

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Sachin Tendulkar
(Indian cricket superstar)
"It's very hard to go out there and play on a cricket field."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-117

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
July 16, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?
40 41 42
- Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by
9 wickets 10 wickets 53 runs
- How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?
18 21 20
- Saqin Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against which country?
Kenya Zimbabwe Bangladesh
- How many runs did Minhazul Abedin score in the World Cup?
120 140 140

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address

Phone: (If any)
POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Div II hockey

Combined Sporting Club defeated PWD SC 5-0 in the Green Delta Insurance Second Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led in the first half 1-0 after Swapan netted the first field goal in the 21st minute. He doubled the margin in the 41st minute from a penalty corner. Seven minutes later Masum widened the margin by a field goal. Masum scored another field goal in the 66th minute while Alam netted in the 63rd minute.

In the day's another match, Karnak Samaj got walkover against Agrami Bank Club.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Shishu Kishor Sangha vs East End Green Club (2:30 pm)
Shantigan SC vs Dilkusha SC (4 pm)

Boys' h'ball

Tejgaon BAF Shaheen School earned a massive 19-4 victory over Wari High School in the 10th Bata Schools boys' handball tournament at the Outer Stadium court yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners led the first half by 9-2 goals.

Ishtiaq was the top scorer for the winners with ten goals and Saiful netted two while Jony scored two for the losers.

In the day's other match, BCIC School beat Kormitola BAF Shaheen School 8-7 after leading the first half 4-3.

Zakir netted four goals while Gulzar two for BCIC while Shaon scored four goals for Kormitola.

Bebeto agrees to stint in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, July 10: Former Brazil international striker Beбето agreed a one-year contract with Mexican First Division side Toros Neza Friday with a two-year renewal option, reports AFP.

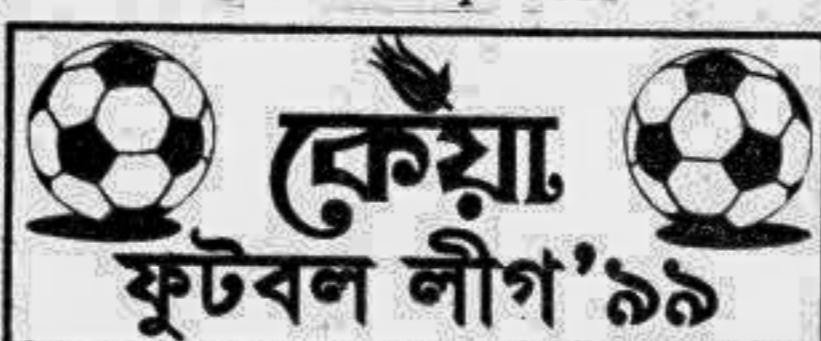
The club president Juan Antonio Hernandez confirmed the deal was going ahead although he gave no financial details for the player whose full name is Jose Roberto Gama de Oliveira.

Bebeto, 35, will arrive with his wife and representative at Mexico City to be presented officially on Tuesday.

Bebeto was a member of Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning side and also played in France 98.

Badda's 'bad boys' blunder

Sports Reporter



Shamim, Parvez Babu, Monwar (Uzzal), Haider, Khokon and Dipanker (Hasan).
Referee: R Alam.

TODAY'S MATCHES
(Premier League)

Brothers Union vs Mirpur Chalanika (3:30 pm)
Muktijoddha Sangsad vs Youngmen's Fakirapool (5:30 pm)
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

(First Division)
BRTC SC vs East End (3:00 pm)
Dhaka Wanderers vs Muslim Institute (5:00 pm)
Venue: Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium



Action from yesterday's Premier Division match between Badda Jagorani and Arambagh. — Star photo

Austin, Nash rule the day

LONDON, July 10: New Zealand's best batsmen until last Friday with some less-than frontline batsmen making hay with the willow, reports AFP.

By the close the tourists had reached a total of 274-7 against Hampshire at Southampton.

But it was the Kiwis' tail-enders who made the bulk of those runs with stand-in skipper Dion Nash unbeaten on 106 and Daniel Vettori also notching a 50.

In another tour game Lancashire's spin hero Muttiah Muralitharan sat out the visit of his native Sri Lanka A side to Old Trafford.

Instead it was Ian Austin who provided Lancashire's greatest threat taking six for 43 as the tourists were dismissed for 277.

