



A midfield tussle from yesterday's crucial Star Premier Division football league encounter between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Mohammedans won one-nil. —Star photo

MSC edge past Muktiyoddha

Sports Reporter

A win would have put star-studded Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kirra Chakra back into the title race and they surely played for one, creating as many as six scoring opportunities but their stars were not in the right alignment and at end of last night's crucial Star Premier Division football league encounter against reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club at the floodlit Dhaka Stadium, the Federation Cup winners found themselves undone by a 33rd minute goal from Russian Andrei Kazakov.

The lone goal win not only kept Mohammedans' all-win record against the star-studded squad in the league but also placed them at par on points with last night's losers and Brothers Union at 20 from 15 matches. Yesterday's outcome came as a blessing for Abahani Kirra Chakra, who currently reign at the top of the points table with 23 from 14 outings and are only a few steps away from regaining the league title they surrendered to their arch-rivals last year.

The second match of the day billed for the big bowl saw the men in black and whites dominated by a rejuvenated Muktiyoddha for most of the regulation period. Apart from Kazakov's strike and a couple of chances in the first half, the holders were kept busy defending their own citadel throughout the match.

Muktiyoddha, desperately needing a victory to stay in the title race, penetrated the Mohammedan defence in the very third minute of the proceedings when Mizanur Rahman unleashed a blistering drive from the edge of the box only to see goalkeeper Lahul fisting the goal-bound ball over the bar for a corner.

Rakib and Naqib squandered two easy chances in the space of five minutes with the former shooting just wide off the mark after national winger Mamun Joarder had set him up with a neat minus.

Naqib had a relatively easy chance when a Mamun Joarder piledriver came his way after bouncing off the Mohammedan goaltender but he only managed to shoot the ball wide from a point blank range, to the utter dismay of the Muktiyoddha camp.

Having survived three close calls, the black and whites turned around and nearly went two goals up but thanks to Asad, who showed a somewhat surprising ability of squandering sitters, Mukti were off the hook in the span of three minutes.

However, eight minutes from the short whistle, the lady luck seemed to walk out on the Federation Cup winners as Kazakov made amends for his teammate's duel blunders when the Russian striker tapped home an Alamgir free-kick, triggering off a thunderous roar in the stands.

Denying to be disgruntled by the first half setback, the Mukti holders launched a number of sorties deep into the heart of the Mohammedan defence, but to no avail. The eventual losers ran out of luck in the remainder of the match as every move they produced were thwarted one way or the other.

Three minutes into the session, they were deprived of a sure chance when a Mizan crack at goal bounced back into the play off the far post and again in the 58th minute the woodwork proved Muktiyoddha's bane as Rumi Rizvi Karim's close range attempt from an Arman through kissed the sidebar on its way out.

Rumi's second realistic chance was foiled by former national captain Kaiser Hamid, who cleared the ball from goaline after the national striker let a powerful grounder past the out-of-position Lahul.

Towards the end of the match, Mizan spoiled what could have been the equaliser, missing an open net after Mamun Joarder set him with a lot of space to manoeuvre.

In the first match of the day at the same venue, involving two Star First Division outfits, Dhaka Wanderers again found winning a tough proposition when they drew goalless with Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

It was Wanderers' 13th draw in 16 matches while Eskaton upped their tally to 14, also from 16 engagements.

England's Ashes tour begins on October 19

Can Atherton do the trick?

PERTH, Oct 12 (AFP): There is a popular sports night quiz question here: Which England cricket captains have led their country to victory in an Ashes series in Australia over the past half century?

The answer, suggests the quizmaster — not without a smirk of patriotic pleasure — is simple.

After all, there have been so few.

Len Hutton (1954-5), Ray Illingworth (1970-71), Mike Brearley (1978-79) and Mike Gatting (1986-87) are the only four to have returned home with the game's holy grail since World War II.

This exclusive quartet managed what eight others failed to do, because they had the firepower to outgun Australia on hard, bouncy pitches.

Frank "Typhoon" Tyson worked the magic for Hutton, John Snow was Illingworth's alchemist, Ian Botham, Bob Willis and Mike Hendrick spearheaded Brearley's team, and Graham Dilley and Gladstone Small delivered the rapier thrusts which cut down Allan Border's side.

