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Aftermath of a holocaust

LONDON, Mar 31: England's humiliating batting display in the third cricket Test against West Indies has provoked powerful criticism and brought renewed calls for the county game to be restructured, reports Reuter.

While manager Keith Fletcher and the cricket authorities in England preferred to focus on Curtly Ambrose's devastating fourth-day bowling display, former Test players from both camps were decrying a lack of technique among the English batsmen.

England flirted briefly with hopes of a rare victory as they entered their second innings needing 194 to win. But they disintegrated on Tuesday when Ambrose ripped through the batting with an awesome spell of six for 22.

They were blasted out for just 46 runs, their lowest score this century.

The last two wickets added six runs on Wednesday morning to avoid the all-time low of 45, registered in Australia 107 years ago, but could neither cover up the shame nor disguise the lack of spirit in the side.

Former England captain Bob Willis and ex-West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding both said the English county game should be restructured to raise standards which, they said, had slipped alarmingly.

Willis also criticised selectors for sending a young, inexperienced team to the Caribbean and leaving out seasoned veterans David Gower and Allan Lamb.

But Tim Lamb, secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), rejected suggestions that England were badly prepared for the series and dismissed calls for changes.

"I refute totally claims that England were ill prepared for the West Indies," he said. "We had a week longer in the West Indies at the start of this tour than we had four years ago."

"For most of this Test we played well and got ourselves in a position to win. But suddenly a truly magnificent spell of fast bowling from Curtly Ambrose shattered everything."

Willis said: "We have got to restructure the game completely in England. We should limit the number of overseas players in the counties."

Holding, who spent several seasons with Derbyshire, said: "There must be something wrong with the cricket being played in England."

Both Holding and Willis

were critical of the number of batsmen who were clean-bowled.

"The English batsmen's technique was not good enough," Holding said. "They don't get across the line and cover their stumps like West Indians."

Holding suggested dividing the English county championship into two leagues, with players in the Second Division paid less. "That would motivate players because right now there's too much mediocrity," he said.

Lamb, however, defended the TCCB. "I don't think there is any use in gophers criticism — for everyone to go over-the-top asking for heads to roll," he said.

"A new structure has been put in place. We have had one year of four-day championship cricket and hopefully in time that will bear fruit."

"We have a new captain whose appointment people welcomed — and obviously we have to stick by him. And the decision to appoint Ray Illingworth as chairman of selectors earlier this month was also a radical move."

Ambrose canonised

PORT OF SPAIN, Mar 31: Two months ago Curtly Ambrose was talking of quitting, reports Reuter.

As England cricketers come to terms with their biggest humiliation this century, bowled out for 46, they must dearly wish the "Antiguan Assassin" had gone ahead.

"I won't be in the game for much longer, I can tell you that," he had promised. "I am getting tired of playing cricket, cricket and cricket all the time. I have lost some interest in playing because we are playing so much."

"I just want to make my contribution and get out."

Now, Ambrose, arguably the world's most feared bowler, is intent on making it a 5-0 series sweep, for the West Indies.

Australians remember him well. A year ago his destruction of their prime batsmen in the fourth and fifth Tests gave West Indies a splendid 2-1 series win.

He inspired their success with 33 wickets, at an average of 16.42.

In one spell in the fifth Test Ambrose took seven wickets for one run off 32 balls — one

of the most devastating bursts in Test history.

Ambrose, 30, can constantly punish his body with his fearless run-up and delivery, yet not suffer injury.

Players say he has immense courage, pushing himself through stresses and strains that would sideline most bowlers.

He quickly assesses the batsman's weakness and goes for it, bringing his arm over from a height which intimidates the life out of his opponents.

Ambrose rates his six for 22 spell on Tuesday along with his six for one against Australia last year as his best.

"They are all very similar in that we were down and out, more or less," he said.

"I am happy to come back and produce the goods but it is difficult to say which is the best as they all produced results. All three are my best performances ever."

Australian captain Allan Border, who dispenses praise and criticism carefully, puts Ambrose among the best four he has played.

The others are West Indians Joel Garner, Michael Holding and Pakistani Wasim Akram.

"He has got to be in the Hall of Fame," says Border.

Evans eclipses Weismuller's record

FEDERAL WAY, Mar 31: Janet Evans is one up on the late Johnny Weissmuller.

