

Brown's near-miss

LONDON, July 9 (Reuters): Surrey's Alistair Brown failed by only five runs to complete a triple century on the second day of the county championship match with Leicestershire on Saturday.

Brown, the 30-year-old England one-day international, was left undefeated on a career-best 295. The defending champions were finally all out for 505 at Oakham school in Leicestershire.

Brown, resuming at his overnight 211, overtook his previous highest score of 265 against Middlesex last season as he put on 141 for the last wicket with Pakistan's Saqlain Mushtaq (66). He scored his 295 off 392 balls, hitting one six and 32 fours.

Third-placed Leicestershire closed on 134 for nine to trail by 371.

Leaders Yorkshire also face an uphill struggle to avoid their second defeat of the season after being forced to follow-on against Durham at Headingley.

Replying to the visitors' first innings of 314, Yorkshire were dismissed for 129 in 60.4 overs, Simon Brown finishing with four for 33. They reduced the deficit to 176 by stumps in reaching nine without loss in their second innings.

Second-placed Lancashire failed to take advantage against Derbyshire, who lead by 175 runs with eight second innings wickets still standing.

Derbyshire captain Dominic Cork followed up his man-of-the-match heroics on his Test return against the West Indies last week by returning six for 41 to dismiss the visitors for 172.

Piran Holoway (113) steered Somerset (368) to a commanding 226 first innings lead over bottom club Hampshire at Taunton.

But by the close that had been cut to 86 as Will Kendall (74 not out) and Robin Smith (35 not out) took Hampshire to 140 for two in their second innings.

Muhiuddin Smriti judo from July 14

Sports Reporter

The 2nd Muhiuddin Ahmed Smriti judo championship 2000 will begin at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur on July 14, says a press release.

The two-day long competition will be held under the auspices of the Martial Arts Stars Academy in collaboration with the Bangladesh Judo and Karate Federation.

The championship will have 32 weight categories.

Antwerp to host short course meet

HELSINKI, July 9: Antwerp will stage the 2001 edition of the European Short-Course Swimming Championships, the European Swimming League (LEN) said today, reports Reuters.

The Belgian city, which will hold the championships from December 13 to 16, was chosen by the LEN Bureau at a meeting during this week's European long-course championships, LEN secretary Sven Folvig told a news conference.

This year's edition of the annual European short-course championships will be held in Valencia, Spain, from December 14 to 17.

Lanka lash

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Sri Lanka
Javawaridena c Moin b Malik 54
Gunawardena b Razaq 47
Atapattu c Moin b Shabbir 25
Jayawardena b Razaq 49
Sangakkara not out 36
Arnold not out 13
Extras: (b1, lb1, nb4, w5) 20
Total (for 4 wts, 45.2 overs) 244
Fall of wickets: 1-96, 2-126, 3-167, 4-219

Bowling
Shabbir 10 0 52 1
Mahmood 9.2 0 48 0
Razaq 10 0 50 2
Arshad 10 0 43 0
Malik 10 0 40 1

Result: Sri Lanka won by six wickets

Man-of-the-match: Sanath Jayasuriya

Next match: Sri Lanka v South Africa on Tuesday

Ball-doctoring

From page 13

shocked.

PCB's Director of Operations, Yawar Saad, said from Karachi that Pakistan would take up the issue with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

"I think John Reid has been a bit biased against Pakistan and we will certainly take up this matter with the ICC," he said. "I will talk to the PCB chairman General Tauqir Zia in Sri Lanka and if he also thinks Reid is biased in his decision we will record our views with the ICC."

Pakistan objected to Reid's posting as match referee in the home series against Sri Lanka last March and had him replaced. "We can't object to his appointment all the time," Yawar said.

"This has never happened to Pakistani bowlers although they were criticised by certain quarters but never officially."

Yawar and his long-time new-ball partner Wasim Akram were accused by the British media in 1992 of tampering with the ball, but no official action was taken then.

Former England captain Michael Atherton was fined in 1994 by his own team management for the "dirty in the pocket" affair during a Test match against South Africa at Lord's.

