



SHAPING UP... Not the umpires but the ball, which lost its shape during the Pakistan innings in the fifth and final one-day against the West Indies at Georgetown, Guyana on Saturday. The match ended in a draw. — Star TV photo

Ferreira falls to boyhood friend

DURBAN, South Africa, Apr 4: Top seed Wayne Ferreira fell at the penultimate hurdle of the ATP South African Open here Saturday, unceremoniously dumped out in straight sets by countryman Grant Stafford, reports AFP.

Ferreira, who had come from one set down to beat unseeded German Joern Renzenbrink in Friday's quarter-final, blew the big points in his high-energy duel with Stafford, losing 6-4, 7-5.

The frustration showed as the 21-year-old, ranked 14 in the world, sank to cursing and racket smashing as his boyhood friend kept his cool and the upper hand.

Grim in defeat, Ferreira said: "I've played horrible tennis all week and I consider myself lucky to have got this far."

Stafford, a wildcard entry, said he had not seen Ferreira so rattled since they came up through the juniors.

He will face defending champion Aaron Krickstein in today's final. The American, seeded only fifth after an injury-induced lay-off last year, put on a gutsy performance to overcome second seed Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 6-4.

Yeh's dream day

MANILA, Apr 4: Taiwanese rookie Yen Chang-ting sank a 12-foot par putt on the final hole Sunday for a one-stroke victory over Carlos Espinosa of Mexico in the Philippine Open Golf Championship, reports AP.

American Dennis Paulson, who came to the final hole tied with Yeh, double-bogeyed it and finished third.

Yeh, 27, finished with a 7-under-par 281 total despite slipping to a 3-over-par 75 in the final round.

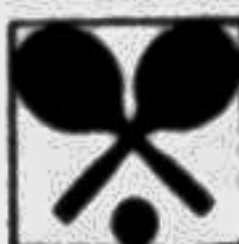
Espinosa shot a 70 and finished at 282. Paulson's final round 73 left him at 283.

"I'm so happy to win considering that this is my first year on the Asian tour," said Yeh, who received a first prize of \$33,320.

Anthony Gilligan of Australia and Steve Flesch of the United States tied for fourth at 284, followed by Choi Song-ho of South Korea and Frankie Minoza of the Philippines at 286.

The next stop on the Asian tour will be the Taiwan Open next week.

Chang's first triumph in Japan



OSAKA, Japan, Apr 4: American Michael Chang captured his first victory in Japan today when he defeated Israel's Amos Mansdorf to win the 500,000-dollar Sakem Open men's tennis tournament here, reports AFP.

The 21-year-old Chinese-American, who took his first Asian title in Jakarta in January, made it a double with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Mansdorf.

"This week has been a great week for me. I arrived here with my confidence level a bit low, but the crowd was great and I'd like to thank them for supporting me and making it a great week. I hope to come back to Osaka next year," said Chang.

Both players had problems with their service, with the first five games of the first set all going against serve. Chang then held serve to make it 4-2, and maintained the advantage to take the set.

"When I was serving at the beginning, Amos was just coming with some really good shots, when he was serving, he made a few errors and I was able to break him," said the 21-year-old.

Mansdorf, enjoying one of the best seasons of his career, varied his play throughout, hitting hard from the baseline, passing Chang at the net and charging to the net himself.

He had a chance to break Chang in the fourth and eighth games of the second set, but the American stood firm before breaking Mansdorf to take

a 5-4 lead and then wrap up the match with a love service game.

"I felt that for most of the points, I was on the defensive,



MICHAEL CHANG

because Amos hit some great shots. When I was coming in, he was hitting some great

passing shots," Chang said.

"He can serve and volley, he can play consistently from the baseline, he can hit winners from the baseline and he volleys very well. I think that makes him a tough player to beat," he added.

Chang earned the winner's check of 67,500 dollars and 172 points, including 22 bonus points, counting towards the ATP computer rankings.

But it was not a bad tournament for Mansdorf. Although he missed his first victory in nearly three years, he collected 174 points with an upset victory over world number one Jim Courier in the semifinals and pocketed 30,000 dollars.

"At the beginning of the first set, we were feeling each other out. I couldn't hold serve and the slow rhythm of the first set was to his advantage," Mansdorf said.

"In the second set I was in control. I had two chances to break him, but I lost my concentration and lost eight points in a row.

"I was trying to come in, but it is very hard when you play him, because he is very fast and he passes very well," added the 36th ranked Israeli.

Steady rain, which greeted the end of the singles final, forced the organizers to postpone the doubles match.

The Canadian-American pair of Glenn Michibata and David Pate will play the American-South African duo of Mark Keil and Cristo van Rensburg on Monday, vying for the top prize money of 29,000 dollars.