The reigning US distance swimming queen won her 37th national title, one more than Weissmuller and 11 fewer



JANET EVANS

than all-time leader Tracy Caulkins, by taking the 800-metre race in the US Swimming Championships on Wednesday, reports AP.

Evans, 22, won in a pedestrian 8 minutes, 32.44 seconds, taking the lead after the first lap of the 16-lap event in the King County Aquatic Center's 50-metre pool. She didn't have much competition.

Evans holds the women's world record in the 800 at 8:16.22 set in 1989. Her best time in the 800 this year is 8:23.61.

Tom Dolan, 18, won the men's 800 in 7:56.33, the fastest 800 by a US man in seven years.

It was Evans' 10th national title in the 800 freestyle, tying Mel Stewart (200-metre butterfly) and the retired Mary T. Meagher (200 butterfly) for the most championships in a single event. Stewart expected to win his 11th title in the 200 butterfly on Thursday, the second day of the five-day meet.

After Evans' race, a fan handed her a Johnny Weissmuller trading card as a souvenir. Weissmuller, who became a movie Tarzan after his swimming career ended, competed in the 1924 and 1928 Olympics.

"It was really neat," Evans said. "Wow, he's such a legend and he's so neat. Wow, it's kind of great to me. It does mean a lot to me I think I will realize it someday when I'm done."

Evans, a four-time Olympic gold medalist and holder of world records in the 400- and 1500-metre freestyle, wasn't satisfied with her time but was happy with the result.

European officials have worked behind the scenes to unseat Havelange, a Brazilian who has headed the world governing body since 1974. But following a meeting last week at Tunis, Tunisia, it appeared Havelange had solidified his support.

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Havelange, who will be 78 in May, has been criticised for his autocratic style. He banned Pele, soccer's greatest player, from the World Cup draw in December because Pele and Havelange's son-in-law oppose each other in a lawsuit in Brazil.

FIFA will hold its presidential election at Chicago on June 16, the day before the 1994 World Cup begins.

Johansson, once considered a potential candidate against Havelange, ruled himself out of the race last week. Another heavyweight, FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter, reportedly said he wouldn't run unless Havelange withdrew his candidacy.

Havelange angered UEFA officials last month by announcing he had unanimous support for his candidacy. The Europeans later said that they hadn't asked him to run for re-election.

A clash of Titans on cards

LONDON, Mar 31: Barcelona and AC Milan edged closer to a dream European Cup final on Wednesday as semifinal places were settled, reports Reuter.

The Catalans' emphatic 3-0 victory over Galatasary put them top of Group A of the Champions' League.

A draw at Monaco in their final game in two weeks time will be enough to ensure they play their semifinal at home and avoid mighty Milan, assuming the Italians win Group B.

Former champions Milan, who stayed top and unbeaten in their group after a lacklustre 0-0 home draw with Anderlecht, need only draw away to Porto on April 13 to meet Monaco at their imposing San Siro ground in one of the April 27 semifinals.

Monaco, who began the day with identical points and goal difference to Barcelona, were held 0-0 away to Spartak Moscow in a snowstorm that did not, however, curtail some good, exciting football that belied the result.

Porto, whose 5-0 away rout of Werder Bremen left them in second place in Group B one point ahead of Anderlecht, are in the semifinals because they had the better of their two games against the Belgians — a 2-0 victory at home on March 16 against a 1-0 defeat in Brussels two weeks earlier.

Anderlecht could still finish on the same number of points as the Portuguese, European champions in 1987, if Porto lose to Milan in Porto and the Belgians beat Werder at home.

But the competition rules state that when two sides finish their group matches equal on points the side with the better record in their direct

confrontations will qualify.

Monaco have done well for France in this season's competition following the ban of holders, Marseille over a match-fixing scandal.

Barcelona, despite beating Monaco 2-0 at Nou Camp in December, will be wary of Monaco's home record in the Champions' League — a 4-1 against Spartak and 3-0 over Galatasaray.

But Monaco will have noted the variety of options open to Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff. His experiment with a different combination against the Turks, sacrificing Bulgarian

striker Hristo Stoichkov from among his four foreigners, paid off well enough.

Werder, against Porto, were unable to repeat the remarkable comeback they achieved at home to Anderlecht in December when they were 3-0 down with 24 minutes to go and won 5-3, the Germans have also slumped in the Bundesliga in recent weeks.

Porto, with 10 goals are the second most prolific scorers in the Champions' league after Barcelona, who have needed 12. Milan have scored just six in their five games.