Dempsey takes the only route



AUCKLAND, July 9: The man at the centre of the 2006 World Cup future, New Zealander Charlie Dempsey, was forced to step down as Oceania Football Confederation president Sunday, reports AFP.

But he declined once more to unravel the mystery of the threats he said forced him to allow Germany to host the tournament.

Dempsey said he would retire in September after he met the executive of the Oceania Football Confederation to explain why he abstained in the final FIFA vote over who should run the tournament in six years.

But OFC vice-president Johnny Tinsley Lulu of Vanuatu said Dempsey was retiring because executive members made it clear they were unhappy with his explanation of the events in Zurich.

OFC executive members said if Dempsey had not offered to retire he would have been told to step down.

"The call definitely would have been made for him to step down. My view is that when an executive directive is given it should be complied with," said Sahu Khan, Fiji's representative to the OFC.

Dempsey's abstention in Zurich - disobeying orders to back South Africa from the confederation - gave Germany the Cup by 12 votes to 11.

Had the vote tied at 12-12, FIFA president Sepp Blatter was expected to have given his casting vote to South Africa, his favoured candidate.

The 78-year-old Dempsey's only explanation for his action so far has been that he received "strong advice" to abstain and that he had been threatened.

At the centre of a world storm of protest since the vote in Zurich on Thursday, Dempsey emerged from a marathon emergency meeting of the OFC in his home town Auckland to claim the body had backed him.

"Behind closed doors the executive met and discussed -- I wasn't present -- and gave approval to the explanations that I gave for what took place in Zurich," Dempsey said, without elaborating.

But after all this consideration and the (media) harassment I will retire at the end of September because I cannot accept what has taken place over the last three days."

FIFA has said it will hold an internal investigation into the events surrounding last Thursday's vote and Dempsey was scheduled to explain his reasons publicly on Monday.

Soccer Australia chief Basil Scarsella said Sunday he would bid for the Oceania Football Confederation presidency when Dempsey stepped down.

"I'm going to put my hand up for it. I see no reason why I shouldn't," Scarsella said.

He said Dempsey's third round abstention from the World Cup voting had made the federation some enemies but in the end the majority decision had prevailed.

"In some respects it put Oceania in a bad light but we can recover from it," Scarsella said.

Earlier in the day, Dempsey was quoted by the Sunday Star Times as saying he would not resign.

Minister of Sport Trevor Mallard has called him a "public embarrassment," and outraged South Africans who had been optimistic about winning the hosting rights have accused him of betrayal.

In Johannesburg, the mass-circulation Sunday Times claimed Dempsey abstained from the final round of voting as an act of revenge against Blatter.

The paper said Dempsey was humiliated by Blatter during

the Oceania congress in Samoa two months ago.

