

England's tattered cricket pride is preparing for a new test as the national squad le-

aves for a three month tour of the West Indies today, reports Few people are betting on a first series victory in the Ca-

ribbean since 1967-68. British bookmakers are offering odds as long as 14-1. But even if they fail to take

the five-match contest, England skipper Mike Atherton is sure his side can at least mend some of the damage of 1993.

The fact that this is the biggest challenge in terms of Test cricket means it's also the biggest opportunity for us," said Atherton.

"Perhaps it is the one chance any of us will have to make a bit of history by ending the West Indies' unbeaten home series record over the past 20

"I'm not saying we will do it. but I hope and believe all the players think we can do it. I know I do."

A step was taken in the right direction at the Oval in August when Atherton led England to a long-awaited victory over Australia.

Seldon can a win have been more welcome after four strai-Lanka followed by another four losses as the Ashes Series turned into an embarrassingly one-sided affair.

For Atherton that victory was a confidence-booster, coming so soon after he had succeeded Graham Gooch as skipper.

Team manager Keith Fletcher earned a little breathing space just when people were starting to wonder about the wisdom of having given him a five-year contract in September

But the real challenge for Friendlies for winnowing

Milutinovic said on Friday he

would use the upcoming series

of friendlies, starting with Nor-

way today, to pare down his

overloaded player pool, reports

Americans will play two more

successive Saturday matches

against World Cup finalists -

taking on Switzerland and then

of games will represent a final

chance to display skills to

Milutinovic and his staff before

the first round of cuts are

chance to let them show us

their progress, but now we have

to decide who stays with US,

Milutinovic said.

"We want to give them a

The Yugoslavian-born coach

used 48 different players in 34

internationals last year, and 14

Marseille

hold on

defender Jocelyn Angloma sent

off midway through the second

half but held French soccer

league leaders Paris Saint-

Germain to a 1-1 draw on

went ahead through interna-

tional midfielder Vincent Guerin

in the 10th minute, but the

European champions equalised

with a strike by German for-

ward Rudi Yoeller after 13 min-

them four ahead of second-

placed Marseille, set the early

pace and Guerin's strike came

from a brilliant pass by striker

emmed from a cross by

champions then thwarted any

attempt by the Parisians to re-

card following a second book-

able offence 22 minutes after

the interval, but PSG did not

manage to exploit their numeri-

cal advantage in front of a

strong before the match be-

tween the arch-rivals but no

Indira Cup eves

hockey results

Final results of the Indira

Gandhi Gold Cup women's

Uzbekistan 0 Kazakhstan 0

South Korea 1 India 0

Scorer: Lee Ji-Young (22nd

Final standings (tabulated

Uzbekistan 4 1 1 2 3 9 3

4 1 1 2 1 6 3

for, goals against, points):

hockey tournament on Friday:

(halftime 1-0)

immute).

Fears of violence remained

48,000 home crowd.

the game, officials said.

Brazilian Anderson da Silva.

Marseille's swift riposte st-

The experienced European

Angloma was shown the red

David Ginola

gain the lead.

PSG, whose 36 points put

The club from the capital

Friday, reports Reuter.

PARIS, Jan 15: Marseille had

For some players, the string

After facing Norway, the

Reuter.

TEMPLE, Arizona,

Jan 15: As the

United States be-

gin their push to

the World Cup.

US coach Bora

both men begins today when a young and relatively inexperienced England squad flies off to tackle the undisputed world champions of Test cricket.

It is a situation almost iden tical to that encountered in



MIKE ATHERTON

1990, when Graham Gooch and Mickey Stewart went back to similar Ashes humiliation.

Caribbean with heads held high after the unluckiest of 2-1 defeats. Now, four years on, Atherton and Fletcher can sense a repeat performance.

Fletcher. "We've got a new capght defeats in India and Shri tain and a young side and, I can tell you, they are a tough bunch.

the drawing board following a England returned from the

players earned three caps or

names still on his list, Milu-

tinovic must whittle it down to a

more manageable number with

Thai phobia

football club has withdrawn

ment here at the end of the

month because of fears over

player safety, the Bangkok Post

the report linked Al-Shahab

Club's decision to the murders

of four Saudi Embassy officials

here in 1989 and 1990 and said

members might not have felt

problem" as the official reason

for not taking part in the

January 28-to-February 7 tour-

nament. Thai government and sports

bodies could not immediately be

by telephone, said he was

on the eve of deputy foreign

minister Surin Pitsuwan's de-

parture for Saudi Arabia and

talks aimed at easing strained

murders, the disappearance

and murder of a Saudi busi-

nessman in 1990 and the 1989

theft of some 20 million dollar

in jewels from a Saudi prince by

his Thai servant have troubled

In Addition to the Embassy

A Saudi diplomat, contacted

News of the withdrawal came

The club gave "an internal

safe playing in Thailand.

reached for confirmation.

unaware of the matter.

bilateral relations.

relations.