Canniggia pleads not guilty

ROME, Apr 4: AS Roma striker Claudio Canniggia, under suspicion for failing a drugs test in March, protested his innocence here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Canniggia, an Argentinian international, is awaiting the results of a further test due to be announced on Tuesday.

"I swear I'm innocent. I never took anything," said an unhappy Canniggia, presently hiding from the blaze of publicity at his club's training centre just outside Rome.

"I don't understand what has happened, but whatever the result, I won't give up football," added the 26-year-old.

Traces of cocaine were found in a urine sample submitted at AS Roma's match against Napoli on March 21. Canniggia was one of the players tested, the other was German international Thomas Haessler.

The Italian press have already reported that the guilty sample belongs to Canniggia.

It is still not known whether the Argentinian player, a 4.5 million pound signing for AS Roma last year, will play against Fiorentina in this Sunday's Italian league match.

Canniggia has said that he will leave the decision to club coach Vujadin Boskov: "This has been a dreadful experience for me, but I am strong and I'm sure a goal on Sunday would make me feel better."

Boskov has declined to comment on the matter, and has not yet decided whether Canniggia will play against Fiorentina.

Milan's woeful run continues

ROME, Apr 4: AC Milan's stumbling run continued when they had to fight back from 2-0 down to draw with Napoli at home on Saturday, reports AFP.

Italy winger Gianluigi Lentini scored twice in six minutes around the hour mark after Napoli had gone into the break two ahead.

Brazilian striker Antonio Careca and Roberto Policiano had put the Southern Club ahead with goals in the 35th and 44th minutes.

Fabio Capello's previously invincible outfit have now taken only one point from their last three league games after a defeat by Parma two weeks ago, which ended a 58-game unbeaten run in the league, and a draw with Torino last weekend.

Milan now have a nine point cushion over closest rivals Internazionale, who play at Sampdoria today, and despite their slump in form still look certain to retain the title.

But their form will have caused concern for Capello as he prepares for Wednesday's European Cup match against Gothenburg.

Italy's other two European representatives, Parma and Juventus had a mixed afternoon.

Cup Winners' Cup semifinalists Parma continued their run of form when goals from Salvatore Matrecano and Sweden's Thomas Brodin gave them a 2-0 win away at lowly Pescara.

But Juventus, who take on Paris Saint Germain in a UEFA Cup semifinal first leg on Tuesday, could manage only a goalless draw at Udinese, despite the return of Roberto Baggio and David Platt.

A tragic end to China's reign

HONG KONG, Apr 4: Indonesia beat defending champions China 3-2 Sunday and won the Asian Badminton Championship after a Chinese player collapsed in a key doubles match, reports agencies.

Indonesian Haryanto Arbi, recently crowned All-England champion, defeated Chinese Wu Wenkai 15-3, 15-8, but China evaded the score when Chen Kang and Chen Hongyong beat Ricky Subagja and Rexy Mainaky 15-12, 18-13 in doubles.

Indonesian regained the lead when Alan Budi Kusuma beat Liu Jun 15-6, 17-18, 15-4 in the second singles.

In the remaining doubles match, Chinese Zheng Yumin collapsed when he and partner Huang Zhangzhong were leading 2-0 in the first set against Imay Hendra and Hermawan Susanto.

Zheng was taken to a hospital, where his condition was described as fair.

The doubles match was awarded to the Indonesians, giving them an unbeatable 3-1 lead. Indonesian Ardy Wiranata then defaulted the final singles match to Wang Zhengwen.

Earlier, Indonesia, who defeated Malaysia 3-2 in the semi-finals, did not miss a step despite the absence of Olympic gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma, Saturday.

China booked their berth with a comprehensive 4-1 victory over Taiwan, the tournament's surprise card, in the other semi-final.

Oozing confidence, the Indonesians preferred to rest Kusuma, who is carrying a niggling injury, and replaced him with Hermawan Susanto, in

the third singles. Susanto was hardly needed as Indonesia had settled the tie 3-0, winning the first two singles and the opening doubles.

China, trailing Indonesia 1-2, having lost both the first two singles, when the tragedy struck.

The Fujian-born Zheng was preparing to receive service from Indonesian Imay Hendra when he reeled backwards and collapsed in a heap.

A live television audience, and a capacity crowd at the Queen Elizabeth Stadium, watched in horror as Zheng started twitching on the court.

The right-handed Zheng was given medical treatment before being taken to the nearby Tang Shu King Hospital.

"He has recovered consciousness, but we don't know exactly what his latest condition is," added Guanlan.

China were trailing Indonesia 1-2, having lost both the first two singles, when the tragedy struck.

All England champions Heryanto Arbi gave Indonesia the perfect start against Malaysia, beating Foo Kok Keong 15-6, 18-15 in the first singles.