Andrew Flintoff looked set for a big score when he hammered his first ball for six only to depart for 11 and Lancashire, with stand-in skipper Mike Atherton back in the pavilion, were 53 for three at stumps.

Worcestershire paceman Alamgir Sheryar claimed the second hat-trick of his career as 20 wickets fell on the first day of the County Championship match at Worcester against Kent, who were dismissed for 119.

The deluge of wickets led the umpires to send a report to the England and Wales cricket Board pitches committee over the state of the wicket.

Sheryar removed David Fulton, Trevor Ward and Andrew Symonds and claimed figures of four for 43 to take his haul to 19 wickets in three games, also becoming the first bowler to break the 50-wicket barrier this season.

"I just tried to keep it straight. It is always nice for a bowler to get a hat-trick," said Sheryar.

The best figures in the Kent innings, however, were actually those of captain and Australian World Cup winner Tom Moody, who took four for 27.

But then the Kent bowlers got to work, reducing Worcester to 106 all out at the close.

Seventeen wickets fell at Lord's where Middlesex were unable to take advantage after bowling out Northamptonshire for 223.

tors' favour after they had been 30 for five.

The Middlesex reply began badly as they slumped to 18 for four with Mike Roseberry, Justin Langer and Mark Ramprakash scoring a total of only five between them as Middlesex slumped to 95 for seven at the close.

Ashley Cowan's six for 47 put Essex in with a great chance of establishing a healthy lead against Glamorgan at Cardiff.

Glamorgan were bowled out for 185 and at the close Essex were 129 for two.

Opener Paul Prichard (45 no) and Stuart Law (45 no) shared in an unbroken third wicket stand of 71. But England skipper Nasser Hussain perished for just five.

Robin Weston was the day's

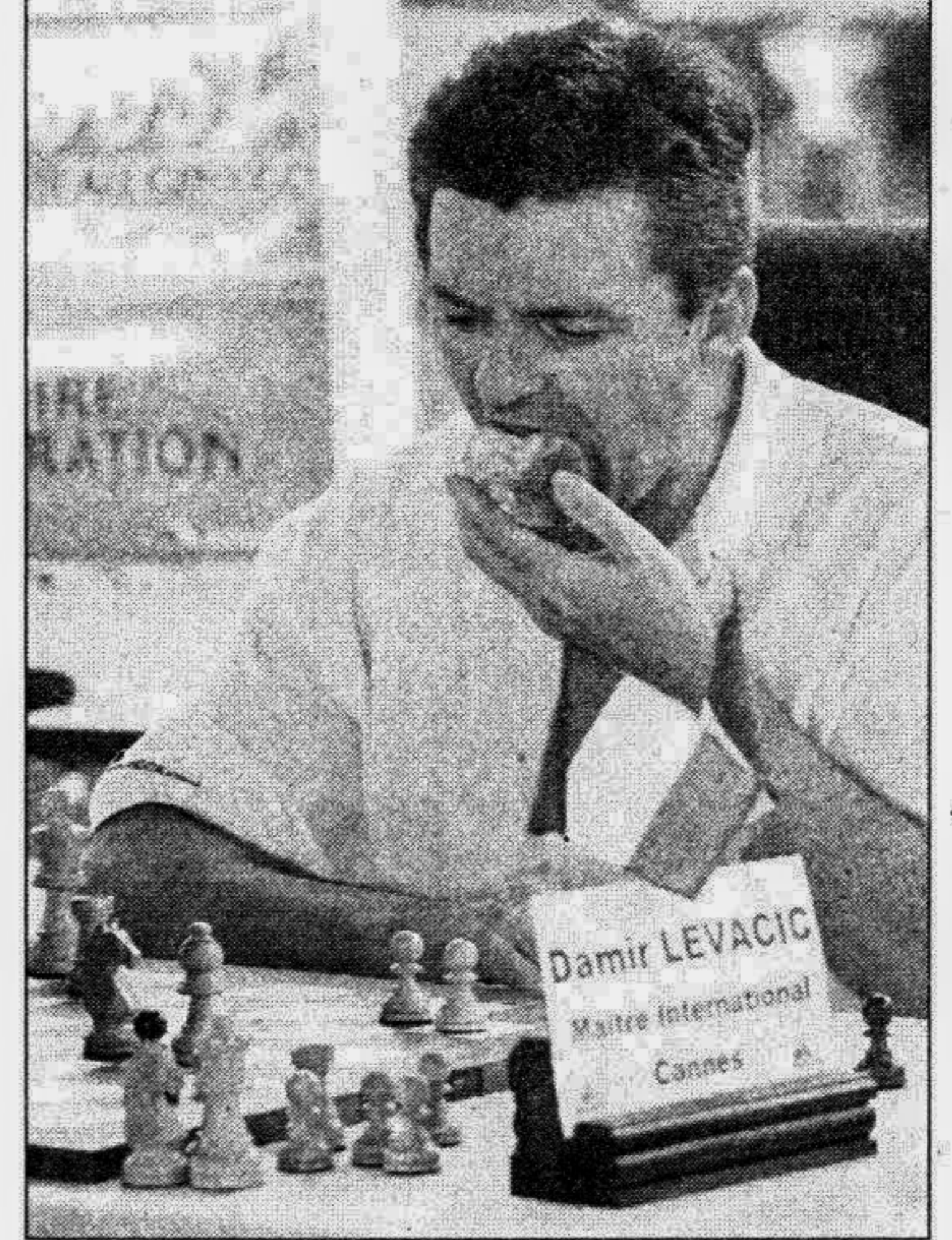
top run-getter closing the day unbeaten on 145 for Derbyshire — who closed the day on 314 for six against Somerset at Derby.