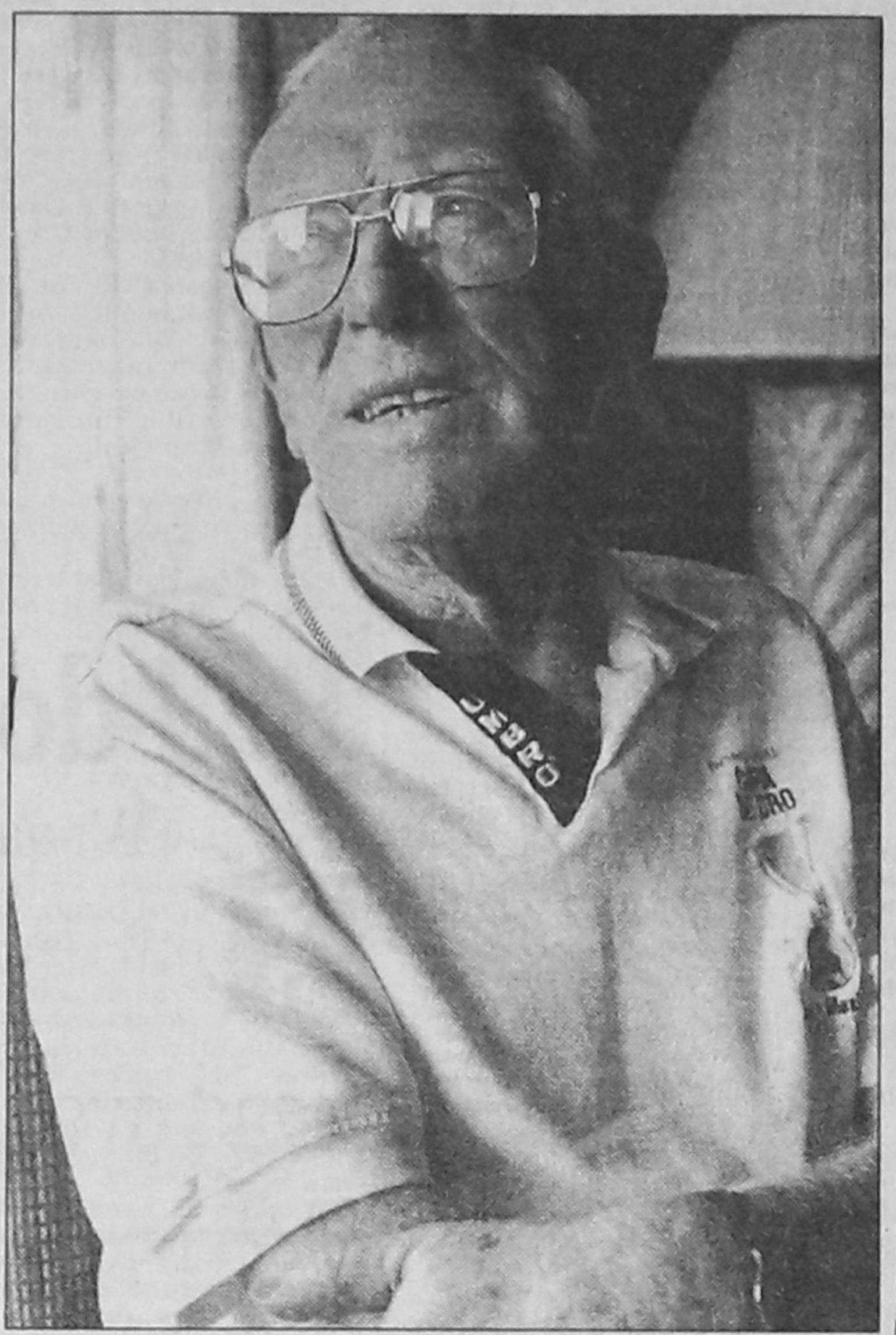
Blatter told Dempsey, who has ruled the Oceania Football Confederation for 18 years with an iron fist, the time was fast approaching for him to surrender his crown, the Times claimed.

He was also told voting for England "because his roots lay there" was not acceptable.

The Times said Dempsey sat drinking with European football boss Lennart Johansson from Sweden at a cosy, wood-paneled bar in an exclusive Zurich hotel on the eve of the vote.

Johansson knew Germany had secured the eight votes from Europe and the four from Asia -- one short of the 13 the 1974 hosts needed to stage the World Cup a second time.

"I know who the winner is... It is a country like England," Johansson boasted as he left the bar after meeting Dempsey, according to the Sunday Times report.



An AFP file photo shows Oceania Football Confederation president Charlie Dempsey talking to reporters in a Singapore hotel room while in transit from Zurich to Auckland. Dempsey stepped down.

Soccer Australia boss interested



SYDNEY, July 9: Soccer Australia chief Basil Scarsella said Sunday he would bid for the Oceania Football Confederation presidency when Charlie Dempsey stepped down at the end of September, reports AFP.

Dempsey, 78, who created an international storm after he abstained from a vote that gave the 2006 World Cup to Germany ahead of South Africa, announced his resignation at an OFC meeting in New Zealand Sunday.

Scarsella said he was keen to take over from Dempsey.

"I'm going to put my hand up for it. I see no reason why I shouldn't," Scarsella said Sunday.

