

### Wins for Nutun Kuri, New Light, Dhanmondi Boys and Alatusnesa



Natun Kuri High, New Light High, Dhanmondi Govt Boys High and Badda Alatusnesa High won their respective matches in the ANZ Grindlays Bank 17th national schools cricket championship yesterday, reports UNB.

Natun Kuri beat Shuktikhalpar High by 20 runs at Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Shuktikhalpar was all out for 111 in 31.4 overs, replying to Natun Kuri's 131 for all in 28.2 overs.

At the Kalabagan Club ground, New Light defeated Uttarbadda Bidyaniketon by 5 wickets.

Batting first, Uttarbadda scored 140 for all in 27.1 overs. In reply, New Light made 145 for 5 in 23 overs.

At the Orient Club ground, Dhanmondi Govt Boys outplayed Bangladesh Adarsha Shikhanikon by 5 wickets.

Dhanmondi Govt piled up 242 for 5 in 28.2 overs in reply to Adarsha's 238 for 9 in stipulated 35 overs.

At the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground, Badda Alatusnesa High beat Aga Khan High by 4 wickets.

Batting first, Aga Khan scored 228 for 7 in stipulated 35 overs.

In reply, Alatusnesa made 229 for 6 in 27.4 overs.

### Woolmer not interested yet

LONDON, Apr 25: South Africa's cricket coach Bob Woolmer appears to have ruled himself out of coaching the England team, for the time being at least, reports Reuters.

England, who are seeking a replacement for David Lloyd when he steps down as coach at the end of the World Cup on June 20, have already approached Englishman Woolmer.

However, a report in the Sunday Telegraph says ex-England Test all-rounder Woolmer has accepted an offer to commentate for Talk Radio, an English station, on England's tour of South Africa starting later this year.

Woolmer finishes his coaching job with South Africa after the World Cup, and has already said he wants a rest from the game following the tournament in England.

That would also make him unavailable to coach England in their first Test home series against New Zealand immediately after the World Cup.

The Telegraph report says that Woolmer's decision to take the commentating role is based on a desire not to lead England against his former charges.

### Becker to enter Munich meet

MUNICH, Apr 25 (Reuters/Internet): Boris Becker has confirmed he will play in the Munich men's tennis tournament starting on Monday, organisers said on Sunday.

Becker pulled out of the Monte Carlo Open last Monday after his father Karl-Heinz died of cancer at the age of 63.

The three-times Wimbledon champion, who lives in Munich, will meet South African Wayne Ferreira in the first round of the \$525,000 event.

Top seed Karol Kucera of Slovakia will play Ramon Delgado of Paraguay in his opening match, while holder and second seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden will meet Romanian Dino Pescariu.

### Big Ron plans to retire

LONDON, Apr 25 (Reuters/Internet): Ron Atkinson, one of English soccer's most colourful characters, is to retire at the end of the season, Sunday's News of the World said.

The 60-year-old Nottingham Forest manager, who saw his club relegated from the premier league on Saturday, was quoted in the newspaper as saying: "Everything must come to an end eventually and this seems as good a time as any."

Atkinson, known affectionately as "Big Ron", told his players at the 2-0 defeat by Aston Villa that he intended to call it a day when his contract with Forest ran out next month.

He accepted one of the biggest challenges of his 28-year managerial career when he took over ailing Forest in January.

But the former Manchester United manager was unable to work any magic at the City ground. Forest, former European Cup winners, have won only four of their 35 league matches this season and trail second from bottom Southampton by 11 points.

Atkinson began his managerial career with minor league Kettering in 1971.

He went on to manage a number of clubs, including a brief spell at Atletico Madrid.

His honours include FA Cup successes with Manchester United in 1983 and 1985 and League Cup wins with Sheffield Wednesday (1991) and Aston Villa (1994).

"Failing to win the league title with United was always something that was levelled against me," Atkinson told the News of the World.

But there was only one factor to blame for that -- Liverpool. They dominated the league.

