

Sport

Windies still the best: Border

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 3: England cricket captain Graham Gooch can expect a phone call this week from his friend and rival Australian captain Allan Border...



ALLAN BORDER

because that doesn't give the bowlers a chance," he said. "If Gooch and his boys can get stuck in and make some totals the English bowlers are good enough to do some damage...

available for England for the first time in the coming series. Border played with Hick for Queensland last season. "He is perfect for the side. He works hard at his game, fits into the team well and will give it his all...

class and is likely to move up the order soon while Mark Taylor persevered to confirm his stature as an opening batsman. The tour's sour note was the open animosity between the sides and Clyde Walcott, president of the West Indies Cricket Board of Control...

Suhrawardi Cup postponed

Sports Reporter The Suhrawardi Cup national under-19 football championship scheduled to begin from May 20 has been postponed due to the adverse situation prevailing in the country after the recent cyclonic storm in the coastal belt...

The fresh date for the competition will be announced later on. The press release further added that BFF has condoned the loss of thousands of lives lost in the devastating storm and paid respect and prayed for the departed souls.

Bangladesh tied 1-1 with Bahrain

Bangladesh tied with Bahrain 1-1 after the two opening singles of the first round Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two held in Bahrain Friday according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday evening.



Mahmud Ahmed Lodhi (l) of Pakistan beat India's T.N Parameswaran yesterday at the NSC chess room earning five points from six games.

Tahmid maintains lead

Sports Reporter FIDE Master Syed Tahmidur Rahman maintained his lead in the inaugural United Insurance International Masters' tournament with six points from his seven matches. At the NSC chess room yesterday afternoon Tahmid beat Almasur Rahman in 22 moves.

points from six games. Yesterday Lodhi scored a major victory by defeating Indian IM T. N. Parameswaran. Playing white, Lodhi made an Old Indian opening and Parameswaran was forced to resign after 29 moves.

Kumar Misra, Champak, despite having enjoyed a bit of the advantage in the early stages of the Catalan opening game, resigned in the 28th move. Another former national champion, Jamilur Rahman, drew his game with compatriot Maruf Ahmed.

Maradona to sue for damages

BUENOS AIRES, May 3: Diego Maradona will sue Argentina's leading soccer magazine over a report that said he was naked in the company of two male friends and a blonde undercover policewoman when he was arrested last week...



Maradona with wife Claudia and their daughter home.

"Diego is undergoing strict medical and psychological treatment. He wants to recover, to become an ordinary citizen. The doctors say a complete recovery (from drugs) is possible although it is not a question of 48 or 72 hours," Franchi said.

Maradona has remained secluded at his suburban Buenos Aires apartment, accompanied by his wife Claudia and daughters Dalma and Gianina. He has been visited by friends and relatives, Franchi said. The daily newspaper La Nacion, quoting sources close to Maradona, said Thursday he had begun "detoxification treatment, aided by a physician, a nurse and a psychotherapist."

Maradona considered the world's best soccer player for most of the 1980s, has not been seen in public since he was released on 420,000 bond Sunday following arrest on Friday for drug possession and distribution. Franchi refused to speculate on Maradona's future or comment on reports that the drug problems have cost the player millions of dollars in cancelled publicity and advertising contracts.

Soccer results

SZOMBATHELY, Hungary, May 3: Italy beat Hungary 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in a European under-21 soccer championship group three qualifier on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Tyson-Ruddock re-match June 28

NEW YORK, May 3: Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson on Thursday promised a more decisive victory over Canadian Donovan "Razor" Ruddock when the two meet for a Las Vegas rematch on June 28, reports Reuter. Their March 18 bout ended in a controversial Tyson victory when referee Richard Steele stopped the bout in the seventh round although it appeared Ruddock was fully able to continue.