Citing an unnamed source,

reported today, reports AFP.

from an Asian Football tourna-

BANGKOK, Jan 15: A Saudi

But with approximately 40

senior members of the party. while Alec Stewart, Robin Smith and Graeme Hick are key components in the batting order.

then Devon Malcolm and Angus "It's a fresh start;" said Fraser will need to reproduce the form that set up a shock Test victory in Jamaica four

**England** itinerary January 23-26 v Antigua XI (Antigua), 29-31 v St Kitts and

Nevisi (St Kitts) February 3-6 Leeward Islands (Antigua), 10-13 v Brabados (Barbados), 16 v West Indies (Barbados), 19-24 v West Indies (Jamaica), 26 v West Indies (Jamaica).

March 2 v West Indies (St Vincent), 5 v West Indies (Trinidad), 6 v West Indies (Trinidad), 10-13 v WI Board President's XI (Guyana), 17-22 v West Indies (Guyana), 25-30 v West Indies (Trinidad).

April 2-5 v WI Board XI (Grenada), 8-13 v West Indies (Barbados), 16-21 v West Indies (Antigua).

#### Ma puts his foot down

BEIJING, Jan 15: China's iron-fisted athletics coach Ma Junren said in an interview published today that he had to drop a world champion from his squad for the good of his whole star-studded team, reports Reuter.

they're going to try their very

a home series since Australian

beat them in 1973, an England

troduce new faces following the

retirements of Viv Richards,

Gordon Greenidge, Jeff Dujon

and Malcolm Marshall, but not

much has changed results-wise.

beat Pakistan at home last year

without any of the old guard.

Under Richie Richardson's as-

tute leadership, there is now a

the likes of Brian Lara, Keith

Arthurton, Jimmy Adams and

Anderson Cummins should in-

spire England's youngsters

Graham Thorpe, Nasser Hu-

ssain, Mark Ramprakash and

Andy Caddick over the next 14

their Test places. But the series

is likely to be won or lost by

All are hoping to cement

Atherton's form will be vital

If England are to bowl out

West Indies twice in a match,

the opening World Cup match

timetable of April 25 for the fi-

nal cutdown of domestic-based

players. "Then we'll bring in the

European (based) players one

the holidays, Milutinovic plans

to play most of his front-line

players against Norway, though

he is expected to take a first

look at two players - midfield-

ers Claudio Reyna and Dario

handful granted leave from

clubs in England and Belgium.

ever, will be defender Rune Bra-

tseth, who is nursing an injury

and goalkeeper Erik Thorstvedt,

who just arrived here after

playing a midweek match for

England club Tottenham

play in Norway's second match

of their US trip, on Thursday

against Costa Rica in San

NORWAY: Grodas, Berg.

Probable lineups:

Thorstvedt is expected to

Among those missing, how-

Reyna recently joined the

After a one-month layoff for

Milutinovic has set a

less than six months away.

by one," he said.

Brose.

Hotspur.

Diego.

But the progress made by

team back on top of the world.

They won in Australia and

victory would be sensational.

As West Indies have not lost

West Indies have had to in-

best to achieve it."

Ma's decision to dismiss 20year-old Liu Dong - in a fight over the 1,500-metre world champion's love life and other disciplinary infractions - has been the talk of China's tightly controlled Press over the past

"I expelled Li Dong." Ma bluntly told the official China Youth Daily.

When the reporter pointed out that Liu was a world champion, the coach replied:

"Yes bout she is not the only world champion on my team. It they all were like her, how could I possibly manage them in the future?" Saying that if he let Liu have

her way all his stars would begin making demands, Ma said: "The Ma family army's team spirit and discipline cannot be destroyed by one person." Ma said the problem with

Liu's love life - she insisted on having a boyfriend even though team rules forbade romance -was only one issue.

She also wanted to have the mercedes benz she had once won as a prize even though team rules said all awards, had to be split with the coach.

"According to this calculation, Liu Dong is only entitled to half a car," the newspaper said.