# Australia into the lead



BRIDGETOWN, Apr 25: Australia earned a four wicket win over West Indies in the sixth one-day international at the Kensington Oval in Barbados here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The win means Australia are 3-2 up in the seven-match series which includes one tied game. The concluding game is on Sunday at the same venue.

Having won the toss, West Indies reached 249 for eight off their 50 overs before Australia made 253/6 with nine balls to spare.

A fine opening knock of 64 by Australian wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist put quick runs on the board in the opening overs to put them on target for the win.

With the run-rate slowing down dramatically, Australia needed 30 runs off 30 balls with four wickets left to win the match with Michael Bevan and Shane Lee at the crease.

But when Lee hit 14 off the 47th over, including two successive boundaries, in a disastrous over for Henderson Bryan, the game was essentially over. Bevan lofted a ball to the mid-wicket boundary for the winning runs.

Earlier, Mark Waugh mistimed a slower ball and spun it up into the air and was caught at mid wicket by Adams after 70 runs had been put on the board.

Gilchrist was finally out trying a late cut but he had already done stirring work for the tourists.

He got a faint outside edge to wicketkeeper Jacobs off Bryan's bowling in a blow to Australia but they were still on course.

Even when Brendon Julian skied a ball and was caught by Adams, Australia still only needed a run-rate of 3.85 with 25 overs to go and seven wickets standing.

Stuart Williams diving forward missed a catch off Ricky Ponting then two balls later Darren Lehmann hit a poor shot to extra cover for Adams' third catch of the innings.

When the fifth and sixth wickets of Steve Waugh and Ponting went down, Australia may have had a brief moment of self doubt. But any such fears were soon dispelled.

Earlier, having won the toss and elected to bat, West Indies reached 249 for eight off their 50 overs.

An attacking 68 from 55 balls from Ridley Jacobs, 46 from captain James Adams and 44 from Shivnarine Chanderpaul lifted the West Indies to their final total. Shane Warne meanwhile captured three wickets for 28 runs off 10 overs.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the sixth one-day international between Australia and the West Indies at Bridgetown on Saturday:

**WEST INDIES**

Campbell c Gilchrist b Warne	24
Jacobs c Julian b Warne	68
Adams c Gilchrist b Moody	46
Hooper run out	8
Chanderpaul c Ponting b M Waugh	44
Williams st Gilchrist b Warne	9

Arthurton c Ponting b Fleming	16
Bryan c and b Fleming	6
Perry not out	1
Dillon not out	1
Extras: (lb-6, w-13, nb-1)	20
Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs)	249
Did not bat: Reon King	
Fall of wkts: 1-81; 2-107; 3-122; 4-183; 5-208; 6-214; 7-238; 8-241.	
<b>Bowler:</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>R</b> <b>W</b>
Fleming	9 0 53 2
Moody	8 0 48 1
Warne	10 1 28 3
Lee	3 0 27 0
M Waugh	10 1 35 1
Julian	7 0 32 0
Lehmann	3 0 19 0

**AUSTRALIA**

Gilchrist c Jacobs b Bryan	64
M Waugh c Adams b Dillon	25
Julian c Adams b King	31
Ponting run out	43
Lehmann c Adams b King	2
S Waugh c Jacobs b Perry	35
Bevan not out	35
Lee not out	19
Extras: (lb-10, w-13, nb-6)	29
Total: (For six wkts in 48.3 overs)	253
Did not bat: Tom Moody, Shane Warne, Damien Fleming.	
Fall of wkts: 1-70; 2-111; 3-153; 4-163; 5-171; 6-206.	
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b> <b>M</b> <b>R</b> <b>W</b>
Dillon	9.3 0 54 1
King	10 0 50 2
Bryan	9 0 58 1
Hooper	8 0 37 0
Arthurton	2 0 15 0
Perry	10 1 29 1