The 21-year-old Arbi, currently the hottest player on the world circuit, faced his hardest match when he was taken to deceive for the first time in this tournament.

But revelling under pressure, Arbi, who has still to lose a match this year, produced a brilliant array of smashes and delicate touches at the net to sweep the last three points after the score had been tied at 15-15 in the second game.

bles, by the time he was called upon to play.

With the stakes high, today, the Indonesian camp refused to comment whether Kusuma would play against China.

"We rested him today. But it remains to be seen whether we will play him against China," said a cautious Indonesian coach Indra Gunawan.

World No. 6 Kusuma, who played the second singles for Indonesia in the preliminary round, has not been at his brilliant best this week.

China, aiming for their third successive Asian title, brushed aside shock semi-finalists Taiwan, with singles stars Liu Jun and Wu Wenkai in superb form.

The Taiwanese, playing for the first time in the semi-finals of this tournament, quickly learnt the harsh realities of playing against one of the game's superpowers.

China's world No. 8 Liu, and Wu, No. 9, scored identical 15-8, 15-6 wins over Liu En-Hong and Lee Mou-Chow respectively and will be the cornerstone of China's defence against the powerful Indonesians.

All England champions Heryanto Arbi gave Indonesia the perfect start against Malaysia, beating Foo Kok Keong 15-6, 18-15 in the first singles.

The 21-year-old Arbi, currently the hottest player on the world circuit, faced his hardest match when he was taken to deceive for the first time in this tournament.

But revelling under pressure, Arbi, who has still to lose a match this year, produced a brilliant array of smashes and delicate touches at the net to sweep the last three points after the score had been tied at 15-15 in the second game.

S Bima off to winning start

Sadharan Bima Krita Sangtha got off to an auspicious start in the 1993 Independence Day hockey tournament when they beat Wari Club in the tie-breaker at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

The winners scored thrice as against the solitary successful conversion by Wari after the two sides were locked in a goalless draw at the end of regulation period of the inaugural match of the 16-team meet.

Murad, Moni and Chhunu converted for Bima while Shahid put one in the cage for Wari.

Jobel Lusal of Sadharan Bima was shown the green card for rough play.

Fakhrul Islam, a player of yesteryears, inaugurated the tournament participated by 16 teams including 15 First Division outfits. For the chief guest the match had an added attraction as his son Nazmul, one of the Bima defenders, ended on the winning side.

Meanwhile, in a press release, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) rescheduled the fixture with just one match billed for today, Bangladesh Sporting Club take on Police at 2.30 pm. The second match of the day has been pushed back until April 8 as Mohammedan Sporting Club, one of the contestants of the second match, appealed to the BHF to postpone today's die. Accordingly, the match between Mohammedans and Sonali Bank will now be played on April 8, Thursday.

Graf glides, Sanchez strives

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina, Apr 4: Top seed Steffi Graf dethroned defending champion Gabriela Sabatini and second seed Arantxa Sanchez Vitaro rallied to beat Jennifer Capriati in semifinals at the 750,000 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Graf looked about to demolish the third-seeded Sabatini, then withstood a remarkable comeback by the Argentine to prevail 6-0, 7-6.

Sanchez came within one game of being knocked out by the fourth-seeded Capriati, but roared back for a 2-6, 7-5, 6-0 win.

Today, Graf goes for her 71st career title on the same clay court where she claimed her very first in 1986.

Sanchez is looking to notch number 10. The Spanish

speedster won her ninth title two weeks ago when she beat Graf at the Lipton Championships.

Sabatini, who won this tournament the past two years, at first appeared paralysed by Graf, who ran out to a huge 6-0, 5-1 advantage.

"Until 5-1 I played the best tennis I could play," Graf said. "Then I just tried for too much. She started going a little more for her shots."

The Argentine never appeared discouraged and promptly won the next five games to play herself back into the match.

"At some point she had to start missing and that is what happened in the second set," said Sabatini, who suddenly led 6-5, leaving Graf to force a tie-break or lose the set.

Graf regained her earlier form in the tie-break and won the last three points from 4-3

to keep the match from going to a third set.

Capriati, who turned 17 earlier this week, failed to demonstrate the same composure Graf showed earlier in the day. The American led 6-2, 5-4 and simply fell apart under the second seed's pressure.

Sanchez, who raced through the final nine games, cut her unforced errors to just five in the third set, while Capriati committed 23 critical blunders.

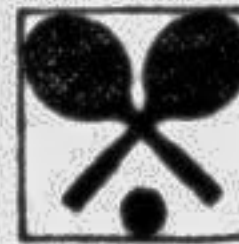
"I have a very good attitude," said the confident Sanchez. "I knew what I was doing wrong. It's worse if you get frustrated. It's just my personality and character."