But earlier in the day it looked as if Derby would be another fruitful venue for the bowlers as the home side were 36 for three at one stage. There were also half-centuries for Karl Krikken (56) and Ben Spendlove (51).

It was a marathon day for Andrew Caddick who bowled 27 overs and finished the day with figures of four for 59.

Durham had no hesitation in batting first after winning the toss against Nottinghamshire at the Riverside.

At the close Durham were 358 for five. Paul Collingwood made 106.



Croatian International Master Damir Levacic takes a bite while attempting to beat the world non-stop record for playing chess in Cannes, France on July 9. The mark belongs to Frenchman Jacques Negro with 80 hours. — AFP photo

Asian Y-Cricket final Bangladesh meet Nepal today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take on Nepal in the final of the Asian Youth Cricket Championship at Singapore's Kalang Oval ground today.

The defending champions, who stormed into the final with a 175-run thrashing of Papua New Guinea in the first semifinal on Friday, will certainly start as favourites to retain the title against surprise-setters Nepal.

The match, apart from an act of ego-nursing, is left with only academic interest as both Bangladesh and Nepal have already qualified for the World Youth Championship to be held in Sri Lanka in January next year.

Nepal, who only got acquainted with cricket by staging the ACC Trophy in Kathmandu early this year, made their first foray in an international cricket event by defeating Malaysia by 137 runs in the second semifinal yesterday.

Graf enters US Open

NEW YORK, July 10: Former world No 1 Steffi Graf, who said she had played her last Wimbledon after losing the All-England final to Lindsay Davenport, will compete in the US Open, organizers said Friday, reports AFP.

"Steffi Graf has been a US Open favourite throughout her career and we are extremely pleased that she has decided to return one more time," a statement issued by the tournament director Jay Snyder through the US Tennis Association said.

The final Grand Slam tournament of the year runs from August 30-September 12 at the National Tennis Centre at Flushing Meadows, New York.

Graf, who has battled career-threatening injuries in recent years, capped her resurgence with a victory over Martina Hingis in the French Open final. Shortly after that triumph she announced it was her last French Open.

BCCI doesn't know

MUMBAI, July 10: The cricket board of India today expressed surprise at reports from Toronto that an Asian selection committee, tentatively including master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, will face a World XI in a one-day all-star cricket match at the Toronto Skydome on August 8.

"We are not aware of any such match. Anyhow the organisers have to take permission of the home board (Canada Cricket Association) and the boards of the players involved in the tie as per the International Cricket Council (ICC) rules," board secretary Jaywant Lele told PTI here today.

This matter did not crop up at the ICC meeting. We (Indian Board Officials) are not even aware of any such match," Lele said.

A report from Toronto quoting the organisers said the Asia XI tentatively includes Tendulkar, Sri Lankan's Arjuna Ranatunga and Arvinde Silva and Pakistan's Wasim Akram.

The world XI includes West Indies' Brian Lara and Courtney Walsh, South Africa's Hansie Cronje and Jonty Rhodes, and Australian brothers Steve and Mark Waugh, the report said.