Mike Tyson (L) and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock (R) his sunglasses.

you'll out, you're in trouble," Tyson said as the verbal sparring and official promotion for the June bout began. "You're soft and you're putty. I assure you are going to suffer severe pain and I'm going to enjoy this very much," continued the surly, puffy-looking former champion from behind

Ruddock never flinched from Tyson's verbal barrage and even occasionally jabbed back. "If you think the next one is going to be any easier, you better come in tougher than the last time," said Ruddock, who has a record of 25-2-1. "If you are trying to intimidate me don't you know that doesn't work?"

"What can he do? He can't do anything with me. By no means is he my equal," said the 40-1 Tyson, who lost his title to James "Buster" Douglas in February 1990. "He doesn't stand a chance and he's going to get obliterated." It was Ruddock, however, who landed the final blow. "Do I have to sit here and listen to this moron?" Ruddock asked as the bell sounded, signalling the end of round one.

Row resolved!

COPENHAGEN, May 3: A row which resulted in a top player at a leading badminton championship having to wear his shirt inside-out was settled on Thursday, reports Reuter. Danish star Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen was prevented from starting a match in the Sudirman Cup a mixed team world event after officials ruled the shirt he was wearing broke regulations stating shirts have to be at least 75 per cent white.

Cooke shocks Appelgren

CHIBA, Japan, May 3: Three-time European champion Mikael Appelgren of Sweden squandered five match points before crashing out of the World Championships men's singles to England's Alan Cooke today, reports Reuter. Appelgren, the number two seed, had earlier saved two match points in the fourth game and went on to build up a seemingly invincible 20-15 lead in the decider.

go," said Cooke after his 21-12, 21-19, 14-21, 24-26, 23-21 first round victory. "I started hitting the ball early and took some chances. I've beaten him six times before but to beat him in the World Championships is extra special. That is obviously one of my best ever wins; it's not normal to come from 20-15 behind and win, especially against Appelgren."

celebrating victory. When he lost the final point Appelgren, 29, angrily ripped the rubbers off his bat and threw them into the crowd. Appelgren, whose coolness under pressure has been likened to that of compatriot Bjorn Borg, would not make any immediate comment on his loss or vital mental lapse. Fellow Swede Erik Lindh, the number 12 seed, was also a shock first round casualty. He was beaten 22-20, 19-21, 21-10, 16-21, 21-18 by lowly-ranked Japanese Hiroshi Shibutani. World champion Jan-Ove Waldner kept the Swedish flag flying with a 21-14, 22-20, 21-18 first round triumph over Zoltan Harzai of Hungary. The men's singles second round matches were due to be played later today.

Richardson, Marshall top the averages

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 3: Averages after the final Test cricket match between West Indies and Australia on Wednesday:

Table with columns for batting and bowling statistics, including names like M. Waugh, M. Taylor, D. Border, D. Boon, G. Marsh, S. Waugh, G. Matthews, M. Hughes, M. Whitney, C. McDermott, P. Taylor, R. Richardson, D. Logie, D. Haynes, G. Greenidge, J. Dujon, C. Hooper, V. Richards, M. Marshall, C. Ambrose, C. Walsh, P. Patterson.

Frana upsets Arias

TAMPA, Florida, May 3: Javier Frana of Argentina upset No. 2-seeded Jimmy Arias on Thursday night to gain a quarterfinal berth at the 250,000-dollar USTA Clay Courts of Tampa, reports AP. Frana will meet Chris Garner of the United States, who outlasted the No. 8-seed, Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-5). Pablo Arraya of Peru defeated Niclas Kroon of Sweden 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7-0) and will face Kelly Evernden of New Zealand in another quarterfinal on Friday. Evernden advanced by walkover when his second-round opponent, Henrik Holm of Sweden, withdrew due to a virus. Frana played a doubles match after beating Arias, who said his intensity level dropped drastically after winning the first set. "Why? I don't really know," Arias said. "I guess I'm a little bit pepped out this year. I never really got mad or excited. That's not my style. I just got a little lazy."