Dempsey told reporters during a marathon meeting of the

Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) in Auckland that the body's executive had accepted his reasons for failing to follow orders and vote for South Africa's World Cup bid last week.

"Behind closed doors the executive met and discussed -- I wasn't present -- and gave approval to the explanations that I gave for what took place in Zurich," Dempsey said.

But after all this consideration and the (media) harassment I will retire at the end of September because I cannot accept what has taken place over the last three days."

He did not elaborate on the reasons for his retirement or on who was likely to succeed him.

The OFC will hold an extraordinary conference in Sydney before the Olympic football final at the end of September to

decide on Dempsey's replacement.

Scarsella said Dempsey's third round abstention from the World Cup voting had made the federation some enemies but in the end the majority decision had prevailed.

"In some respects it put Oceania in a bad light but we can recover from it," Scarsella said.

Scarsella, however, conceded that to win the support of the OFC representatives, Australia had much work to do.

"We need to recover from 25 years of damage in the region and that's not ideal," Scarsella said.

Australia, the football power in the region, has had a testy relationship with the OFC because it has attempted to move into the Asian Confederation to seek stronger opposition.

Let down with Asia



JOHANNESBURG, July 9: The mass-circulation Sunday Times said South Africa lost the right to stage the 2006 World Cup because of "naked economic opportunism" by Asia, reports AFP.

Asian delegates from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Thailand voted en bloc for Germany in Zurich Thursday as they won a controversial final round of voting 12-11 to rob Africa of its first World Cup.

The Times also slammed Charles Dempsey, the New Zealand-based delegate for Oceania, who abstained from voting after England were eliminated instead of following a mandate from his confederation and backing South Africa.

"He did this (abstain) in defiance of his government, his football confederation and the vigorous sporting bonds between his region and South Africa."

"It was a shameful and crooked act of cowardice that sticks in the craw," the Johannesburg-based Times wrote. The biggest-selling South African newspaper was even more critical of the Asian officials.

"More worrying was the absence of support from Asia, which has many ties with South Africa. The only explanation for this indifference can be that they soullessly chose to place their economic interests before those of football."

It noted that South Korean delegate Mong-Joon Chung is boss of the Hyundai motor corporation, which recently signed

