



Zimbabwe's Eddo Brandes soars as he celebrates with teammates Andy Flower (L) and Andy Pycroft the dismissal of England's Graeme Hick for a duck in the World Cup in Albury on March 18. — Star file photo

TV blamed for semi-final fiasco

World media roundly condemns rules

SYDNEY, Mar 23: "Robbery and disgrace," "Farce," "Shambolic," "Fiasco" - that was now Australian newspapers today described the finish to Sunday's rain-hit World Cup cricket semifinal here, reports Reuter.

was "one of the most shameful finishes of this illustrious game." Roebuck wrote: "Seldom can so much harm have been done to any game by the application of finicky rules by authorities who plainly knew no better."

menting: "The rain rules have been the bane of what has been an otherwise excellent tournament." "They are in place largely because the Cup, like so much big-time sport these days, is at the mercy of TV programmers."

Those who framed the rules of the World Cup owe an explanation not just to the South Africans, but to the cricketing world. The Hindu's R Mohan blasted the decision as "ridiculous."

English scribes, too, express dismay

LONDON, Mar 23: English newspapers reflected a sense of dismay rather than triumph on Monday after their cricket side's controversial passage into the World Cup final at South Africa's expense, reports Reuter.

criticism of the tournament's rules over rain stoppages. "The mad hatter... was the author of a competition which has sold its soul to television," thundered The Daily Mail.

Former England captain Mike Gatting wrote in The Daily Express: My gut reaction when the rain stopped was: Let's forget about the letter of the law and bowl the last 13 balls.

are conferring about the weather, but five is not on." British Prime Minister John Major, in the throes of an election campaign, is now being urged to ensure everyone in the country can watch the final on television.

Raisuddin off to Melbourne

Raisuddin Ahmed, Vice-President of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, left Dhaka for Melbourne Sunday to witness the final of the Benson and Hedges World Cup at the invitation of the Australian and New Zealand Cricket boards, the organizers of this year's tournament, reports BSS.

I-Day volleyball begins today

The MV Eagle Independence Day volleyball tournament gets underway today at the Outer Stadium volleyball court with five teams taking part.

Ganaktuli win Samad soccer

Ganaktuli Kishore Ekadosh annexed the Jadukar Samad Smriti juvenile football tournament title at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Farashganj win

Farashganj Sporting Club collected two valuable points by beating Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation one-nil in the only match of the First Division football league at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Handball resumes

The Cute First Division handball league resumed yesterday with defending champions Bangladesh Rifles getting the better of Bangladesh Police 20-12 at the Outer Stadium handball court.

Condolence

President of the Bangladesh Amateur Athletic Federation and Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs Muhammad Enamul Huq has expressed deep shock at the sudden death of Nurul Momen Khan, president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Navratilova aims to extend record

SAN ANTONIO, Mar 23: Martina Navratilova will be trying to add to her record 153 career titles in the US Women's Hardcourt Championships, which begin Monday, reports AP.

Hockey results

Bachelors Sporting Club beat Sonali Bank by two goals to one in the Green Delta First Division hockey league at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Gullit undergoes successful surgery

ANTWERP, Belgium, Mar 23: Surgeons successfully operated the left cartilage of AC Milan's Ruud Gullit on Monday, a spokesman at the Apra Clinic in Antwerp said, reports AFP.

Another title for Chang

KEY BISCAINE, Florida, Mar 23: Michael Chang established himself as the hottest player on the men's tennis tour on Sunday with a 7-5, 7-5 victory over Argentine Alberto Mancini in the final of the 2.8 million dollar Lipton International Players' Championships, reports Reuter.

Jennings wins race as McColgan fails

BOSTON, Mar 23: Lynn Jennings of the United States continued her reign as Women's cross country world champion on Saturday by finishing two seconds ahead of Ireland's Catherine McKiernan over a course through mud and ice, reports Reuter.



Michael Chang of the US returns volley during semifinal play at the Lipton International Players' Championships against compatriot Jim Courier in Key Biscayne on March 20. — AFP photo.

games to leave the set tied 4-4. Chang fought off a break point in the 11th game to hold for a 6-5 lead and converted his third break point of the next game to take the set when Mancini netted a forehand.

round. "I gave it my best today, that's all I can do. We are not machines; we're human beings."

Sanchez strikes

MADRID, Mar 23: An opportunistic goal by Mexican Hugo Sanchez brightened a drab 1-0 victory by Real Madrid over Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday and enabled the Spanish league leaders to maintain their razor-thin edge over Barcelona, reports Reuter.

With champions Barcelona also winning 1-0 at home to Logrones, Real stay top on goal difference. Both sides have 39 points.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution for the crossword puzzle.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a 9-20 clue: ZSH AJUXHSQZSMHU MHZOPHSV HVMZGYJVPJUQ ZGYBOA ZVVBOJZMJBUB? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LAST YEAR, THE LONG-WINDED TEACHER'S CAREER WENT BY THE BORED.

9-20 CRYPTOQUIP ZSH AJUXHSQZSMHU MHZOPHSV HVMZGYJVPJUQ ZGYBOA ZVVBOJZMJBUB? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LAST YEAR, THE LONG-WINDED TEACHER'S CAREER WENT BY THE BORED. Today's Cryptoquip clue: S equals R. The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.