Capriati could learn a valuable lesson from her opponent. "I made all the errors, especially in the third set," Capriati said. "I just got frustrated and lost patience. I don't feel like she won it, I feel like I lost it and gave it to her."



Action from the inaugural match of the Independence Day hockey tournament between Sadharan Bima and Wari Club at the Hockey Stadium yesterday. Bima won by three goals to one in the tie-break after the regulation period ended goalless. — Star photo

Courier, Sampras at crossroads



TOKYO, Apr 4: Defending champion Jim Courier and fellow American Pete Sampras, the top two in the world, will fight for the number one ranking next week spearheading the 1.19 million dollar Japan Open tennis tournament, reports AFP.

Courier, who has continued to say "I don't care for number one," crashed to a shock 5-7, 6-7 (4-7) semifinal defeat to Amos Mansdorf of Israel in the Salem Open in Osaka Saturday, failing to stretch the lead over Sampras.

Sampras, whose previous attempt was dashed by Stefan Edberg of Sweden in the US Open final in September, narrowed the gap again by successfully winning at Key Biscayne two weeks ago.

But Boris Becker of Germany, who skipped the Davis Cup first round in order to concentrate on regaining the top spot, failed to recover from influenza which forced him to abandon a third-round match at Key Biscayne.

He has now withdrawn from five events in a row. The three-time Wimbledon champion also retired from a semifinal match in Stuttgart in February with a stomach virus and from tournaments in Rotterdam the following week and Osaka.

Edberg of Sweden in the US Open final in September, narrowed the gap again by successfully winning at Key Biscayne two weeks ago.

But Boris Becker of Germany, who skipped the Davis Cup first round in order to concentrate on regaining the top spot, failed to recover from influenza which forced him to abandon a third-round match at Key Biscayne.

He has now withdrawn from five events in a row. The three-time Wimbledon champion also retired from a semifinal match in Stuttgart in February with a stomach virus and from tournaments in Rotterdam the following week and Osaka.

Sampras, whose previous attempt was dashed by Stefan



Milan's Dutch star Ruud Gullit (L) passes Napoli defender Giancarlo Corradini during their Italian league match in Milan on March 3. The match ended in a 2-2 draw, prolonging AC Milan's woes. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pop's store partner? 4 Recipe measure 7 Tease or taunt 11 Gance of early Hollywood 13 Brazilian macaw 14 Queen of the gods 15 "The — of the Ancient Mariner" 16 Prefix for cord or card 17 Paradise 18 Vermont 20 Noah's eldest son 22 Sort or kind 24 French poet/novelist Louis 28 Searched for weapons 32 Old saw 33 Campus mil. org. 34 Sweet potato 36 John or William of

films

37 Model 39 J.S.-Mexico border town 41 Overwhelming fear 43 Make lace 44 A horse of different colors 46 Stupefies 50 She's identified with 14 53 Strong desire 55 Nobelist Wiesel 56 Blue dye 57 — pro nobis 58 Political contest 59 —

Flanders"

60 San Francisco hill 61 Composer Florem

DOWN

1 Red planet 2 Final notice? 3 Office note 4 Heel 5 He wrote "The Haj" 6 Turkish official 7 Wonderland denizen 8 Tied the knot 9 Wrath 10 Beach bonus 12 Creator of 7 Down 19 Lodge

member

21 Pitching stat. 23 Largo or West 25 Frenchman 26 Fairy tale monster 27 N.J. cagers 28 Glass in fusion 29 Took the bus 30 Road to Rome 31 Newsmen Rather 35 Witticism 38 Card game 40 It's before house or light 42 Synthetic fiber 45 Pianist Peter 47 — Bator 48 French resort 49 "The Bad —" (movie) 50 "Jelly's Last —" (musical) 51 It's past due? 52 Nothing 54 Seize roughly

Solution time: 24 min.

SAHIB JAMES VENICE OPENED ASIDES CENTRE LAM REDUX LIVE IMAS TEL FRED DELAY WALLERS RAH ROO QUETZAL NORMA UNDO ZAP DEAN AMI BAGEL GIG LETTER DESADE MEOWED ANTLER TROTS LOREN

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14	
15					16			17	
18			19		20			21	
			22		23		24		25 26 27
28 29 30					31		32		
33					34		35		36
37					38		39		40
41					42		43		
					44		45		46 47 48 49
50 51 52					53		54		55
56					57		58		
59					60				61

CRYPTOQUIP

S P V V M U D K K U P D K P
 S B K D K E P V G P Y V K M A P C
 T X U K C Y K D K A T E K D K Z :
 U B K V T M U P C Z X G C Z .
 Saturday's Cryptoquip: BIRDWATCHERS OFTEN GET CAUGHT IN BAD WEATHER, SO STOP GROUSING!
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: V equals L
 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.