

## Column One

### 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

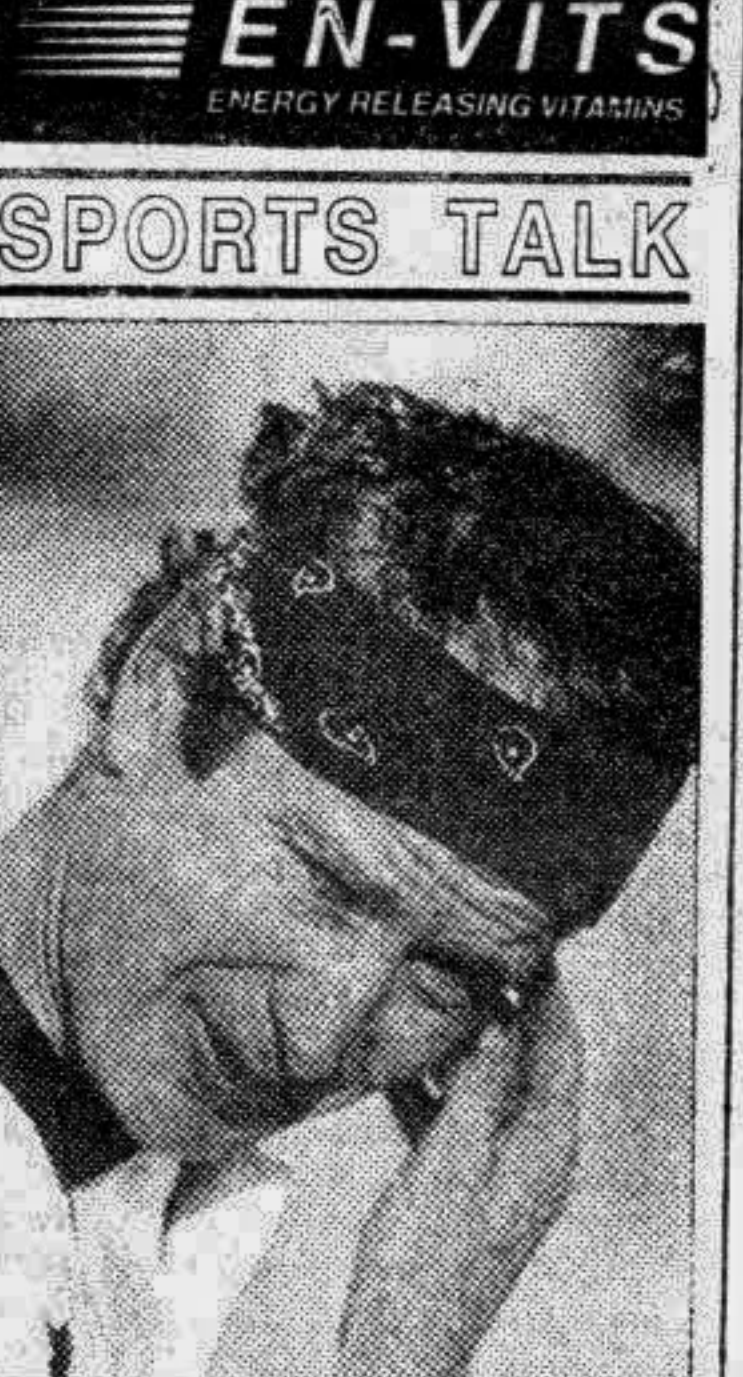
- How many matches have been scheduled for the World Cup 99?  
40      41      42
- Pakistan beat New Zealand in the semifinal by  
9 wks      10 wks      53 runs
- How many wickets did NZ bowler Geoff Allott capture in the World Cup?  
18      21      20
- Saqain Mushtaq scored his hat-trick against 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 BY  
**EN-VITS**  
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

SPORTS TALK



**John McEnroe**  
(US tennis legend)

"If you believe in someone up above, that person, for whatever reason, wanted me to play tennis."

### DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

That King James I of England issued the order, the Declaration of Sports, for use in Lancashire to resolve a conflict, on the subject of Sunday amusements, between the Puritans and the gentry, many of whom were Roman Catholics. Permission was given for dancing, archery, leaping and vaulting, and for "having of May games, Whitsun ales and Morris dances, and the setting up of May-poles and other sports there with used, so as the same may be had in due and convenient time without impediment or neglect of divine service, and that women shall have leave to carry rushes to church for the decorating of it."

On the other hand, "bear and bull-baiting, interludes, and bowling" were not to be permitted on Sunday. In 1618 James ordered all English clergy to read the declaration from the pulpit, but so strong was the Puritan opposition to Sunday amusements that he prudently withdrew his command. In 1633 Charles I not only directed the republication of his father's declaration but insisted upon the reading of it by the clergy. Many of the clergy were punished for refusing to obey the injunction. When Charles was overthrown during the English Civil War, Puritan prohibitions against sports and games on the Sabbath again prevailed until Charles II was restored in 1660. Reminds you of you can kiss me on a Monday, a Tuesday ... but never on a Sunday.

### Emphatic win for Mukta Bihanga

Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha crushed Dhaka Hockey Club 12-0 in the Green Delta Insurance 2nd Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

In the day's another match, Dhaka Young Star Club beat Raktim Sangha Club by a solitary goal at the same venue. Today's matches: Police AC vs East End Green Club (2:30 pm), and Combined SC vs Dilkusha SC (4 pm).



The Fakirpool defence under pressure during a Muktiyoddha attack yesterday. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Nakib gets his bearings

Sports Reporter

Striker Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib ended his goal drought with a delightful double as defending champions Muktiyoddha Sangsad returned to winning ways in style, defeating Fakirpool Youngmen's Club by 3-1 in the lone Keya Premier football league match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The lanky national striker, who failed to score a single time in the first four league engagements of the all-reds, shrugged off the frustration striking twice within the space of eight minutes into the second half to pave the way for Muktiyoddha's fourth victory.

With this win Muktiyoddha, who drew goalless in their previous encounter against Rahmatganj, are leading the race with 13 points from five matches. After a barren first half, Nakib broke the evening's duck in the 48th minute when he headed home a spectacular Masud Rana cross from the left. The experienced forward, who appeared desperate to restore his reputation as a quality marksman, struck again in the 56th minute.

Latching on to a long ball from Joy, Nakib slipped past his marker with a sudden burst of speed before placing the ball into the empty net past the on-rushing Fakirpool custodian

Khairul. Nakib later got a couple of chances to complete his hat-trick. He did shoot the ball home



with Muktiyoddha's reserve custodian Arun Bikash Dewan ending up on the wrong end of the post.

Incidentally, it was the first goal from Fakirpool in their five league matches. But that hardly helped them to avoid their fourth defeat. The mediocre outfit have earned their only point so far from a goalless drawn encounter against Abahani.

Jalal (sr) and Rintu of Fakirpool and Muktiyoddha's Nigerian recruit Aliu Rahman were cautioned with yellow cards in the match.

They picked up the pace in the second session and following the Nakib act they got their third goal in the 73rd minute when Liton came up with a spectacular volley, that sailed into the net after taking a wicked bounce over the Fakirpool defence wall.

Fakirpool got a late consolation goal from a penalty after Muktiyoddha midfielder Joy handled the ball in the forbidden zone to thwart a rare counter attack. Avijit stepped in to convert the 12-yarder.

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### Div I soccer Muslim edge Wanderers

Muslim Institute beat Dhaka Wanderers Club by a solitary goal in the First Division football league at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

Nazmul netted the all-important goal in the 32nd minute.

Day's other match between BRTC SC and East End Club ended in a 1-1 draw at the same venue.