Ma in addition accused Liu of working only for her own glory and not for the good of the team. Finally, he objected to Liu's letting her hair grow long instead of the regulation short cut he demanded.

Another official newspaper said recently that Ma was so furious with Liu hurled her suitcase and her championship cup down the stairs, halted her wages and bonuses and ordered her to write two self-criticisms a

The China Youth Daily said national sports officials had asked Liu to rethink her actions honestly and write a deep selfcriticism. It did not say if she had complied.

#### Inebriate *overtures*

BONN, Jan 15: German brewers were urged to provide free beer to the country's competitors at next month's Lillehammer Winter Olympics because the Germans' favourite drink costs too much in Norway, reports Reuter.

team after being named the top "German brewers, support US college player. Brose will get our Olympic team. Free beer for a two-game tryout while on lea-Lillehammer," the country's ve from French club St Brieuc. biggest newspaper Bild said on Norway also has brought on its front page on Friday. most of their top players, with a

Bild complained that Lillehammer barmen would be charging between 14 and 25 marks (3 dollars and 14 dollars) for half a litre of beer - between three and five times more expensive than in Germany.

"The prices are so horrific that even the polar bears are getting cold feet," Bild said.

Despite the fact the 1992 Games were held in France, world famous for its cuisine, the German luge and bobsleigh team set up a special beerkeller at the Olympic track which service free traditional Bavarian

The restaurant, which was built in the garage of a house near the end of the track, was sponsored by a Bavarian brewery and butcher.

Interestingly enough in view of Bild's call, the restaurant also served German journalists

## fence of his Open title at

an Shelton in the first round.

on Monday, reports Reuter. ready for the Australian Open,"

said the left-handed lvanisevic, who served at only half-pace during a 4-6, 2-6 defeat by Sweden's Stefan Edberg in an exhibition event on Friday.

of the Australian Open.

"He was just a little bit off," conceded Sampras, after his opponent managed to hold serve only three times in the match. "He was still going for his shots despite the wind and kept on missing."

Mary-Joe Fernandez of the United States plays a backhand return to Argentina's Gabriela

Sabatini in the semifinals of the New South Wales Open in Sydney yesterday. Fernandez won

Sampras, Lendl in final

larly, including twice on break points against him and once on match point, while Sampras could only manage to put 41 per cent of his first serves in.

But as in his previous matches - he has dropped only one set all week - the 22-yearold American re-established control when it mattered. He reached 10 finals in 1993, winning eight, and will be favourite to retain his title against Lendl. Lendl, a Czech-born Ame-

rican, had never previously advanced beyond the quarterfinals at White City but appeared greatly encouraged by his win over Richey Reneberg on Thursday when he fired 28

aces, more than he has managed in a match for three years. He quickly took the initiative

- AFP photo

against Martin, who beat him in the first round of the Sydney indoor tournament late last year, and wrapped up victory in 73 minutes. "You can't let the wind frus-

trate you," he said. "It was difficult but I thought I played okay." Date's win over Martinez was

encouraging news for second seed Gabriela Sabatini who had earlier moved a step closer to her first singles title in 20 months. The Argentine world number

five took 69 minutes to dispose of Germany's Barbara Rittner 6-1, 6-3, an almost exact repeat of last year's quarter-final between the pair which Sabatini also won in straight sets. Sabatini, whose last tour-

nament success came at the 1992 Italian Open, insists her title drought will end soon.

#### Fernandez sends Sabatini packing SYDNEY, Jan 15: way to go.



Mary Joe Fernandez ruined Gabriela Sabatini's hopes of a first tour title in 20 months

as she eased into the women's singles final at the New South Wales Open today, reports

beat the second-seeded Argentine 7-5, 6-1, a less stressful victory than in last year's French Open, when she recovered from a set and 5-1 down against Sabatini to win the third-longest women's match in

Today's match, delayed for four hours and then interrupted twice by rain, lasted only 90 minutes and earned Fernandez a final appearance against Japan's Kimiko Date who beat American Patty Fendick 6-2, 5-

Fernandez absent from the tour in the latter stages of 1993 after abdominal surgery and form, was understandably de-

performance," said the American world number seven, who spent the prematch rain break playing dominoes. "I'm getting

Sabatini, 3-0 down almost immediately, saved two set points at 5-3 in the first set and began to approach the net with some success.

after the second rain delay at 2-I in the second set, losing the final five games without reply against an opponent who grew visibly in confidence.