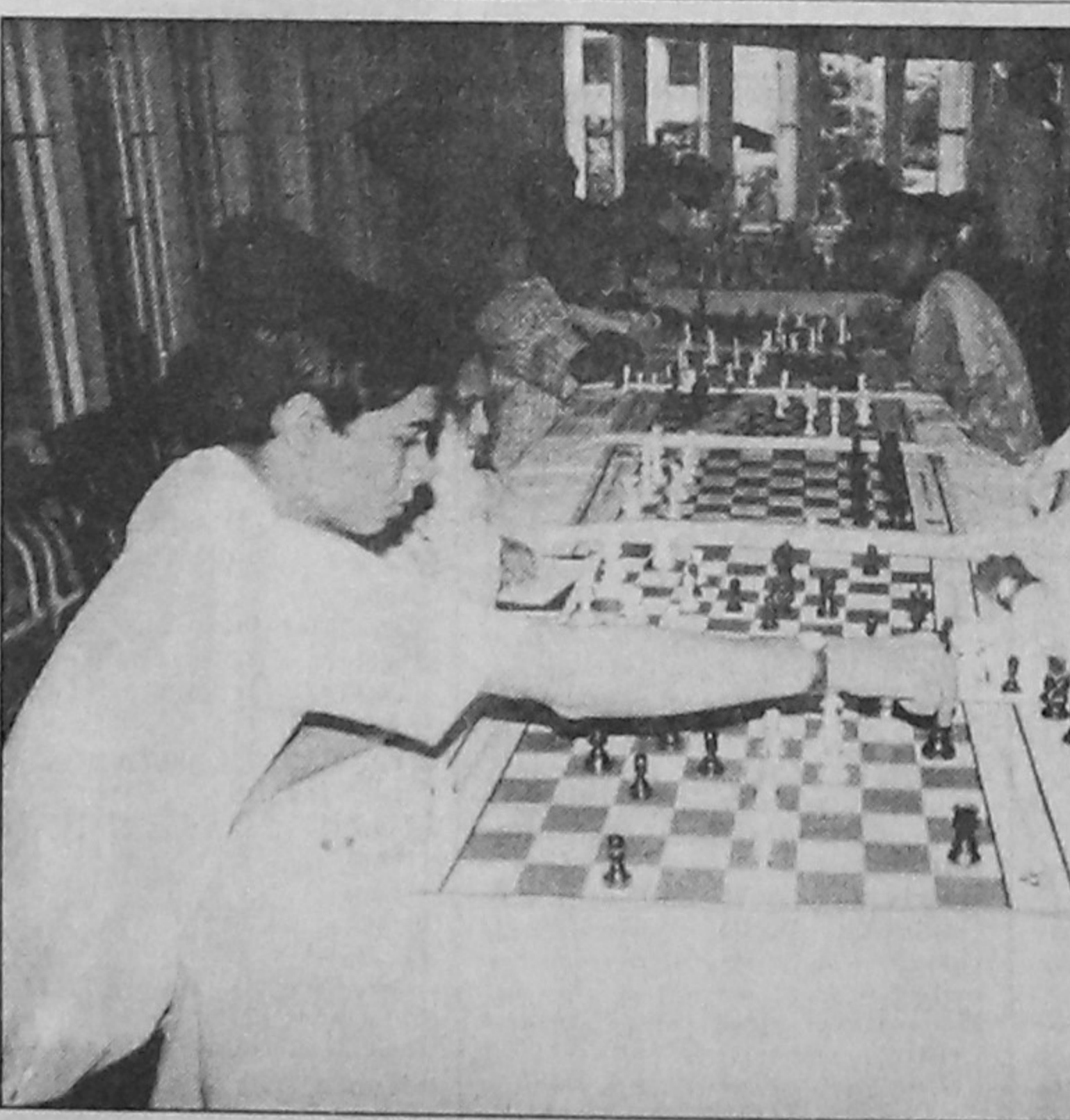
a multimillion-dollar deal with German company DaimlerChrysler.

The Times was particularly scathing of the two Asian delegates based in the Middle East - Abdullah al-Dabal from Saudi Arabia and Mohammed Bin Hammam from Qatar.

"Of even greater concern was the decision by delegates from

the Arab world to side with Germany, again apparently out of naked economic opportunism," it said.

"The decision raises questions about how much success we (South Africa) have had in establishing bonds between ourselves and Arab nations despite years of courtship."



Scene from the eighth round of the Standard Chartered Bank schools' chess tournament at the NSC yesterday.

Was he a racist?

JOHANNESBURG, July 9: The South African press on Sunday continued to sling mud at Charles Dempsey, the New Zealand FIFA delegate who cost South Africa the 2006 World Cup, alleging he had been sympathetic to a white apartheid-era football body, reports AFP.

The Johannesburg-based Sunday Independent reported claims that Dempsey voted for the Football Association of South Africa (FASA) not to be expelled from FIFA in 1961.

The paper said the black, coloured and Indian football body, the South African Soccer Federation, pushed FIFA to sanction FASA, resulting in the apartheid-era association being temporarily suspended.

The son of Mohammed Mayet, one of the officials who called for FASA to be black-listed, told the newspaper when the football world governing body put the issue to the vote: "Charles Dempsey, then in New Zealand, was one of those who voted against expelling South Africa."

Abdullah Mayet said it was a sign of the warm ties between

CAREER GRAF

AUCKLAND, July 9: Charlie Dempsey, the New Zealand soccer official who handed Germany the 2006 World Cup by refusing to vote for South Africa, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1922, reports AFP.

He served as a petty officer in World War II and set up a building firm in Auckland when he came to New Zealand after the war.

He was elected councillor of the Auckland Football Association in 1960, councillor for the New Zealand Football Association in 1964 and served for 24 years.

In 1966 he was elected to the Oceania Football executive committee he had helped form.

