

Spinners hold the stage yet

SL-WI Test heads for a draw

MORATUWA, Sri Lanka, Dec 11: Sri Lanka's mesmerising spin attack skittled out the West Indian batsmen for 204 and then scraped together a 29 run lead before bad light ended play in the third day of their one-off Test here Saturday, reports AFP.

Trailing the West Indians by 14 runs after the first innings, Sri Lanka battled to 43 for two when play was abandoned 90 minutes early due to poor light. The West Indian batsmen were bowled out for 204 in their first innings. Only skipper Richie Richardson with 51, and Carl Hooper, 62, were able to come to terms with the Sri Lankan spin attack.

Sri Lanka's gamble to play only one paceman paid dividends with their four spinners snaring all the wickets in the West Indian innings.

Recalled left-arm legspinner Don Anurasiri spearheaded the attack, bowling almost half of the 79 overs, to finish with figures of three for 77.

But it was right-arm off-spinner Muttiah Muralidharan who wove a mesmerising web soon after lunch as he grabbed three wickets in ten balls to send the West Indians tumbling from 191 for six to 204 all out.

At the close of play Aravinda de Silva was unbeaten on a belligerent 15, while Hashan Tillekeratne was nine not out as Sri Lanka grimly tried to build a substantial second innings score.

The pair have so far added 25 runs for the third-wicket, with De Silva in attacking mood having hooked Courtney Walsh for a six and Winston Benjamin for a boundary.

Much will depend on De Silva, if Sri Lanka are to set the West Indians a winning target on this slow and spinning wicket.

Benjamin, who took four wickets in the first innings, bowled with venom once again

after putting his side back into the game by bagging the wicket of opener Roshan Mahanama in his second over, caught at forward short leg by Phil Simmons, to leave Sri Lanka on 17 for one.

One run later, fellow opener Dulip Samaraweera was run out, backing down the wicket at the non-striker's end to be run out by a direct hit from Curly Ambrose.

The day began more promisingly for the West Indians with skipper Richie Richardson and Carl Hooper, resuming from their overnight total of 99 for four.

The pair progressed smoothly, using their feet well against the spinner to keep the scoreboard ticking over.

Hooper, the more impressive of the pair, hoisted Anurasiri over long on for four to bring up the 50 run partnership as the West Indies moved to 134.

Soon afterwards Richardson posted his 24th Test half-century, and with the score on 158, Sri Lanka got the much-needed breakthrough, when Richardson was adjudged out following two appeals.

Richardson stepped out to drive off-spinner Ruwan Kalpage, missed and was stumped by wicketkeeper Pubudu Dassanayake. The leg umpire turned down the appeal, but the head umpire upheld another appeal, from the fielders, ruling Richardson out caught behind.

TV replays showed that Richardson was out of his crease when stumped.

His dismissal ended a dangerous partnership of 74 runs, and there was further joy for Sri Lanka when Roger Harper was ruled leg before to Sanath Jayasuriya on the last ball of the morning session, to leave the West Indians on 178 for six.

Anurasiri got the initial breakthrough after lunch when he had Junior Murray playing backward missing to be leg before with the score on 191. Muralidharan then chipped

in, capturing the prize wicket of Hooper, caught at forward short leg, and then wiping off the West Indian tail in an inspired spell which left him with figures of four for 47.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the one-off Test between the West Indies and Sri Lanka, here Saturday.

**SRI LANKA:** First Innings 190 (A de Silva 53, A Ranatunga 31, R Kalpage 39, Benjamin 4 for 46, Ambrose 3 for 14).

**WEST INDIES:** (Overnight 99 for 4) Haynes lbw Anurasiri 20 Simmons c Dassanayake b Kalpage 17 Richardson c Dassanayake b Kalpage 51 Lara c Dassanayake b Muralidharan 18

Arthurton c Jayasuriya b Anurasiri 0 Hooper c Samaraweera b Muralidharan 62 Harper lbw Jayasuriya 3 Murray lbw Anurasiri 7 Benjamin b Muralidharan 2 Ambrose not out 7 Walsh c Kalpage b Muralidharan 0

Extras: (lb-5, nb-12) 17 Total: 204

Overs: 78.5 Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-42; 3-78; 4-84; 5-158; 6-178; 7-191; 8-191; 9-204.