trains at Bradenton, Florida. Pescosolido arrived last week from Europe, where he said it was snowing. "I sensed some fatigue from him," Garner said. "It was really important for me to win the first set... got a lot of confidence after that." Agassi pips Chang ROSWELL, Georgia, May 3: Top seed Andre Agassi overcame a second-set lapse to defeat Michael Chang 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 Thursday at the 280,000 dollar A-T-and T Challenge, reports AP. Agassi forced play with Powerful ground strokes and took advantage to Chang's short reverses. He came to net 49 times in the round-robin match, winning 37, or 70 per cent of the points. "He's never volleyed that much or that well against me," Chang said. Bruguera beaten MADRID, May 3: Sergi Bruguera, who beat world number two Boris Becker three days ago, suffered as second round defeat by fellow Spaniard Javier Sanchez Vicrio in the Madrid International tennis tournament on Thursday, reports Reuter. Second seed Bruguera, who beat Becker to win the Monte Carlo final, his second ATP title in a month, went down 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. India lead ROK in Davis Cup NEW DELHI, May 3: Ramesh Krishnan outclassed South Korean newcomer Jie Seung-Ho to put India 1-0 ahead in the Asia-Oceania zone Group One Davis Cup second-round tie here today, reports AFP. The 31-year-old Indian touch artist ranked 90th in the world brushed aside the loss of the first set before galloping to an easy 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 win in 137 minutes at the sun-baked Delhi Lawn Tennis Association complex here.

Aouita's quiet comeback

MADRID, May 3: Middle-distance runner Said Aouita of Morocco settled for eighth place in a low-key comeback to competition in the Madrid Mile on Thursday. Aouita, world record-holder in 1,500 and 5,000 metres, was making his first international outing since surgery last June to correct constricted muscles in both calves — a condition which affects blood circulation. He finished over five seconds behind winner Matthew Yates of Britain who covered the distance on Madrid's central Paseo de La Castellana boulevard in three minutes 58.6 seconds.

Frost fighting against pain and time

COPENHAGEN, May 3: Morten Frost emerges from the practice area relieved to be able to walk properly, reports Reuter. But his broad smile hides an inner sadness. For one of badminton's greatest players knows he may never achieve his greatest ambition of being champion of the world. Next week's world championships in his native Denmark looked to offer Frost a last chance, in the autumn of his career, to land the coveted crown at long last. But a month ago Frost injured his heel in training. Since then it has been a fight against considerable pain and a race against time. Earlier in the week there were doubts whether he would be able to play. But by Wednesday the Dane had decided to take his chance — come what may. "If only the pain would go away I would be okay," he said in an interview. "I have been practising hard, physical training and so on. Whatever I can do I do.



MORTEN FROST

"But if the pain is there I have no chance." Frost is 33 now and has graced badminton for many of those years. In the 1980s he dominated the All-England championships and generally bestrode the game, certainly in Europe. But unsuited to hot and humid East Asian climates, world title bids in Asia were not conducive to his best badminton. It was therefore an even greater disappointment when the championships were last held here in 1983 that the crown again eluded him. Frost would love to atone. But the threat from the Indonesians and Chinese in particular, continues apace. The Dane reckons it more than likely an Asian will take the men's championship, despite the home advantage enjoyed by the challengers from Denmark, Europe's most potent force. All-England champion Ardy Wiranata of Indonesia starts favourite with China's Wu Wenkai seeded two. But Frost said: "I see 12 main contenders. There are a lot of good players in men's singles. Even I can win." But is it his last chance? "It's been my last chance many years," said Frost, who is less obsessed about his age than the media are. "I'll just play and enjoy it. If I play well I have a good chance. If I don't, I will lose. It's quite simple." The Dane did not play well in the All-England this year, bowing out in straight games in an early round to another talented Indonesian, Allan Budikusuma.

Chris Smith's third ton

LONDON, May 3: South African-born Chris Smith sustained his fine start to the English cricket season by hammering his third century to set up a decisive Benson and Hedges Cup victory for Hampshire on Thursday, reports Reuter. Opener Smith's 142 and a fluent 83 by England batsman David Gower powered Hampshire to 299 for four in the 56 overs match against Glamorgan at Southampton.