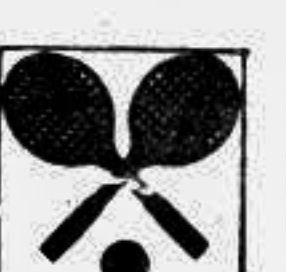
**Result: Australia won by four wickets and lead series 3-2.**

**Man-of-the-match: Adam Gilchrist.**



West Indies opener Ridley Jacobs pulls during the sixth one-day international against Australia at Barbados on April 24. —Internet photo

# Latinos to fight it out



MONTE CARLO, Apr 25: Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten stopped Spain's unbeaten run on clay this season to ease into his first final of the year against Chile's Marcelo Rios at the 2.2 million dollars Monte Carlo Open on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Today's final will be the first between two Latin Americans in a Super 9 tournament, one rank below the four Grand Slams. For the first time in three years, there will not be a Spaniard in the final here and Kuerten is to blame.

The former French Open winner beat 15th seed Felix Mantilla 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Rios, world number one last year, was less convincing in his 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory over Frenchman Jerome Golmard, who had beaten title holder Carlos Moya of Spain in the quarterfinals.

Mantilla won in Barcelona last week, emulating compatriots Alberto Martin and Albert Costa, winners of the two previous tournaments held on the surface in 1999, in Casablanca and Estoril.

But Kuerten, who had beaten Spain almost single-handedly in a Davis Cup tie this month, had the game to counter the Catalan on a rainy day in the principal.

"It's not that I like playing against Spaniards for you have to be prepared for a long fight. But I did what I had to do today," said Kuerten at the end of the

two-hour match.

"I had to come back from one set down so I had to be more aggressive and come to the net," added the 13th seed, who had not beaten Mantilla in three previous matches.

The Brazilian at first had trouble adapting to a court made slower by constant drizzle and he made a lot of unforced errors.

Mantilla broke Kuerten straight away and the Brazilian lost the set 6-3 in 35 minutes.

In the second, Kuerten rushed the net at every opportunity to great effect. In the final set Mantilla, who had fought out a long three-set battle against Costa in the previous round, seemed to tire.

Kuerten broke the Spaniard for 4-3 and finished him off with a fine volley two games later.

Rios, back in form after a back injury forced him out of action for most of the early season, was a little inconsistent in a match which also lasted just

over two hours.

Golmard looked in control in the first set, leading 4-2, when he cracked, double faulting twice to allow Rios back and winning just one point out of 14.

When Rios seemed to have heading for a quick victory that in turn collapsed to trail 4-1. He saved five set points before handing the set to the Frenchman.

The last set was a war of nerves, each player struggling to keep his serve, but Golmard was the first to lose his and Rios clinched the set.

"Maybe I was a little bit tired from my match yesterday," said Rios, who beat Australian Mark Philippoussis in three sets.

"I beat Guga (Kuerten) in Estoril two weeks ago so it should be a tough match," he said.

Kuerten, who lost 6-4, 6-3 against Rios in Estoril, said: "It will be tough because he beat me in our last clash but revenge could also add to my motivation."

### Norman, Canas reach final

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida, Apr 25: Eighth seed Magnus Norman of Sweden and unseeded Argentine Guillermo Canas barely broke a sweat on Saturday in advancing to the final at the 264,250 dollars Clay Court Championships, reports Reuters.

Norman rolled into his first ATP Tour final of the year by disposing of Belarussian qualifier Max Mirnyi 6-2, 6-1 in just under an hour.

Appearing in his first ATP Tour semifinal, Canas was leading seventh seed Christian Ruud, 5-2, when the Norwegian retired with a right shoulder injury which has hampered him all season.

Currently ranked 64th, the 22-year-old Norman entered this event with a 3-6 match record, but has yet to lose a set this week.

Canas, ranked 87th, won only one of seven ATP Tour matches heading into this tournament, but has also yet to lose a set here.