**Bowling** O M R W Wickremasinghe 11 0 35 0 Ranatunga 4 1 6 0 Anurasiri 35 6 77 3 Kalpage 10 2 27 2 Muralidharan 15.5 4 47 4 Jayasuriya 3 0 7 1

**SRI LANKA:** 2nd Innings Mahanama c Simmons b Benjamin 11 Samaraweera run out 5 Tillekeratne run out 9 De Silva not out 15 Extras: (lb-2, nb-1) 3 Total: (2 wks) 43

Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-18. **Bowling** O M R W Ambrose 6 2 13 0 Walsh 9.1 0 20 0 Benjamin 6 5 5 1 Harper 1 0 3 0

Plans for World Club Cup unveiled

ZURICH, Switzerland, Dec 11: FIFA on Friday unveiled controversial plans for a World Club Cup to be held every two years, reports Reuter.

FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter, in an interview with the Swiss daily Tages Anzeiger, said a 16 team inaugural tournament would be held in the summer of 1995 if the plans were approved by FIFA executive committee in Las Vegas next week.

FIFA spokesman Andras Herren confirmed the plan for a tournament which would be held every two years, staged in odd years to as not to clash with the World Cup or Olympic soccer tournament.

"We've kept the lid on this plan so far because if it's not approved by the executive committee, it will come to nothing," he said.

Blatter said the tournament would probably Group Eight European teams and two each from the four other confederations in FIFA. There would be no qualifying matches and the confederations would select their own representatives.

The plan is likely to meet a mixed reception. Although some clubs would welcome a chance to take a large slice of extra television money, many others are deeply concerned at the ever growing international programme.

Leading players have also complained at the steady rise in the number of fixtures they are being asked to play with a corresponding increase in injury risks and fatigue.

Div III soccer

Sports Reports

Farhat Khan, with his lone goal, helped Gandaria Famous Club record a 1-0 win over Maghbazir Kriha Chakra in the Progoti Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

The match between Rahmatganj SC and Purbachal Parishad ended in a goalless draw.

Bayern miss it

BONN, Dec 11: Bayern Munich failed to register the win that would have given them a change of clinching the "winter championship" of the Bundesliga when they draw 1-1 with Dynamo Dresden on Friday night, reports Reuter.

In the final round of matches before the winter break, Bayern were lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw in Dresden — needing an 85th minute equaliser from Bruno Labbadia to snatch a point.

Bayern moved on to 24 points from their 20 matches. They are third, level on points with leaders Bayer Leverkusen and second placed Eintracht Frankfurt who play today.

Kaiserslautern and SV Hamburg, who also play today have 23 points and are also in the running to end the first half of the season on top of the table.

Dresden went ahead after 21 minutes through Glaf Marschell and looked set for both points until Labbadia headed home a free kick.

It was Bayern's fourth match without a win. In Friday's other matches Borussia Moenchengladbach won 4-2 at Nuremberg and VfB Stuttgart threated Duisburg 4-0.

DU swimming

The inter-hall swimming competition of Dhaka University was held at the Physical Education Department's Swimming Pool yesterday, reports UNB.

Jagannath Hall became the champions securing three golds, one silver and one bronze. Mohsin Hall bagging two golds and three silver medals was the runners-up in the competition.

Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed inaugurated the competition while Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Wakil Ahmed gave away the prizes among the winners.