Siraj put East End Club ahead in the 21st minute while Kamal equalised the margin after nine minutes.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Agrani Bank SC vs Wari Club (3 pm)

Dharmadhi Club vs Prantik KC (5 pm)

Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

School h'ball

BAF Shaheen

prevail in

play-off

BAF Shaheen School (Tejgaon) beat Rifles School & College by 18-17 goals in a nail-biting play-off match of the 10th Bata School Boys Handball Tournament at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday, reports UNB.

The winners were trailing 6-8 in the first half. Ishtiaq with 6 goals was the top scorer for BAF Shaheen School while Saiful netted 4 and Leo 3 goals.

Kuddus netted 10 goals for the losers and Manna 5 goals. In the two semi-finals to be held today, Rajarbagh Police Lines High School face Moti-jheel Model School at 3 pm while Ansars & VDP High School meet BAF Shaheen School (Tejgaon) at 4:15 pm.

Asian snooker

Majumdar beats

Jordanian No. 2

Sports Reporter

Sajjad Majumdar fought back in the Asian snooker Championship when he scored an impressive victory over Ashraf Shajrawi of Jordan in Bangkok yesterday.

The young Bangladeshi recovered well from his temporary loss of form when he beat Ashraf 4-1. The Jordan number two had no answer to Majumdar's tactical finesse, as the youngster went all out to make up for his losses on the opening day on Monday.

While Majumdar showed turnaround, his more illustrious compatriot Mofazzal Hossain, who had a brilliant first day, succumbed to the superior skills of Thailand's Supachai Witarangkarn. The national number one had levelled the game 1-1 at one stage. But he eventually lost the match 1-4.

Gavaskar's noble gesture

NAGPUR, July 13: Cricket Legend Sunil Gavaskar yesterday received the prestigious "Maharashtra Bhushan" Award and donated the amount of Rupees five lakh which came with it to the welfare fund for the jawans fighting for the country in Kargil sector, reports PTI.

Instituted by the state government, the Award was presented by the Chief Minister Narayan Rane at a spectacular presentation ceremony in the state legislature lawns here.

Replying to the felicitation, Gavaskar said he had plan that the money would go to the "Champs Foundation" set up by him to help indigent cricket players lead a dignified life in their old age.

"But in the changed circumstances of the war on our frontiers, I have decided that the fund should go for the welfare of the jawans and their families," he said amidst cheers.

TODAY'S MATCH

1st Semifinal

Chile vs Uruguay

6:30am BST

TOMORROW'S MATCH

2nd Semifinal

Brazil vs Mexico

5:30am BST

Star Sports television will be showing the games live.

## Tennis to lose its queen

BONN, July 13 (Reuters/Internet): Nicknamed Die Graefin (the Countess) for her aristocratic grace about a tennis court, Steffi Graf established herself as the undisputed queen of the game.

The elegant German, who bounced back in style by winning the French Open last month and went on to reach the final at Wimbledon, confirmed on Monday that this would be her final year on the WTA Tour.

"I will be retiring from the Tour," Graf told reporters in Mahwah, New Jersey, where she was promoting an exhibition tournament.

The 30-year-old, arguably the greatest tennis player of her generation, had grown tired of constant questions on her retirement over the past few weeks.

After her victorious campaign in Paris, she said she had played her final French Open. After falling to Lindsay

at the end of the year confirms an era is ending for German tennis after the country's other hero, Boris Becker, roared for the last time at Wimbledon and quit.

Graf, who has won 22 Grand Slam titles, will play her 54th and last major championship when she chases her sixth U.S. Open title in September.

"You always want to go out of a sport when you are on top," she said. "It's a remarkable situation."

After injury worries persistently marred her run over the past two years, the pony-tailed blonde came back to her brilliant best this year with awesome performances on the Paris clay and the Wimbledon grass.

In 1982, Graf became the youngest woman to receive a WTA ranking at 13 years and four months.

In 1987, she took her first

classical opposition with her powerful single-handed forehand and one of the best serves in women's tennis, not to mention her speed and great vision.

The perfect grass-court player, she savoured some of her greatest triumphs at Wimbledon, reaching nine finals and winning seven titles over 15 years.