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain playing a double fisted backhand during her WTA tournament semifinal against Swiss Emmanuelle Gagliardi in Cairo on April 24. Sanchez-Vicario won 7-5, 6-0. —AFP photo

### Biman Cup soccer Final round begins today

Holder's Cox's Bazar will take on Nilphamari in the opening match of the final round of the Biman Cup Under-14, national football competition at the Jyppurhat Stadium today, reports UNB.

Nine teams split into two groups will take part in the competition.

Seven teams — BKSP, Chittagong, Nilphamari, Faridpur, Narayanganj, Patuakhali and Rajshahi — qualified from the first round while defending champions Cox's Bazar and hosts Jyppurhat placed directly in the final round.

**Group A:** Cox's Bazar, BKSP, Chittagong, Nilphamari.

**Group B:** Jyppurhat, Faridpur, Narayanganj, Patuakhali and Rajshahi.

The semifinals will be held on May 6 while the final match on May 8 at the same venue.

### Samaranch sees brighter future

MADRID, Apr 25 (Reuters/Internet): Olympic leader Juan Antonio Samaranch has defended his handling of the corruption crisis that hit the International Olympic Committee (IOC) earlier this year.

Samaranch, who has been IOC chief since 1980, admitted in an interview with Spanish newspaper El Pais on Sunday that he made a mistake in not giving up his post in 1997, before the scandal hit the headlines.

But he said he was now determined to stay on until 2001 to complete the modernisation process at the beleaguered organisation.

And he believed he would be remembered as the man who revolutionised the IOC, guaranteeing future success for the Olympic movement.

"I should have left before, in 1997," said Samaranch, who last month won an overwhelming vote of confidence in his IOC leadership.

"But now I don't want to go without putting in place a more modern IOC, less archaic."

Samaranch had faced sustained calls from the media and from figures outside the IOC for him to step down after members were accused of accepting bribes from Salt Lake City before it won a 1995 vote to stage the 2002 Winter Games.

The 78-year-old Spaniard admitted that earlier efforts to impose limits on gifts and hospitality had not been effective but said he had acted quickly when he was presented with evidence of corruption.

"I'm annoyed with myself because I could see this (crisis) coming. There were a lot of rumours but you can't sanction people on the basis of rumours."

When he had details of what had happened on the table I believe we acted very quickly."

He added: "The crisis will not go any further. There is no more. Now we have to take advantage of this crisis. It's like in judo, when you use a push your opponent has given you to your own advantage."

"We have to try to change the (IOC) structure. That would be my legacy as president: to put in place an IOC that can approach the new millennium with guarantees of success."

"We want to do that with two commissions, one ethical, with people from outside the IOC, and another called IOC 2000, made up of people that have real power in sport."

"I believe sixty or seventy percent of the problem has been resolved, or is on the way to being resolved."

"I think I'll leave behind me a much more modern IOC."

Samaranch said the new streamlined system of voting would simplify the procedure for choosing host cities.

"We're now entering an important phase, which is to go through to the final session (of voting) with two cities as finalists, which will only be made known an hour before the election."

"To choose the site of the 2006 Winter Games we will put in place an electoral college, with me as president, although I won't vote, which will decide by consensus the two finalists."

"With their names we'll go on to the final session. The whole process will take one morning."

### Spain lift title in style

LAGOS, Apr 25: Spain won the World Youth Soccer Championship final here Saturday, taking their first ever FIFA trophy, knocking out African champions Ghana on penalties in the quarter final and beat Mali in the semi-final.

The result was the first victory in a FIFA tournament for the European side.

Speaking to reporters after the match, an emotional Spanish coach Inaki Saez dedicated the victory to his late mother after she died during the competition.

"I will always remember Nigeria because my mother died while I was here and I am dedicating this triumph to her," Saez said.

Captain Pablo Orbaiz said he thought the team had done themselves proud. "We have demonstrated that the Spanish know how to play football," he said.

Gonzalez, said meanwhile the win was the "most emotional moment" of his life.