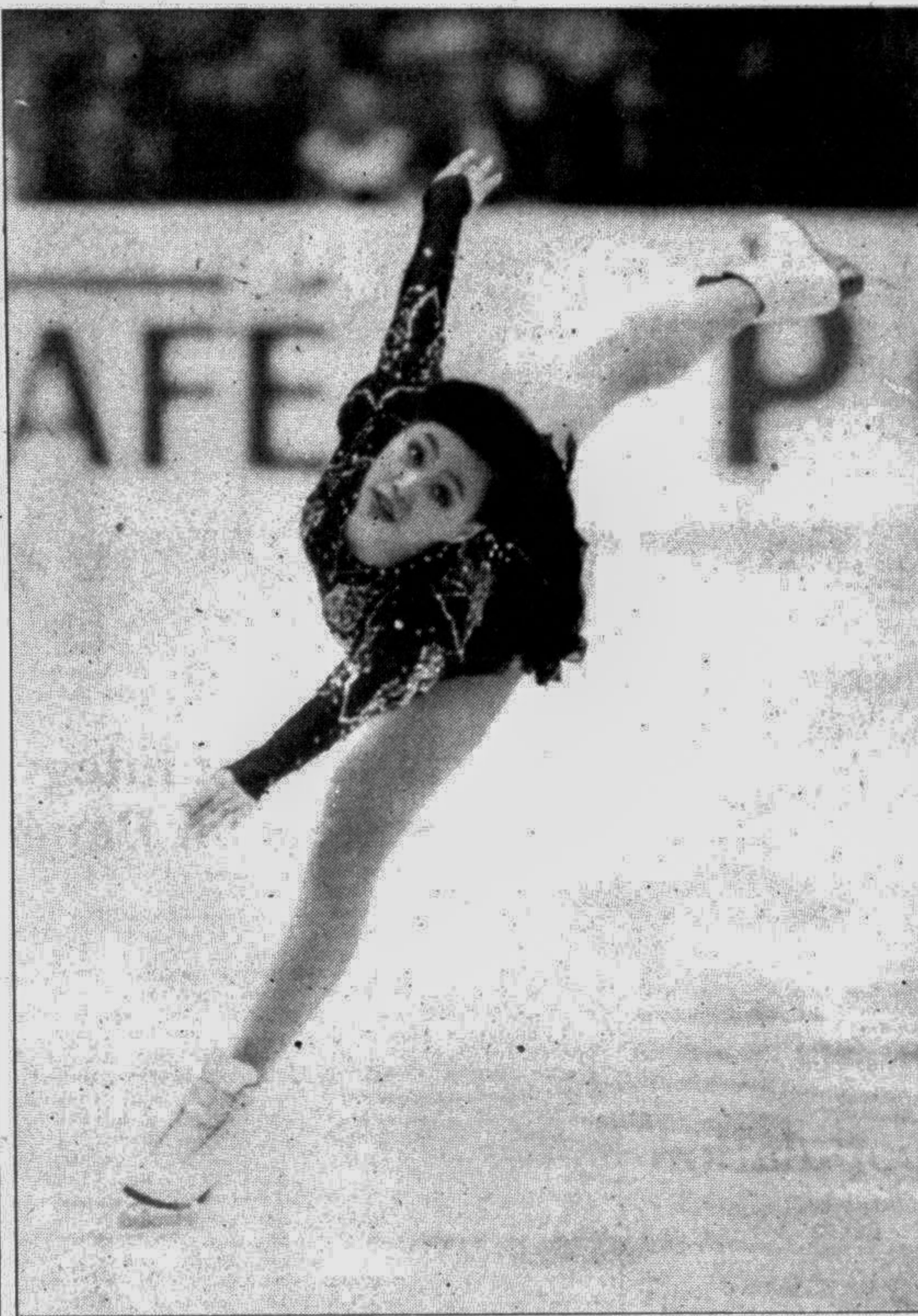
Following are the results of seven events of the competition: 100m freestyle: 1st-Faruque (Mohsin Hall), 2nd-Tofazzal Hossain (Jagannath Hall), 3rd- Dipak Kumar Pal (Jagannath Hall).

100m backstroke: 1st-Niranzan Barman (Jagannath Hall), 2nd-Syed Iqbal Ahmed (Mohsin Hall), 3rd- Abdus Sabur (Jashimuddin Hall).

50m butterfly: 1st-Dipak Kumar Pal (Jagannath Hall), 2nd-Fariduddin (F. Rahman Hall), 3rd- Helaluddin (Fazlul Haque Hall).

50m freestyle: 1st-Tofazzal Hossain (Jashimuddin Hall), 2nd- Omar Faruque (Mohsin Hall), 3rd- Fariduddin (F. Rahman Hall).

50m breaststroke: 1st-Dipak Kumar Pal (Jagannath Hall), 2nd-Sayed Iqbal Anwar (Mohsin Hall), 3rd- K M Mahmood (Shahidullah Hall) and Abdus Sabur (Ziaur Rahman Hall).