Benfica of Portugal and England's Arsenal had the better of the first legs in the Cup Winners' Cup semifinals, both of which were played on Tuesday.

Midfielder Rui Costa scored after an hour to give Benfica a 2-1 home victory over holders Parma after laying on the Portuguese side's sixth minute opening goal for striker Isaias Soares. Italian international Gianfranco Zola scored Parma's first half equaliser.

England striker Ian Wright put Arsenal ahead in their 1-1 draw with Paris St Germain, a precious away goal that made the English side favourites to reach the final in Copenhagen on May 4. David Ginola equalised for the French league leaders.

Thousands left before the second match of the evening, where Egypt and Nigeria played out a goalless draw in their Group B match.

Perec plans to move to US

PARIS, Mar 31: Olympic champion Marie Jose Perec of France said Thursday she has decided to move to the United States for the next two years to train under coach John Smith, reports AP.

Perec, who won the 400 metres at the 1992 Summer Olympics in addition to the 1991 world 400 title, said she will leave Saturday to work with Smith at Westwood, Calif.

Smith coaches several world-class athletes, including Olympic 400-metre hurdle champion and world record-holder Kevin Young.

Perec has been unhappy recently in France and refused to run at the European Indoor Track Championships in Paris. Her longtime coach, Jacques Pisienta, broke off his ties with her.

Perec, long regarded as temperamental, is the sixth-best performer of all-time in the women's 400 with a 48.83 at the Barcelona Games.

Her departure to California was approved by the French Track Federation, which said she will still compete for the French national team for the European Cup, the French Championships and the European Championships.

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Tyson may get sentence modification

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Mar 31: Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson could be released from jail in June, if the judge who sentenced him to six years for rape accepts a petition from the boxer, reports AP.

The heart of Dutch enigma

LONDON, Mar 31: Dutch soccer players are rated among the best in the world.

Marco van Basten, Ruud Gullit, Ronald Koeman, Dennis Bergkamp and Frank Rijkaard would fit into anybody's all-star lineup.

But what happens when they perform together as a World Cup team? Not much, it seems.

"It's a mystery," Dutch midfielder Jan Wouters said during a visit to London. "It may be that many people have a tough season behind them and maybe their strength has gone. But other players, like the Germans, have to deal with that."

"The last few years it's getting better because we managed to qualify for the European Championships and the World Cups," said Wouters, who will turn 34 on July 17, the day of this summer's World Cup final.

"In that respect, you can't

really talk about inconsistency. But when we get there, something is wrong. We don't really get very far in the finals. We only managed it once and that was when we won the 1988 European Championships."

"A lot of people say we have a lot of talent so we have to aim for the final," Wouters said. "But Italy (1990) was a disaster for us. The players were out of shape."

The Dutch failed to reach the quarterfinals in Italy. They were World Cup runners-up in 1974 and 1978.

One of the stars of the 1974 World Cup team was Johan Cruyff, currently in charge of Spanish soccer giant Barcelona. Cruyff hoped to be national team coach at this World Cup, but differences with the Dutch federation over his business interests meant the team kept Dick Advocaat instead.

"I would have preferred Johan Cruyff because he was a big influence on my football career," Wouters said. "It would

have been nice in my last big event to get to the end of it with Johan Cruyff. But I know Advocaat very well and he's a good trainer. Our performances at the World Cup will be as good as with Cruyff."

Missing the World Cup along with Cruyff will be van Basten, who is out with ankle injuries. But Wouters, currently recovering from a calf muscle injury, expects to be there.

So, he believes, will Gullit. The striker, who has successfully switched this season from AC Milan to another Italian club, Sampdoria, appears to have settled, his differences with Advocaat.

"He's going to come. It was just a misunderstanding between the two of them," Wouters said. "At the time Gullit was out of form and he said he wouldn't play for Dick Advocaat's team again."

"Now he's playing well, he's like the Gullit of old. He's cleared his head and started to play better."

UEFA to keep quiet for a while

BARCELONA, Spain, Mar 31: The governing body of European soccer won't disclose whether it's fielding a candidate to oppose FIFA president Joao Havelange until a meeting of the five continental federations next Tuesday at Zurich, Switzerland, reports AP.

After the executive committee of the Union of European Football Associations met Wednesday for three hours, UEFA president Lennart Johansson said the body had reached a decision.

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Quiz 1. Entries close on 14-04-94

Read the instructions carefully. Then tick (✓) the answer which you think is correct.