Life has often been tough on the discreet, almost shy Graf, who was considerably upset when a deranged fan stabbed her main rival Monica Seles in 1993, aiming to sideline her so that the German could recapture the number one spot.

Uneasy with the star status conferred on her by the German media, the soft-spoken Graf made unwanted headlines again in 1995 when her father, Peter, was sentenced to jail over tax evasion charges.

Chronic back injury caused by bone spurs in her back and recurrent knee problems started taking their toll in 1997. She was out for three and a half months that year.

When Swiss teenager Martina Hingis overtook her as the world number one on March 31 that year, she had been in the top spot for a total 364 weeks -- an all-time record.

She struggled for the best part of the following year too and on June 8, 1998, having played only two tournaments in 12 months, she dropped out of the rankings for the first time since 1983.

There were fears she might never play again as minor injuries kept delaying or interrupting her comeback attempts.

But she still had plenty to offer, as she demonstrated by teaching young Hingis a lesson in tennis and on-court etiquette to win her sixth French Open crown on June 5.

She probably felt then that, after tasting the unique atmosphere of Wimbledon one last time and playing a few more tournaments, she could retire with her head high.

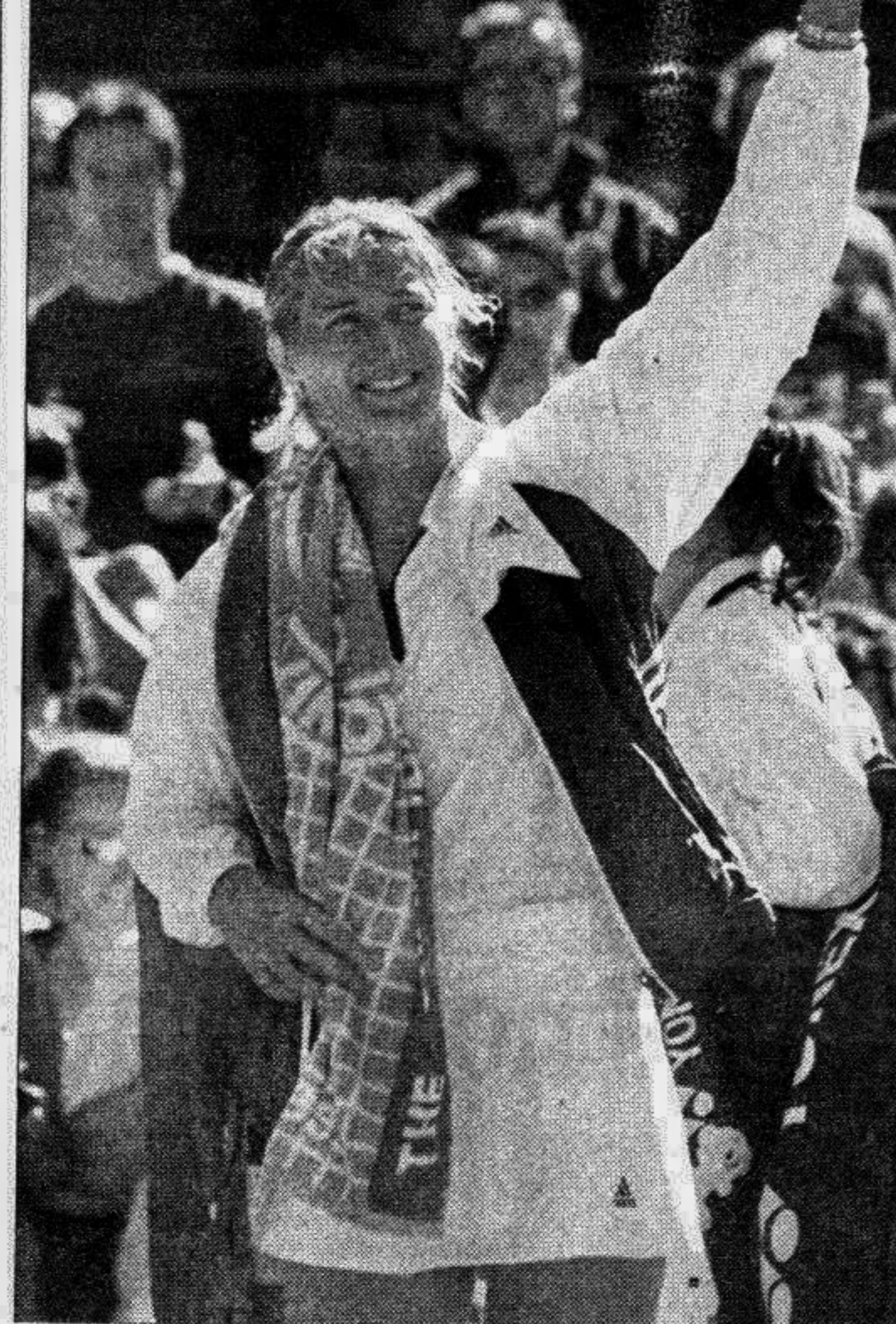
The decision to call it quits is rarely an easy one for a great champion. "It's hard to part from what you love so much," she said. "I always gave it as much as I had."