"This is the most emotional moment of my life and I hope that there will be lots more like it. When the match was over, we did not believe it," he told reporters.

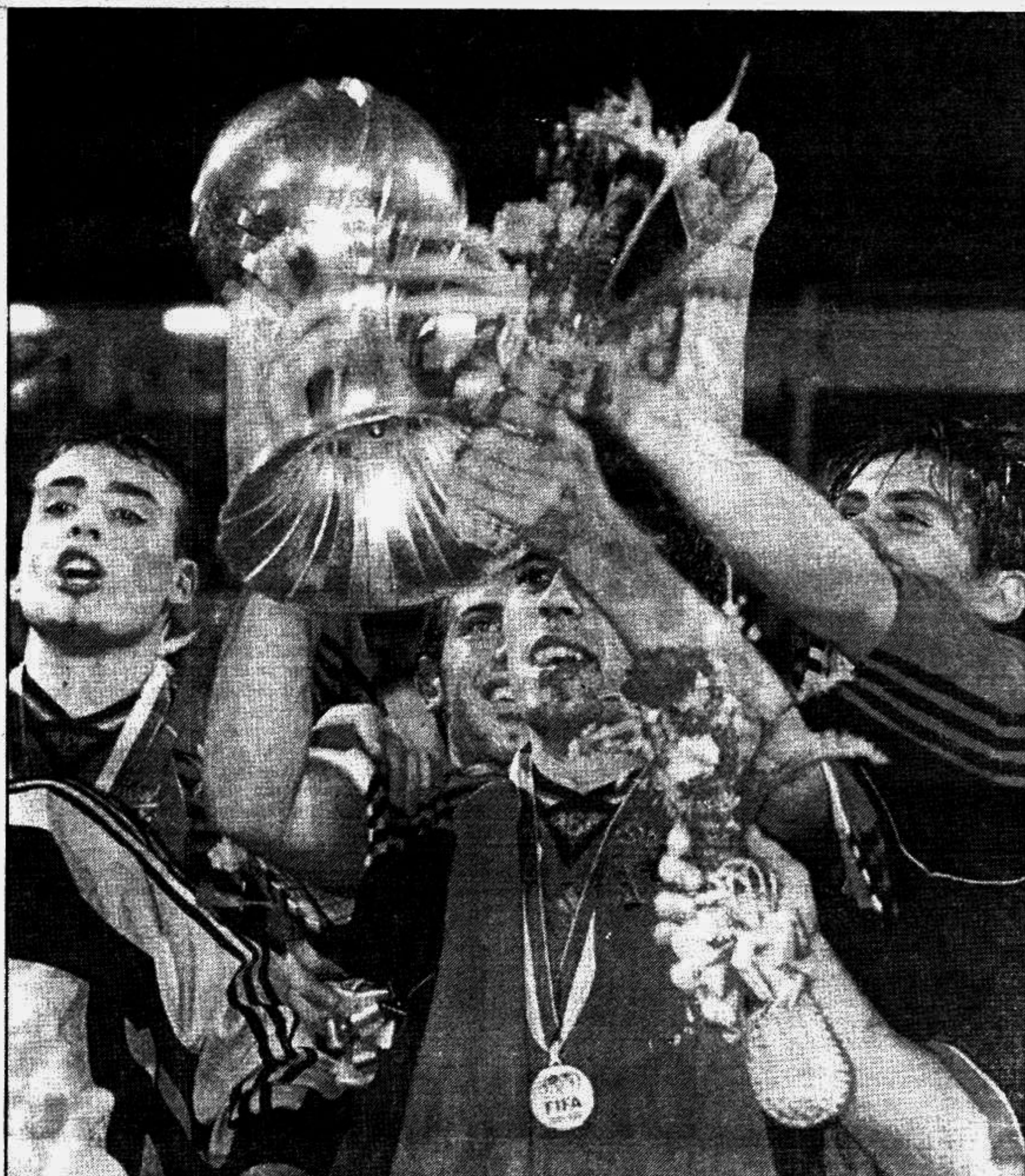
For Japan, even to get a silver medal in the tournament was considered something of a victory.