The game, dubbed the International All-Star Cup, would be played on the Dome's artificial turf, according to the report.

Blatter, who took over the head of football's governing body from Joao Havelange last summer, was clearly caught off guard by the protest despite four days of warnings from top Asian officials.

"This is the first crisis Blatter has had to face and so far he is not coming out of it very well," said one longtime FIFA observer.

"Havelange would never have allowed such a public protest to have happened. He would have nipped it in the bud. Blatter was warned but did not move. What he does over the next few days will decide what real power his presidency will have," he added.

It was a major blow for the former FIFA general secretary who had won the presidency in a bitter battle against Lennart Johansson, president of UEFA.

Minutes after the offer South

Arthurs powers past Paes

NEWPORT, July 10: Wayne Arthurs figured power was the only way to beat Leander Paes' speed. Twenty aces later, the Australian knocked the defending champion from the Hall of Fame Championships with a 6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 victory, reports AP.

Arthurs moved into a semifinal meeting with American Chris Woodruff, who defeated Italy's Stefano Pescosolido 6-2, 6-4 on Friday. Italy's Laurence Tielemans will face Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen in the other semifinal.

Arthurs, who reached the fourth round at Wimbledon before losing to Andre Agassi, has won all 43 of his service games in the tournament, hitting 48 aces and facing just one break point.

That break point was in the seventh game of the third set. Trailing 4-2, Paes was desperate for a breakthrough against Arthurs' raw power.

After Arthurs failed to get the first serve in, Paes sensed a chance and cheated to the left, thinking the Australian would hit a safe, kick serve away from the center line.

"I could have sworn he was going to go there," Paes said. Instead, Arthurs hit a hard serve down the middle, frustrating the Indian doubles star Paes with the timeliest ace of the day.

Arthurs, Paes' partner in the doubles tournament, said he scouted Paes' singles matches this week and decided that good serving was the only way to combat Paes' speed and delicate "dink" shots.

AFC infuriates FIFA

Sports Reporter

LOS ANGELES, July 10: A furious Sepp Blatter, president of football's governing world body FIFA, threatened to punish the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) after they walked out on the FIFA congress here on Friday to protest over the number of Asian places in the 2002 World Cup, reports AFP.

Blatter, from Switzerland, took the gloves off after what he clearly viewed as a public humiliation. He yelled: "I was surprised, then irritated, then shocked."

"When we get back in the FIFA office we will discuss what we will do, he said. "It will be an action on the national associations, who left without any notice. The national associations, who are invited here — their tickets paid for, their hotels paid for, their food paid for. Is that polite?"

"We shall also identify where the responsibility lies," he said. "We have talked to some associations who say they were forced."

"It's a disgrace," said Blatter, heading his first congress since his controversial election as FIFA president just over a year ago in Paris.

"FIFA as an institution cannot give in to this kind of pressure. If we do that, we will die as an institution," said Blatter, who had been caught unaware by the Asian action.

"It is an unhappy event. More than that: shameful," he added.

The AFC is upset at being handed only four-and-a-half places at the 2002 World Cup by FIFA. The Asian walkout was a bitter blow to the FIFA president who had appealed directly to the members of the Asian national associations to ignore AFC's call to leave. Explaining their action, AFC general secretary Peter Velappan said: "It's a simple request for three places plus the hosts."

He stressed that their argument was not with the European federation, who had on Tuesday offered to create the so-called half place — in which an Asian nation will play off with a European nation for a berth.

"It's a magnanimous offer on the part of Europe. We expect the same from South America."

"All the president (Blatter) has to do is take the initiative to persuade South America to give up a seat."

However, European body UEFA made it clear they disapproved of the Asian walkout.

UEFA president Lennart Johansson, a Swede, said: "Asia had no reason to behave like

that. They have behaved like children."

Referring to the UEFA offer, Johansson said: "Asia must learn to accept the present offer."

But other Asian delegates also turned their fire on the South American confederation — CONMEBOL.

Abdullah al-Dabal, the Saudi Arabian FIFA delegate, complained that Argentina's Julio Grondona, senior vice-President of CONMEBOL, the Latin American football body, declined to even meet with

Blatter admitted such a move would be problematic, saying: "If these associations are not playing in the World Cup and are not carrying out their duties in FIFA, we will have problems, but I can't give any answer now."

The draw for the qualifying groups is in December so any decision must be made soon.

Blatter, opening the Extraordinary Congress, had switched from French to English to make a direct appeal to the Asian delegates.