Even if she fails to go out on a winning note at the U.S. Open, the long-time former world number one will leave the women's game as the player many consider to be the greatest of all time.

Much was made of Andre Agassi becoming only the fifth man to win all four Grand Slam titles in his career when he won the French this year. Graf has won them all at least four times, the only player in history, male or female, to achieve that feat.

"I'm not so tired of the game, I look forward to hitting the ball. I still love it," she said. "But the game is very demanding with all the travelling from one tournament to the next."

"I will retire from the tour, but I still plan to play tennis, enjoy it, play in countries I have never been to," she said. "I don't plan to disappear."



HER MIND IS MADE UP: An AFP file photo of German tennis legend Steffi Graf during the Wimbledon championships in June. Graf officially confirmed on July 12 that she would retire at the end of this season.

Davenport in the Wimbledon final earlier this month, she said she would no longer visit the All England Club as a player.

Her decision to bid farewell

Grand Slam event by winning the French Open and the following year she won all four major championship titles and the Olympic title.

A born athlete, Graf out-

due to the flat wickets in Bangladesh where the ball kept low.

An ideal player to follow would be Mark Waugh of Australia. If you want to talk about classical batting he is the player to watch not slashers or slashers like Jayasuriya or Shahid Afridi. Even though "pinch hitters" do change the course of matches at times, it is always important to follow the orthodox mode and build an innings.

Too many of our players shape to play on the on side far too often and leave the gate open and most of them are committed on the front foot. Runs are mostly scored on the back foot in modern day cricket. Any player good on the back foot is bound to get runs.

These days, fast bowlers do not pitch the ball up to the bat too often. Most deliveries are just short of the good length, to which the batsman has to play with his weight on the back foot. Nannu (Minhazul) is one player who plays on the back foot well.

He is the one who picks up ones and twos and he got two fifties in England. His knock against Scotland was a gem of an innings. Played under tremendous pressure, it was a "class act". If there is one innings that Bangladesh cricket is to savour for years to come, I would rate Nannu's unbeaten 68 on May 24 in Edinburgh.