Chinese skater Lu Chen going through her routine at the 1993 international figure skating competition in Chiba, Japan yesterday. — AFP photo

Argentina, Germany meet again

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 11: Diego Maradona will be among the notable absentees when Argentina meet Germany in Miami on Wednesday in a friendly play of the last two World Cup finals, reports AFP.

Fernando Redono, Diego Simeone and Gabriel Batistuta were also missing from the 18-man squad announced here on Friday.

Redono (Tenerife), Simeone (Sevilla) and Batistuta (Fiorentina) were denied leave by their European clubs.

Maradona is sidelined with a left thigh injury.

Manager Alfio Basile said the squad would include youngster Ariel Ortega and veteran defender Hernan Diaz.

Diaz was on the 1986 World Championship team, who beat West Germany 3-2 in the World Cup final in Mexico.

In 1990 the Germans lifted the Cup with a 1-0 victory in the championship match in Rome.

The Argentine squad were to leave for Miami tonight, the Germans were to arrive on Monday for the match, which is part of the build-up to the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

While in North America, Germany will play the United States on December 18 in San Francisco and Mexico on December 22 in Mexico City.

2006 WC in Africa likely

PARIS, Dec 11: Africa is likely to stage its first World Cup finals in the year 2006, FIFA president Joao Havelange said in an interview published on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Havelange, speaking one week before the draw in Las Vegas for next year's finals in the United States, told the weekly 'Equipe' magazine Africa was not yet ready to hold the sport's premier tournament.

He said Morocco's bid to stage the 1994 and 1998 World Cups had been rejected because of inadequate infrastructure.

"I've been at some competitions down there where it takes 40 minutes to get a phone line to Europe," he said. "You imagine the situation at World Cup with thousands of journalists trying to phone at the same time."

Passion is one thing, organisation is another. I've told Morocco and other countries on the continent, such as South Africa, which already has sound structures, to continue working to improve their infrastructure.

"I'm convinced that in 2006 Africa will at last have its World Cup."

France has already been awarded the 1998 finals and Asia has been marked out for the 2002 World Cup.

Havelange denied suggestions that Asia would follow Africa in being given a third place in future World Cup finals.

"That's wrong," he said. "Statistics show that in the last three World Cups, Asian teams have scored just one goal in total. To accept a third representative now would be stupid."

Africa's allocation was increased from two to three places after Cameroon's success in reaching the quarter-finals in Italy in 1990.

African soccer

CAIRO, Dec 11: Egypt's Z-malek won soccer's African Champions' Cup when they beat Assante Kotoko of Ghana 7-6 in a penalty shoot-out after a goalless second leg final on Friday, reports Reuter.

Z-malek and Kotoko drew the first leg 0-0 in Kumasi on November 28.

'A gesture of solidarity'

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 11: International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch hopes to visit war-torn Bosnia in February as part of his initiative for an "Olympic Truce," reports AP.

Samaranch said Thursday he would like to make a one-or two-day trip to Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, sometime during the Feb 12-27 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

The visit would be a gesture of solidarity with the city which hosted the Winter Games in 1984. Sarajevo has been torn by war ever since the former Yugoslav republic declared its independence nearly two years ago.

Samaranch said he has twice sought to arrange a trip to Sarajevo, but permission was denied both times.

"I would like to be the people who organised such a wonderful Games in 1984," Samaranch told a news conference at the end of a four-day meeting of the IOC executive board.

Samaranch and the executive board met Wednesday with national Olympic committee officials from Yugoslavia and Croatia. Olympic leaders from Bosnia-Herzegovina were prevented from leaving the country to attend the meeting.

Samaranch said the IOC will seek to arrange talks with officials of the three warring factions in Bosnia — Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

The efforts stem from the IOC's appeal for warring parties to follow ancient Greek tradition and lay down their arms during the Olympics. The UN General Assembly endorsed the initiative in October.

A ceremony to mark the truce is set for Lausanne on Jan 24. Samaranch acknowledged, however, that the chances of achieving a truce are slim.