Fernandez is seeded to meet world number one Steffi Graf in the quarter-finals at the Australian Open and may turn out to be one of the more serious obstacles to the German

Sabatini, who last won on the women's tour at the Italian Open in May 1992, insisted her title drought is not a permanent problem. "It's not going to happen right away but I know the results are going to come," she

Date had to maintain her second WTA tour final outside

was forced into a third set when Fendick saved a match point at 5-4 in the second but finally returned to the court at the fifth attempt to end the American's resistance.

Chang dominated the match in the early part of the first set as Rikl was still trying to find the right style to fight the world

world, started to find a comfort-

coloured by power-on-power rallies, continued in the early

again after the sixth game and closed the set 6-3 with his steep cross smash cutting short a lob from his opponent.

nents ran out of steam and began to loose coordination.

#### track afire HAMILTON, Ontario, Jan 15:

American Jearl Miles, the 400 games, reports Reuter.

wanted to run," Miles said after lowering the mark she set here last year by nearly half a "This meet just shows me

where I am. It looks pretty good. I'm going to try to build on

The upset of the meet was registered by American Henry Neal, who narrowly defeated Canadian world indoor sprint champion Bruny Surin in the 50-metre dash.

Neal, who also won the opening sprint of the Mobil Grand Prix last weekend in Saskatoon, clocked a time of 5.69 seconds. Surin was second

Two-time Olympic silver medalist Juliet Cuthbert of Jamaica captured the women's 50 metres in 6.30 seconds over American Teresa Neigbors, who

peared to have run the 3,000 metres just four seconds off the cials realised the race was run one lap short (145.16 metres).

Three-time world indoor champion Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland won the mile in 4:02.40, easily defeating Lhoussine Siba

In the pole vault, American Billy Payne cleared 5.50 metres (5:35). Simon Arkell of Aus-

#### UK sportscribe commits suicide

LONDON, Jan 15: British athletics journalists called today for an inquiry into allegations of sexual harassment against a sports writer and coach who committed suicide, reports Reuter. Clife Temple, 46, athletics

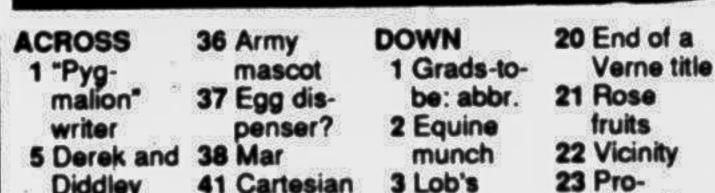
correspondent of the Sunday Times for the past 25 years and also a leading coach, was found dead on a railway line last week. In a sufcide not found at his home, he denied the harassment allegations. Temple was treated for de-

pression last year after a di vorce from his wife, who moved out of the family home with their four children to live with another man. The British Athletics

Writers Association said if would ask the British Athletic federation (BAF) to investigate claims that Temple harassed women athletes he coached. Other sports writers and coaches say promoter Andy

Norman made the allegations to them. A BAF spokesman told Saturday's Guardian newspaper that Norman had undertaken that any such action would In a critical article last year

Temple said Norman held too much power in British athlet ics. Norman is not only the BAF's promoter but also the agent for world champions Linford Christie and Colin Jackson



Lob's 41 Cartesian Diddley conclusion path 8 Gloomy 4 Dim 42 Flagcover 5 Italy, to 12 Hard to staff's st. cartogra-43 Home of find 13 Ump's call phers a famous 6 "- Town" 14 Theater rock 7 Direction quartet? award 8 Conduc-15 Button-48 African tor's place 31 Too activist wood

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49 "- Ruled Herbert the World" 10 Kitchen book 18 "Krazy —" 50 Basin 19 Newspaaccessory 51 Spotted 52 Gl's bed **53** End 21 "Roots"

24 Woman of the Haus 25 Unyielding 26 Doubleedged sword 30 Write 31 Fetches flies

32 Central

33 Native

chief

**35** Pip

author

17 Frank

ATONE REA 40 Per-BROADLOOM OAR PEAWIZARD AMBERS ATAD FAR SEE EPSOM SAMSIRE WEALMAOB DRAMNOVELS MIA BROADAXES ASS LEDGE ICE I CE 45 Have bills American ELDER SOX

9 Be

11 Ogle

16 Has

Solution time: 24 mins.

flooring,

for short

potential

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer in Nantes 29 Whirlpool

CRYPTOQUIP

NGPQAUDAPASBFD ZJFFK EXBVX EAUWQOBUS EAJPW NGBUD RQFD FDBVH DA XBF OBRF. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ILL-TEMPERED

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.