Frenchman Troussier told reporters Japan could proud of

Brimming with confidence, Spain, coached by Inaki Saez Ruiz, came out strongly and in the 52nd minute Gabriel Francisco Garcia de la Torre of Barcelona stroked in Spain's fourth.

With most of the near capacity 45,000 crowd roaring them on, Spain kept possession and came close to making it five just seconds from time when a header was disallowed for off-side.

Getting to the final of the 24-nation tournament, the largest festival of football ever staged in Africa, Spain had beaten



VIVA ESPANA: Skipper of Spain Coisa Gonzalo (C) holds aloft the World Youth Cup while teammates celebrate around him after the final against Japan at Lagos on April 24. —AFP photo

### Spain lift title in style

a team which had "trumped" in getting to the last two in a competition of 24 of the world's top footballing nations.

"We can only be happy with our second place. For a country like Japan, which is just getting started in footballing terms, just getting to the final is a victory," he said.

"We knew that the Spanish team was very strong. They have lots of fantastic players who will go a long way," he added.

In the match for third place, played earlier, the surprise find of the tournament, Mali, beat Uruguay 1-0, scoring with a free-kick goal by Olympique Marseille striker Seydou Keita in the 30th minute.

Mali dominated the play from the start, while Uruguay, without key players Ernesto Chevanton and Diego Perez, never really got into the match.

"African sides had been expected to do well at the three-week youth tournament, being played in sub-Saharan Africa for the first time.

Mali only qualified for the championship as fifth best African nation because Nigeria were hosting the event.

In individual awards, Mali's Seydou Keita was voted the best player by journalists while Nigeria's Pius Ikedia won the "silver boot" of the competition and Spain's Pablo Gonzalez the bronze.

Croatia won the FIFA fair play award, followed by Ghana and the United States.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

List of previous winners of the World Youth Championship following Spain's final win over Japan on Saturday:

Year	Winners	Runners-up	Result
1977	Soviet Union	Mexico	2-2 (9-8 on pens)
1979	Argentina	Soviet Union	3-1
1981	Germany	Qatar	4-0
1983	Brazil	Argentina	1-0
1985	Brazil	Spain	1-0
1987	Yugoslavia	Germany	1-1 (5-4 on pens)
1989	Portugal	Nigeria	2-0
1991	Portugal	Brazil	0-0 (4-2 pens)
1993	Brazil	Ghana	2-1
1995	Argentina	Brazil	2-0
1997	Argentina	Uruguay	2-1
1999	Spain	Japan	4-0

### Nigeria struggles to succeed

LAGOS, Apr 25 (Reuters/Internet): Nigeria hosted the World Youth Cup without suffering any major disasters but the tournament was punctuated by embarrassing incidents.

With many countries bringing below-strength squads to the tournament, which finished on Saturday with Spain beating Japan in the final, much attention was focused on the organisational ability of Africa's most populous nation.

Stadium and training facilities were widely praised as being top quality, thanks to a massive effort in the last year by the organising committee.

FIFA vice-president Jack Warner, who visited the country a year ago, said it was the "eighth wonder of the world" that facilities were ready in time.

On the other hand, it could not be said that everything went smoothly.

Ireland were livid after a power failure interrupted their opening match with Mexico just as they appeared to be on the brink of equalising Mexico's early goal. FIFA president Sepp Blatter was in the stadium when it was plunged into darkness for some 10 minutes.