"I would like to speak now to the national federations of Asia, and insist they cannot run away from the congress," Blatter said.

"At the FIFA Congress the national federations are masters of the game. I ask you to reconsider any action you have decided or have had imposed on you. I ask you to think about fair play, think about discipline."

His appeal seemed to have worked, but after the roll call his worst fears were realised.

FIFA had been convinced the row had been resolved with UEFA's Tuesday initiative but minutes after their offer South Korea's powerful FIFA vice-president Chung Moon-Jung had said it was not acceptable.

On Thursday Chung said: "It would be a scandal if Asia were to be denied an extra spot. FIFA spends millions of dollars developing football. Asia has 45 teams. It would be wrong if they do not agree to our request."

A fuming Blatter said in his post-congress press conference that it was too soon to predict the effect of the action on the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

"On can talk about all kinds of hypotheses, but I believe, it is really my feeling, that they will come back."

Friday's walkout has raised serious doubts about Blatter's presidency.

Blatter, former general secretary of FIFA, took over the organisation was run with an iron hand by Brazilian Joao Havelange.

Such a public revolt would have been unheard of. People here are questioning Blatter's ability to control the movement.

"Blatter's ability to steer FIFA into the next Millennium is in question now. How he solves this will decide just how much power he will really have as FIFA president," said one longtime FIFA observer.

None of the Asian delegates could say if an Asian boycott was on the cards. They said that the Asian confederation would hold an extraordinary conference probably in October to decide.

If they choose not to boycott the World Cup they have threatened to withdraw from FIFA sub-committees and

Blatter in turmoil

LOS ANGELES, July 10: The future of FIFA president Sepp Blatter has been put on the line here following the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) walkout at the FIFA congress here on Friday to protest over the number of Asian places in the 2002 World Cup, reports AFP.

Blatter, who took over the head of football's governing body from Joao Havelange last summer, was clearly caught off guard by the protest despite four days of warnings from top Asian officials.

"This is the first crisis Blatter has had to face and so far he is not coming out of it very well," said one longtime FIFA observer.

"Havelange would never have allowed such a public protest to have happened. He would have nipped it in the bud. Blatter was warned but did not move. What he does over the next few days will decide what real power his presidency will have," he added.

It was a major blow for the former FIFA general secretary who had won the presidency in a bitter battle against Lennart Johansson, president of UEFA.

Minutes after the offer South

Europe's ruling football body, a year ago in Paris.

Allegations of vote buying by supporters of Blatter on the eve of the decision, denied by both Blatter and Johansson, marred Blatter's victory.

It would be a scandal if Asia were to be denied an extra spot. FIFA spends millions of dollars developing football. Asia has 45 teams. It would be wrong if they do not agree to our request," said the South Korean.

Chung is one of the most powerful figures in Asian football but somehow Blatter failed to see the warning signs said observers.

It was Chung who took South Korea to the verge of winning the 2002 World Cup on their own.

Only a U-turn by Havelange ended up with the first co-hosting in World Cup history.

Havelange had vowed that co-hosting would take place over his dead body but when it became clear to him that Japan, whom he had given his personal support would lose, suddenly came out in favour of co-hosting when the meeting to decide the 2002 World Cup began.

The executive committee, many of whom were terrified of the Brazilian, instantly agreed.

Blatter, strongly opposed to co-hosting, has had to pick up the pieces left by Havelange. Now Asia has put his ability to rule FIFA in question.

Minutes after the offer South

Test failure may demote Twose

LONDON, July 10 (Internet report): Wellington's Roger Twose may stake a claim to bat at No 3 in the second cricket Test against England at Lord's later this month.

The 31-year-old lefthander missed out in both innings in the first Test and his days as an opening bat for New Zealand look limited.

He failed to score in either innings, falling to a catch in the slips to the third ball he faced in the first innings and being trapped leg before wicket to his first delivery in the second.

In the county game against Somerset, Twose made four and 26 as his World Cup run-scoring feast dried up.

Coach Steve Rixon said they would look at an option of batting Twose at three.

The decision centres on how he bats in the next two county games against Hampshire and Kent before the Lord's test, starting on July 22.

"We could look at Roger batting three. That's one option," Rixon said. "There are two county games before the second test and the players know they

have to perform to get selected for Lord's."