He was elected chairman of the New Zealand Football Association and president of the Oceania Football Confederation in 1982.

In 1988 he voluntarily stood down from chairmanship of New Zealand Football Association but remains the longest serving NZFA member.

In 1996 he headed Oceania Football Federation's successful campaign in the FIFA Congress which awarded confederation membership to Oceania and led to him being elected member of the FIFA executive committee.

His term as Oceania president had been due to expire in 2002 before he announced his decision to step down from his post in two months time Sunday.

New Zealand and all-white sports bodies in South Africa at the time were under fire.

Dempsey on Sunday announced that he was quitting his job as president of the Oceania Football Confederation, but failed to fully explain why he sat out in the final FIFA vote on who should host the 2006 World Cup.

His abstention - disobeying orders to back South Africa from the Oceania confederation and the New Zealand government - gave Germany a one-point victory, with the final vote 12-11.

South Africans who had been optimistic about winning the hosting rights have accused him of betrayal.

According to the Sunday Independent, the lawyer for the country's unsuccessful bid committee was investigating whether South Africa could provide proof of irregularities and appeal against Germany's nomination.

World Cup qualifying

Tunisia edge Madagascar

JOHANNESBURG, July 9: Tunisia pipped giantkillers Madagascar 1-0 in Tunis Saturday to take over top spot in Group D of the World Cup African Zone qualifying competition, reports AFP.

Germany-based midfielder Zoubier Beya scored the crucial goal on the stroke of half-time at Al-Menzah Stadium to boost Tunisian hopes of a third appearance at the quadrennial showcase of international football.

After a 25th-minute opener, Amoral showed a quick turn to beat a Kawasaki defender to unleash an exquisite shot in the 55th, and completed the feat in the 64th thanks to his compatriot Tuto's pass from the right.

"It always feels great to score and it feels greater if you score another or more, but I'm happier that we won today. We are moving forward on a right way looking forward to winning the title," said Amoral.

"We made several mistakes in the first stage and we don't want to repeat them in the second stage. We are playing in very good rhythm," added Amoral, who scored a hat-trick once in the Second Division here.

FC Tokyo missed one point after an extra time win last week to have eight points from three wins, trailing Kashima Antlers and Gamba Osaka, who also chalked up a third straight win each for nine points.

The Antlers defeated defending champions Jubilo Iwata 2-1 with Japan's Olympic hopefuls Tomoyuki Hirase and Atsushi Yanagisawa both getting past the Iwata defence line for their goals in the 24th and 29th minutes.

Brazilian midfielder Vital fired a sizzling goal in the 70th minute, which enabled Gamba Osaka to beat JEF United Ichihara 1-0.

In other games, Saifreco

AFP FOOTBALL BRIEFS

UNDATED, July 9: AFP football briefs on Sunday:

SWISS BAN ON YUGOSLAVIA

BELGRADE: Swiss authorities have banned payment of the fee for the Yugoslav Football Association (FSJ) until it proves its independence from the regime of President Slobodan Milosevic. Beta news agency reported Saturday.

Branko Bulatovic, secretary General of the FSJ, said that European top football body, UEFA, demanded from the Swiss financial authorities to prove that the FSJ has been linked with Milosevic's regime, Beta said.

However, the Swiss insisted that the FSJ itself had to prove that it "is an independent and free, both politically and financially, sports organisation," Bulatovic said.

"The FSJ is fully independent in its work," Beta quoted Bulatovic as saying.

He expressed hope that the money - 7.8 million Swiss francs (3.4 million dollars) for reaching the quarter-finals - will be paid, insisting that the FSJ would present its statute to prove that it is fully independent sport organisation.

Switzerland controls all the money from FIFA and UEFA since the seats of the both organisations are on its territory.

The Yugoslav press considers the results of the national team at Euro 2000 a "failure" because of the catastrophic 6-1 loss to Holland, although the team had reached its primary objective of getting into the quarter-finals.

STOICHKOV RUNNING OUT OF FIRE?

CHICAGO: Bulgarian footballing legend Hristo Stoichkov is considering retirement after being out for a month with a groin injury and facing at least another month on the bench of Major League Soccer's Chicago Fire.