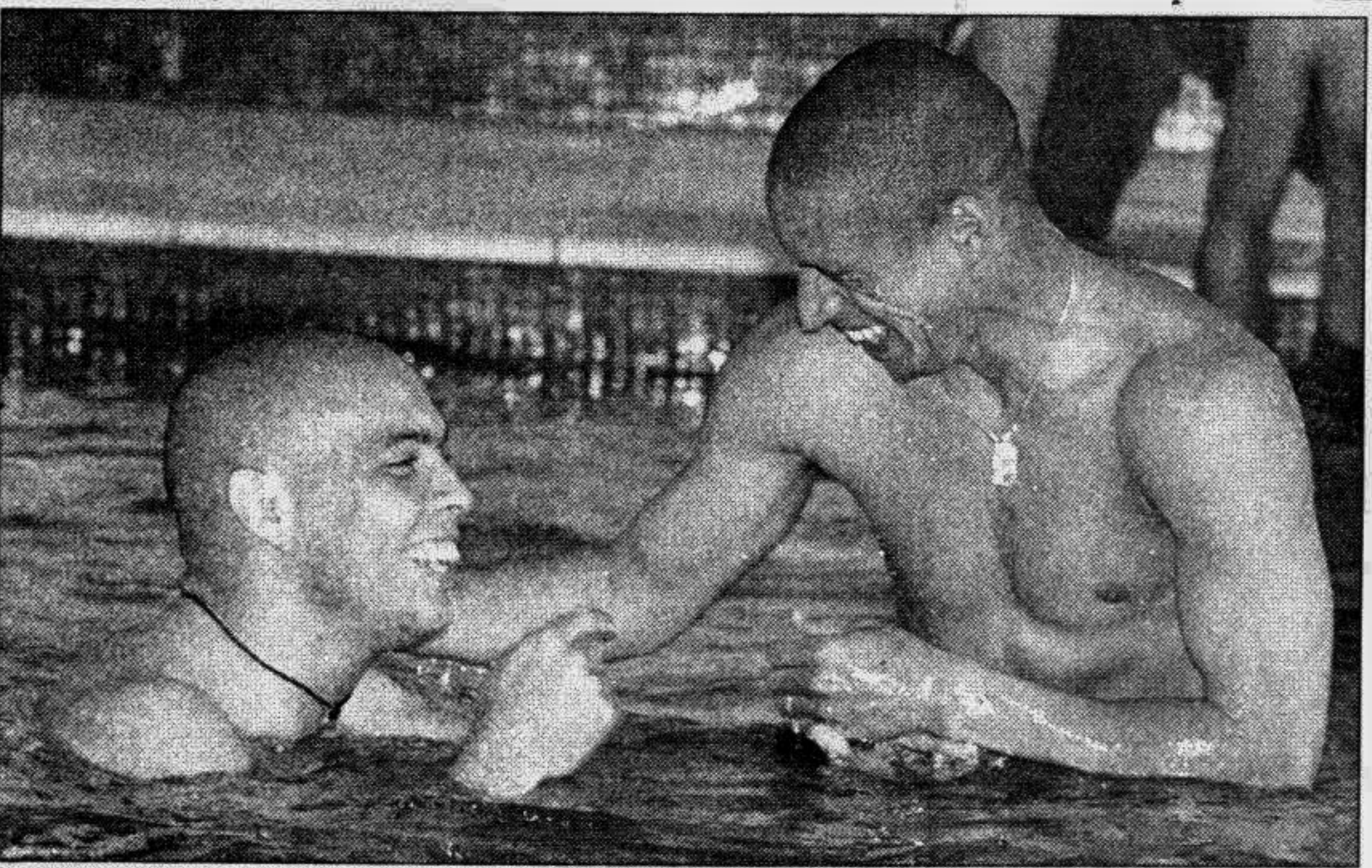
Because our players shape to play on the on side, their front foot is invariably on the middle stump that results in playing away from the line to deliveries pitched on the off stump or outside the off stump. The quality of a batsman is judged on his merit to judge the ball on or outside the off stump. As soon as he can master this, he will make it more and more difficult for bowlers to get him.

Against Australia, on a sunny and warm day, on a

Nowhere in the world is this so necessary than England where the ball swings quite a bit. Had our boys applied this, we would have got 200 plus runs in every match. I was told by some of the boys that Greenidge has constantly spoken to them about this but none of them could adapt to this technique

Staying cool: Brazilian superstars Ronaldo (L) and Roberto Carlos sharing a joke in the swimming pool of their team hotel at Foz de Iguaçu on July 12.

—AFP photo



STAYING COOL: Brazilian superstars Ronaldo (L) and Roberto Carlos sharing a joke in the swimming pool of their team hotel at Foz de Iguaçu on July 12.