Twenty-two-year-old Matthew Bell could join Matthew Horne to open the batting providing he shows some

form. His only score on tour so far is 19 against British Universities at Oxford two weeks ago.

Bell must get runs against Hampshire or Kent to show he deserves the floor at Lord's.

If Bell comes into the line-up and Twose does enough to warrant a place at No 3, this would push Stephen Fleming down to four and put the test place of Nathan Asle or Craig McMillan under threat.

They batted freely in the games before the first test but were unable to bat for long periods at Edgbaston.

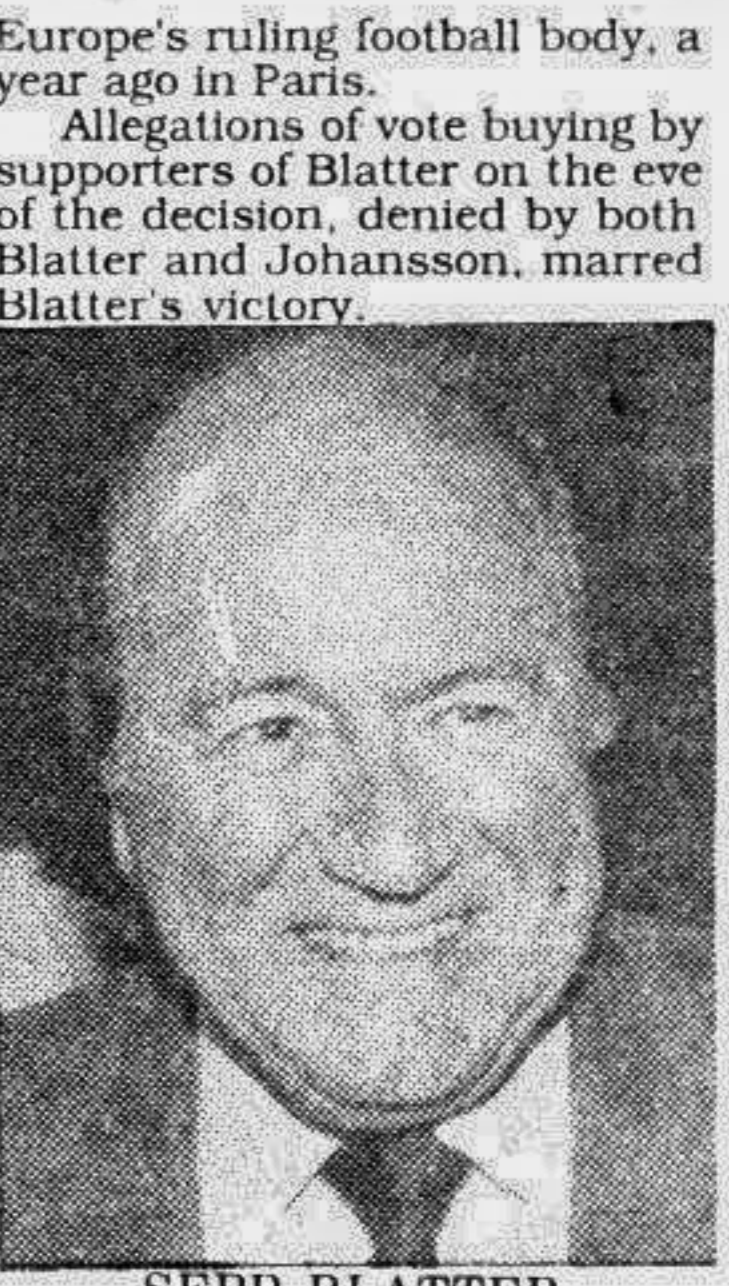
The tour selectors seem reluctant to bump Adam Parore up the order. Parore top scored with 73 off 140 balls in the first innings at Edgbaston.

It was not only his highest test score against England but it saved New Zealand from embarrassment on the first day.

The condition of the Edgbaston pitch was never offered as an excuse but it didn't help the New Zealand batsmen.

Former England fast bowler Fred Trueman called the Edgbaston track a lottery.

"The trick for the first test was a total disgrace. No one could bat for any length of time and if the Kiwis had not bowled short in the England second innings they might have won by 100 runs," he said.



SEPP BLATTER

Blatter was convinced he had solved the problem when UEFA offered to give Asia an extra place by having a play-off with a European side.

But immediately after the offer was made it was clear the deal had not satisfied the Asians.

Minutes after the offer South



ROGER TWOSE