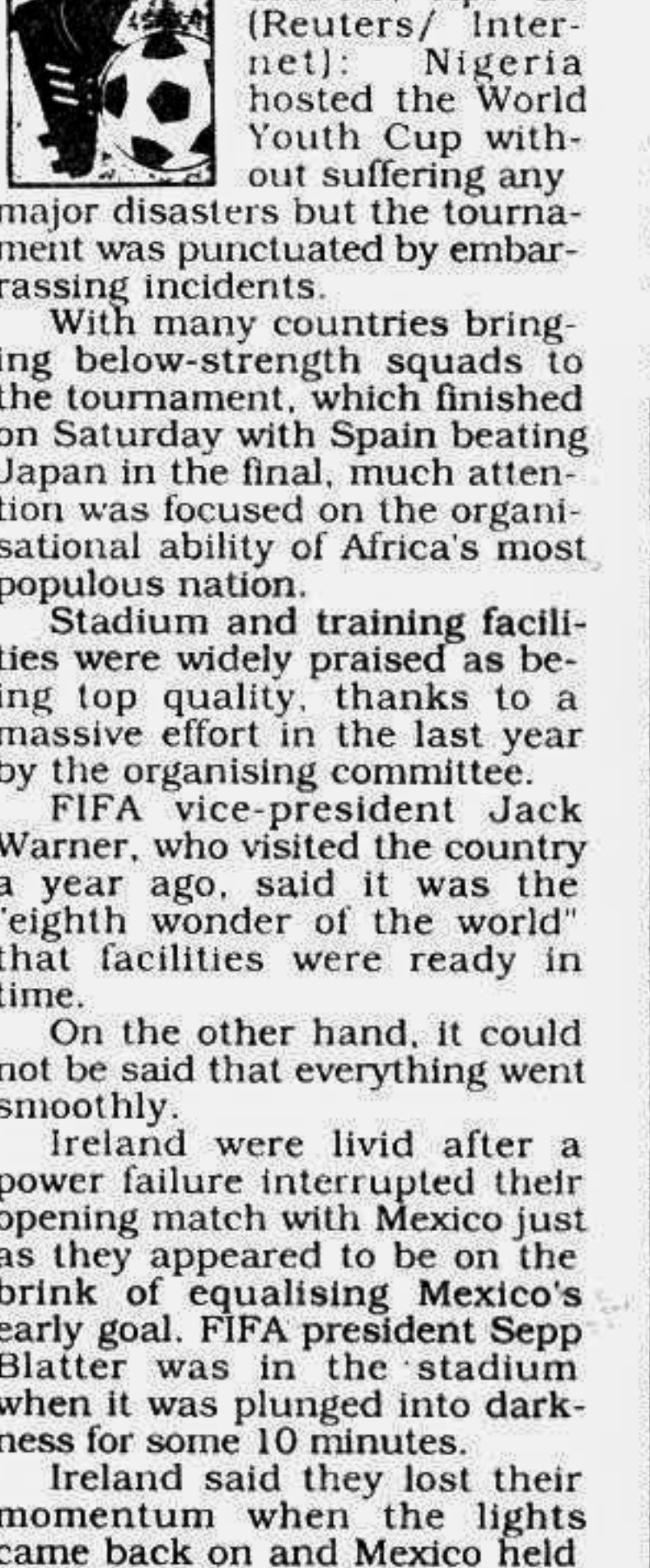
Ireland said they lost their momentum when the lights came back on and Mexico held out for a 1-0 win. Ghana's quarter-final with Spain was also hit by a floodlight failure.

Brazil said that they and Croatia were asked for a whip-round to buy aircraft fuel before they were able to fly from Calabar to Lagos.

Both squads spent two days trying to get on a flight after one of two aircraft chartered to ferry squads around the country suffered an engine failure. They eventually tried their luck with a local airline.

There was a multitude trying to embark and the luggage was in a pile with bags being thrown into the hold. It was amazing," said coach Joao Carlos Costa. "They locked the door before our supervisor could get on. He was left on the runway."

Various teams complained about accommodation standards in provincial cities as well as overpricing and overcharging.



Spain striker Pablo Orbaiz is jubilant after scoring his team's second goal in the World Youth Cup final against Japan in Lagos on April 24. —AFP photo