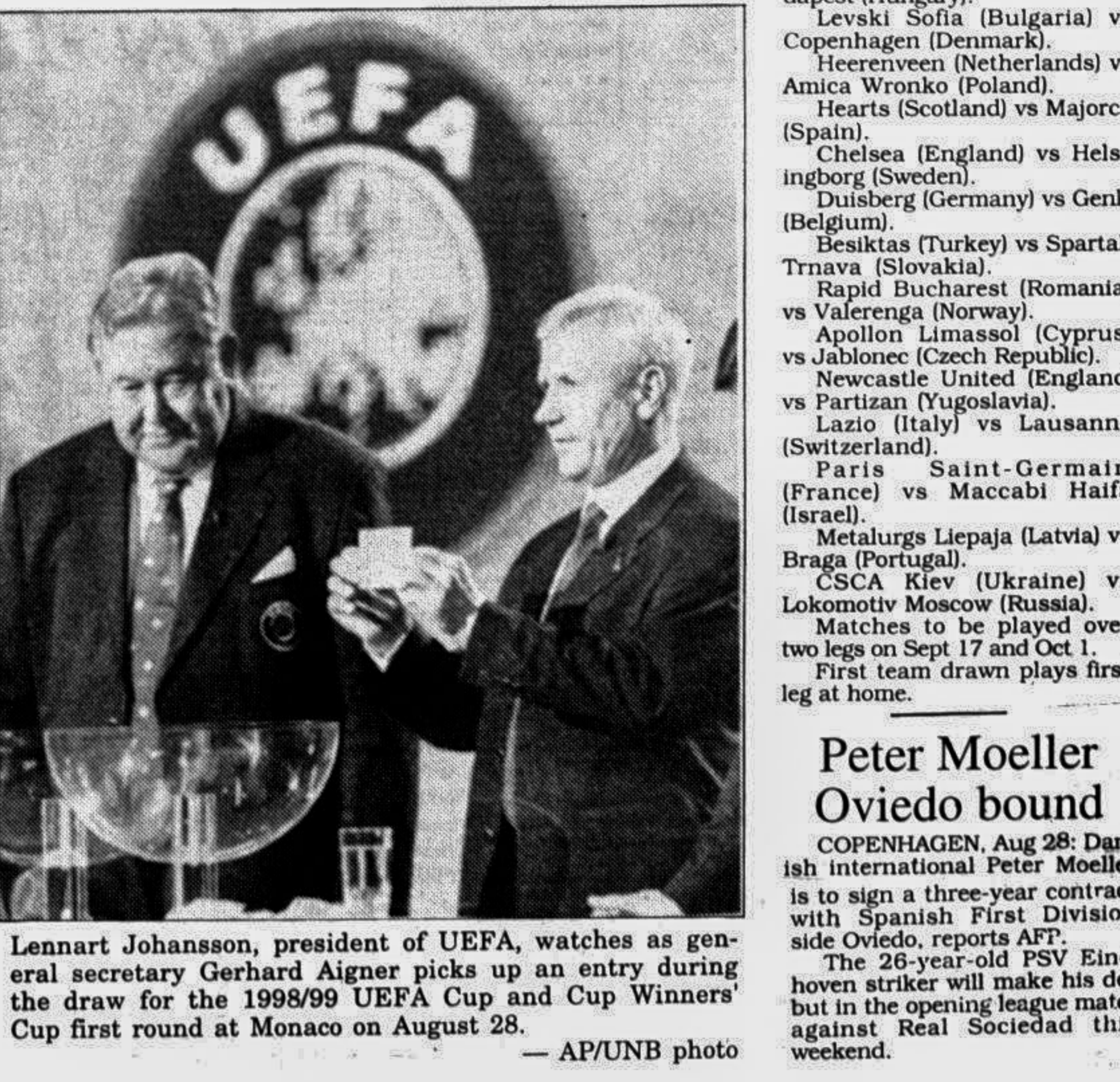
Group E
 Aston Villa (England) vs Stromsgodset (Norway), Slavia Prague (Czech Republic) vs Schalke (Germany), Servette (Switzerland) vs CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria), Crvena Zvezda (Yugoslavia) vs Metz (France).

Group F
 Bordeaux (France) vs Rapid Vienna (Austria), Athletic Madrid (Spain) vs Obilic (Yugoslavia), Beitar Jerusalem (Israel) vs Rangers (Scotland), Leeds (England) vs Maritimo

(Portugal), Udinese (Italy) vs Bayer Leverkusen (Germany), Steaua Bucharest (Romania) vs Valencia (Spain), Willem II (Netherlands) vs Dynamo Tblisi (Georgia), Anorthosis (Cyprus) vs FC Zurich (Switzerland).

Group H
 Ujpesti (Hungary) vs Club Brugge (Belgium), Vitesse (Netherlands) vs AEK Athens (Greece), Werder Bremen (Germany) vs Brann (Norway), Sigma Olomouc (Czech Republic) vs Marseille (France).

Matches to be played over two legs on Sept 15 and Sept 29. First team drawn plays first leg at home.



Lennart Johansson, president of UEFA, watches as general secretary Gerhard Aigner picks up an entry during the draw for the 1998/99 UEFA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup first round at Monaco on August 28.

Peter Moeller Oviedo bound

COPENHAGEN, Aug 28: Danish international Peter Moeller is to sign a three-year contract with Spanish First Division side Oviedo, reports AFP.

The 26-year-old PSV Eindhoven striker will make his debut in the opening league match against Real Sociedad this weekend.