- When was the inaugural World Cup held? 1930 1932 1934
- Who were the first World Cup champions? Brazil Chile Uruguay
- How many teams took part in the first World Cup? 12 13 16
- Which country hosted the second World Cup? Spain Italy Brazil
- Which country has played in all the World Cup finals? Italy Brazil France
- How many goals were scored in the 1938 final? 4 5 6
- When did England make its World Cup debut? 1938 1934 1950
- How many goals did French striker Just Fontaine score in the 1958 tournament? 11 12 13
- When did Pele make his World Cup debut? 1954 1958 1962
- How many hatricks were scored in Italy-90? 1 2 3

COMPETITION RULES

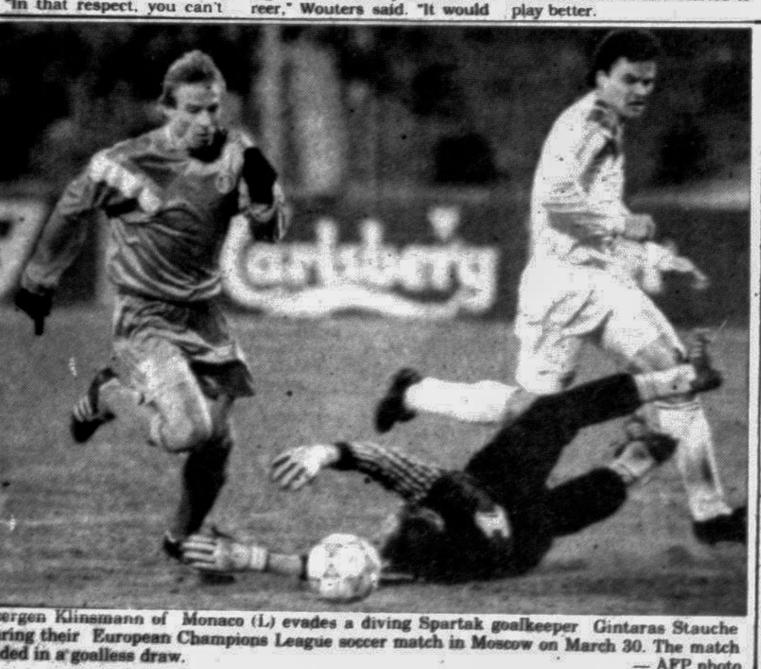
- Each entry form should be clearly filled-in complete with a ball-point pen. Participant's name, address, father's name, must be clearly written. Each entry form must bear the correct date and signature of the participant.
- Participants must ensure the following: All entries must reach the office of The Daily Star on or before the closing date marked on the entry form. Envelopes of entries must be clearly marked "STAR QUIZ". Entries may be hand delivered or sent by post to The Daily Star House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka: 1205.
- Entries will be opened by The Daily Star authorities. Entries with all correct answers will be placed in a sealed box for the lucky draw, to be held on the notified/appointed date in public in the presence of invited guests and quiz participants, if any.
- The Daily Star authorities, in their absolute discretion, reserve the right to amend, modify or substitute any of the above rules and/or change or reschedule any and all dates of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94 in any circumstances.
- All participants agree to abide by all rules, instructions and guidelines as may be issued, from time to time, by The Daily Star authorities. Participants' entry in the quiz competition shall be construed as their respective agreement to all such rules, instructions and guidelines.
- Any decision of The Daily Star authorities in the conduct of the Quiz Competition (including the answers selected as correct) shall be deemed final and binding on all participants and shall not be called in question and/or challenged in any manner whatsoever.

RULES

- Residents of Bangladesh, subject to these rules, will be eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94. All personnel of The Daily Star, Unirent (advertising agency) and Transcom Electronics Ltd. and all its affiliate companies shall be deemed disqualified to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz'94.
- Participants are to cut the original form along the indicated dotted lines. All entries must be submitted on the original form printed in The Daily Star. Photocopies or reproductions in any form will not be accepted.
- Participants are to put a tick (✓) mark in the box which they think is the correct answer to the question. A person may send as many entries in his/her own name and address.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ FATHER'S NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Write with a ball-point pen in clear, CAPITAL LETTERS. Cut along the dotted lines and mail it to us FAST!



Juergen Klinsmann of Monaco (L) evades a diving Spartak goalkeeper Gintaras Stauche during their European Champions League soccer match in Moscow on March 30. The match ended in a goalless draw. — AFP photo