Japan's Kimiko Date blasts a return to Patty Fendick of the United States in the New South Wales Open semifinals Kazakhstan 4 0 1 3 0 10 1 1

## beer and sausages to the team.

Nilsen, Johnsen, T Pederson, Strandli, Mykland, Leonhardsen, Rekdal, Flo, Frigard. UNITED STATES: Meola

Armstrong, Lala, Lapper, Agoos, Doole, Sorber, Kinnear, Henderson, Jones, More.



yesterday Date won the match 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 - AFP photo

#### South Wales Open, reports Korda double-faulted regu-World number one Sampras did his best to ignore the

"windiest conditions I've ever had to play through" to earn a 6-3, 6-3 victory over the previously in-form Petr Korda and reach his second successive final in Sydney. The 33-year-old Lendl, who

breezed into the final of the New

SYDNEY, Jan 15:

Strong winds fai-

led to knock Pete

Sampras or Ivan

Lendl off course

on Friday as they

7-5, 6-1.

held the world number one spot for 157 weeks from 1985-88, showed typical determination in the other semifinal to beat sixth seed Todd Martin 6-4, 6-2 and secure his first final appearance in five visits to the tournament. Women's top seed Conchita

Martinez proved less able to handle the blustery conditions as she spiralled to a 6-3, 6-0 defeat to Japan's Kimiko Date, admitting afterwards: "I played like a beginner."

Sampras lost to world number 11 Korda in five dramatic sets at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich last month but a repeat classic was never in prospect' just three days before the start

### Courier tunes up

ADELAIDE, Jan 15: American Jim Courier completed his preparations for the Australian Open with a crushing victory over Sweden's Stefan Edberg on Saturday, reports Reuter. Courier, who begins the de-

Melbourne's Flinders Park on Monday, beat Edberg 6-2, 6-3 in the final of an exhibition Courier, seeded three in Melbourne, faces American Bry

### Ivanisevic optimistic

ADELAIDE, Jan 15: Croat Goran Ivanisevic aggravated an elbow injury on Friday but said he hoped to be fit for the Australian Open which starts

"I hope I am going to be

# Reuter.

Fernandez, seeded third.

the Open era.

still feeling her way back to lighted with the result.

back there slowly, but I've still a

7, 6-1 in the other semifinal.

"It was a very satisfying

tracted

outward

confident

parrot

35 Hot time

37 Scroog-

38 Pats

39 Indy

ean cry

lightly

racer

Luyendyk

former's

handful

earth-

44 Vessel in

tabloid

stories

46 Turmeric

47 Mess up

quake...

24 Spread

26 Irascible

28 Nothing,

27 Sign

tangent to 34 Greenish

Japan.

But she folded completely

concentration through four rain breaks before reaching only her

The 23-year-old fifth seed

HBUW SEAMSTRESS PRODUCED A CROSS STITCH. Today's Cryptoquip clue: R equals B The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one

#### Chang wins Indonesian Open JAKARTA, Jan 15: American

Michael Chang retained his Indonesia Open men's tennis title here Saturday after defeating unseeded Czech David Riki in

straight sets 6-3, 6-3, reports In the tournament's doubles, Australian Neil Borwick and Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman beat Jorge Lozano from Mexico and

American Jim Pugh in straight sets 6-4, 6-1. First-seeded Chang pocketed prize money of 42,000 dollars.

The 22-year-old Chang repeated his semi final score against Morocco's Youness El Aynaoui when he beat the lefthanded Rikl to clinch his first championship this year.

number seven. Rikl, ranked 95th in the

able baseline play after the fifth game and began to step up the tempo to put on a good fight, including scoring the tournament's first service break against Chang. The rapid tempo match,

parts of the second set. Chang dominated the court

In the doubles' final, Borwick and Bjorkman faced a tough, fast match, but the pace slowed in the second set as their oppo-

### Miles sets

metres world champion, set a meet record on Friday by winning the 500 metres in one minute 11-01 seconds at the Hamilton spectator indoor "That's excellent. That's what

in 5,72.

clocked 6.37. American Rueben Reina apworld indoor record until offi-

of Morocco (4:04.10)

to easily outdistance Canadian Dough Wood. Dean Sharkey of the United States was third tralia, the Commonwealth's number one ranked pole vaulter in 1993, was a disappointing fourth (5.25).