"I'm thinking about retiring and I want to do it in Chicago," Stoichkov said.

"The players and coaches have made me feel at home since I arrived and this is where I want to end my career," he added.

The 34-year-old was joint-top scorer at the 1994 World Cup with six goals and played in

Japan before signing a one-year 270,000-dollar MLS deal for this season - scoring five goals in nine games.

The 1994 European Player of the Year is not expected to return until late August for the Fire's final four games of the

tographed the pair sunbathing on a St. Tropez beach on France's Cote d'Azur.

The 39-year-old Matthaeus is expected to fly back to the US on Sunday morning, forcing him to miss a charity match the day before in Rome when Ger-

many's 1990 World Cup winning team of which Matthaeus was captain plays a side made up of Formula One drivers including German star Michael Schumacher.

TAIBI LEAVES MAN UNITED

LONDON: Manchester United goalkeeper misfit Massimo Taibi confirmed Saturday he is returning to Italy with Serie A club Reggina.

The keeper joined Reggina on loan towards the end of last season after failing to make an impression at Old Trafford following his 4.4 million pound (6.6 million dollar) move from Venezia.

Taibi is returning to his native country after agreeing to a 2.5 million pound (3.75 million dollar) switch from the English Premiership champions.

"I promised the (Reggina) fans at the end of the last home game in May that I would do everything possible to stay," Taibi said.

"So now I'm very pleased everything is concluded and I can get my career back on track."

Reggina president Lillo Foti added: "We've had to make a big effort financially, but it was worth it."

LOTHAR'S ANTICS DOESN'T PLEASE MATES

COLOGNE: German football legend Lothar Matthaeus's teammates at the New York-New Jersey Metrostars are annoyed at the stars beach holiday on the French Riviera while they slog away at home.

Matthaeus injured himself in his first game back with the Metrostars after Germany's Euro 2000 debacle and was advised by top medic Dr. Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt - the father of his partner Maren - to take it easy using warmth and gentle exercise to regain his fitness.

Temper rose though when a tabloid newspaper pho-

'Bafana Bafana' shift focus

HARARE, July 9: South Africa turn their attentions to the 2002 World Cup qualifying competition Sunday after having their hopes of staging the 2006 finals dashed in controversial circumstances, reports AFP.

'Bafana Bafana' (The Boys) arrived here Saturday for their opening Group E match against hoodoo team Zimbabwe with coach Trott Moloto hoping there will be no post-World Cup blues.

"I am monitoring the effect the vote has on the players and will take that into account when choosing the starting line-up," Moloto said in the Zimbabwe capital.

South Africa lost 12-11 to Germany Thursday in the final round of voting to determine the hosts of the 2006 World Cup after Oceania delegate Charles Dempsey abstained.

The New Zealander had been told by his continental confederation to back South Africa once England were eliminated,

but ignored the mandate and left Zurich before the winner was announced.

While confessing his disappointment at the World Cup bid

Radebe from English Premier-ship club Leeds United.

Radebe has not recovered from a post-English season operation and hamstring problems ruled out likely replacement Frankie Schoeman from Danish club Lyngby.

That leaves Pierre Issa from French club Marseille and Audile Sixaba from Ajax Cape Town to man the centre of defence, an area where South Africa were cruelly exposed during the Nike Cup last month.

The country ranked No 1 in Africa by world governing body FIFA conceded 10 goals against hosts United States, Mexico and the Republic of Ireland with Issa coming under heavy media fire for his lack of authority.

Zimbabwe humiliated South Africa 4-1 in Harare eight years ago and two-goal star Peter Ndlovu, who has been given a free transfer by English First Division club Birmingham City, is expected to spearhead the attack again.

outcome. Moloto was more concerned by the absence of key defender and captain Lucas

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN



TOKYO, July 9: Brazilian striker Amoral scored a hat-trick for the first time in the J-League First Division on Saturday, leading FC Tokyo to a third straight victory with a 3-0 win over Kawasaki Frontale.

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