"We know it is nearly impossible, but it is the duty of the Olympic movement to try," Samaranch said. "If the fighters

stop for a few weeks, may be they could stop for a longer time, may be forever".

Samaranch denied reports that the truce initiative is part of a drive to win the Nobel Peace Prize for the IOC or himself.

On another issue, Samaranch said there will be no drastic changes to the Olympic programme for the 2000 Games, dousing speculation that several sports will be dropped.

"We don't like revolution, we want evolution," he said. "Any changes for the year 2000 will not be major changes."

Robson, Sporting part company

LISBON, Dec 11: Former England manager Bobby Robson cut short his contract with Sporting Lisbon by mutual consent, club president Jose Sousa Cintra said in a statement on Friday, reports Reuter.

Sousa Cintra said Robson's departure followed Sporting's unexpected elimination from the UEFA Cup on Tuesday when they slip a 2-0 first leg lead to go out 3-2 on aggregate on unfancied Austria Salzburg.

"It was easy for us to reach an agreement," Sousa Cintra said, hinting that the club wanted Robson to leave and he did so without much regret.

This decision does not call into question Robson's prestige. I am still his friend but Robson belongs to the past.

"If he goes to train another club, sporting will not pay him any compensation. But if he remains inactive the club will honour its commitments," he added in emphasising the mutual parting of the ways.

Sousa Cintra did not say how much money was at stake. Robson was in his second season with Sporting with his contract due to expire in June next year.

"Nobody understands why Robson altered the lineup in Austria to change it from an attacking team to a defensive one," Sousa Cintra said.



Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Wakil Ahmed distributing prizes among the winners of the DU inter-hall swimming competition held yesterday at the University Swimming Pool. — Star photo

Hawks keep record intact

IN AUBURN HILLS, Mich., Dec 11: The Atlanta Hawks won their 11th straight game, one shy of the franchise record, as Dominique Wilkins scored 20 points in a 105-97 win Wednesday night that extended the Detroit Pistons' losing streak to seven, reports AP.

This is the Hawks' first 11-game winning string since the 1986-87 season. They won 12 in a row from Dec. 8, 1968, to Jan. 3, 1969.

Mokkie Blaylock had 11 points and 13 assists for the Hawks. They next play on Thursday night at home against the San Antonio Spurs.

Joe Dumars had 29 points and led the Pistons to a 105-97 victory over the Hawks in their last game.

In Philadelphia, Dana Barros scored six of his 20 points in overtime and Shawn Bradley played the best game of his rookie season, helping the Philadelphia 76 ers beat Chicago.

The 76 ers snapped a four-game losing streak and stopped Chicago's four-game winning string.

Bradley had 17 points, 10 rebounds and six blocked shots. Shooting just 30.8 per cent from the field going into the game, Bradley made seven of his first 12 before missing five of his last six.

Celtics 129, Kings 115

In Boston, Sherman Douglas had a career-high 21 assists Wednesday night as the Boston Celtics defeated Sacramento, the Kings' eight straight loss and their 15th consecutive defeat at the Boston Garden.

The Kings have not won in Boston since Jan. 17, 1979. They were still based in Kansas City then, and Larry Bird was a college senior.

Douglas, who also scored 18 points, tied Bob Cousy for the third-best passing game ever by a Celtic. Cousy had 21 assists against St. Louis in 1960. The only better assist totals were by Cousy (28) in 1959 and Nate Archibald (23) in 1982.

Trail Blazers 114, Timberwolves 111.

In Minneapolis, Cliff Robinson scored 31 points and the Portland Trail Blazers beat Minnesota despite the best game of Isiah Rider's brief career.

Rider, the fifth pick in last June's draft, started in place of injured guard Doug West and scored 30 points, the most by a Minnesota player this season.

Terry Porter had 25 points, including six of the last seven points for the Blazers. Portland improved to 9-0 all-time in Minnesota.

In Milwaukee, Danny Manning scored 24 points before leaving on a stretcher with two minutes left because of severe leg cramps, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat Milwaukee.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP  
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 V A M L Z T A A X Z O T B L  
 A M M W T R M D G Z L  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALL THE PATIENTS IN THAT WISE PHYSICIAN'S PRACTICE ARE REALLY WELL HEALED.  
 Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals P  
 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.