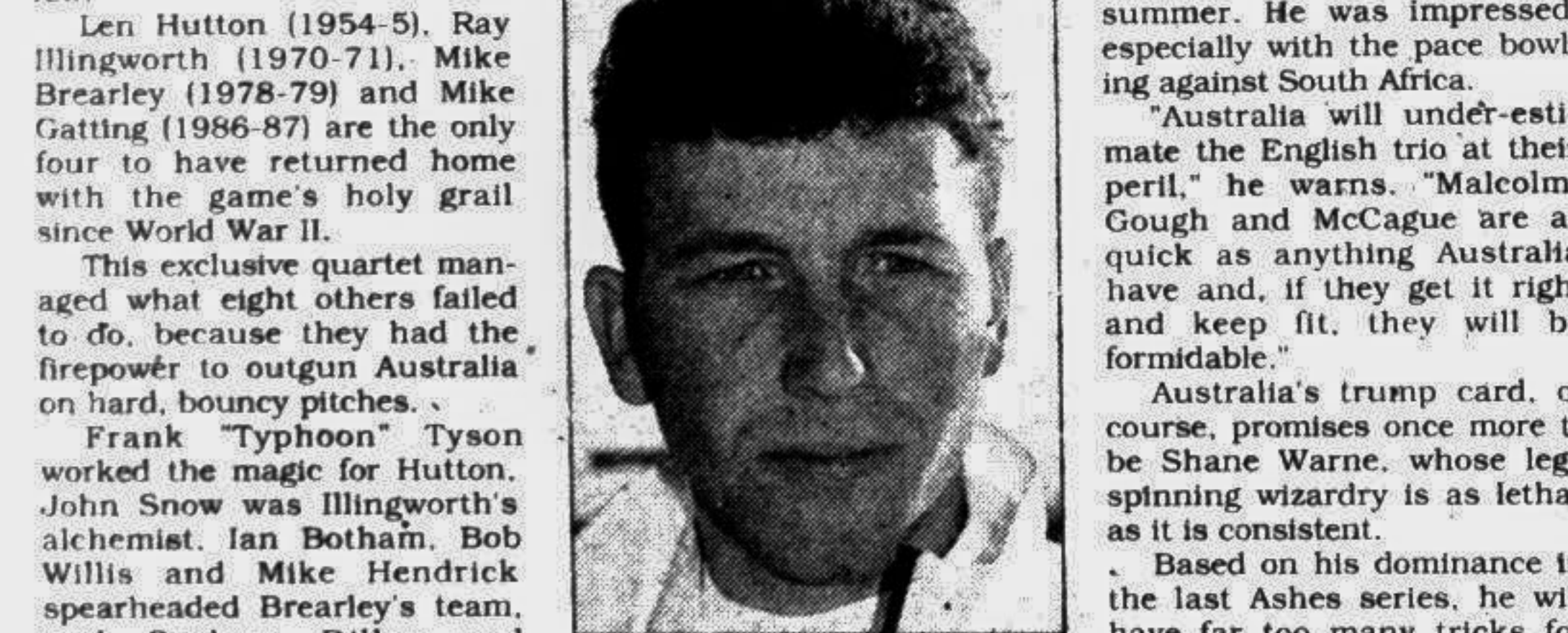
Mike Atherton's prospects of joining the select club will, similarly, rest on the broad shoulders of his heavy artillery, Devon Malcolm, Darren Gough and Martin McCague.

England arrive in Perth on October 19 to prepare for the five-Test series starting in Brisbane at the end of November.

While they may cut (and sometimes break) their teeth on some of the world's fastest pitches, Australian batsmen remain vulnerable to a persistent, rib-cage assault, evidenced by repeated failures against the West Indies, at home and in the Caribbean, and more recent uncomfortable hiccups against South Africa and Pakistan.

But unless England's speed specialists strike form early and maintain fitness for three gruelling months, Atherton can expect to and his name to those who failed in one of the game's toughest missions.

The challenge proved too much for Wally Hammond



MIKE ATHERTON

old, will be supported by the inclusion in his party of a trio of elder statesmen of English cricket.

Gatting, 37, especially, knows that Australia can be beaten at home, his side swept all before them, winning two rugged one-day competitions, as well as the Ashes.

Gooch's presence will also be valuable, even if the veteran batsman finds the long, scorching days a trial for a man 15 months into his fifth decade.

What's more, Smith's appointment as manager provides another brain with a thorough knowledge of just how uncompromisingly the game is played in Australia.

Newly-elected Australian skipper Mark Taylor and his side certainly believe they will have too many aces for the tourists, despite Australia's current torment in Pakistan, where they are trailing 0-1 after the second of three Tests in a series they fancied they could sew up.

However, they reason that because they were much too

FIFA may extend Maradona's ban

ZURICH, Oct 12: FIFA said on Tuesday it would consider whether Diego Maradona's continual involvement in soccer broke the terms of his ban from the sport for taking dope, reports Reuters.

A spokesman for soccer's world governing body said FIFA's executive committee would discuss Maradona's situation when it meets in New York from October 25 to 27.

Maradona was banned for 15 months by FIFA after he tested positive for taking stimulant at this summer's World Cup finals in the United States.

Maradona appeared in a low-key charity match in Argentina on Monday when 30,000 fans invaded the pitch and held up play for 10 minutes.

He has also taken up coaching duties with Argentine club Deportivo Mandiyu in apparent defiance of his ban.

The FIFA spokesman refused to comment on whether Maradona could appear in charity games but said his ban extended to all soccer activity, not just to playing.

FIFA's executive could extend Maradona's ban if it found he had broken the terms of his suspension or it could demand that the Argentine Federation take action to stop his involvement in the sport.

AB Bank TT

Defending champions Bangladesh Bliman and Armanitola JS recorded their 13th consecutive victories in the AB Bank table tennis men's league at the Dhanmondi wooden floor gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

The airlines paddlers defeated Wari Club while Armanitola Boys beat Inter-sports both by 3-0 sets. Incidentally, it was their first defeat for both Wari Club and Inter-sports.

In other matches, Brothers Union outplayed Armanitola Juniors 3-0 while Wari Juniors edged Swamibagh TTS 3-2 in a close match.

In the women's league, Dhaka Mariners Club registered a hard-fought 3-2 sets victory over Mitali Club while Swamibagh TTS overpowered their neighbour Swamibagh Girls 3-1.

JFA says Falcao must go

HIROSHIMA, Oct 12: Japan will replace Brazilian coach Paulo Falcao after it bombed out of the Asian Games soccer tournament with a heart-breaking loss to old rivals South Korea. Japan's top sports newspaper said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Nikkan Sports, a tabloid with a record of soccer scoops, reported that the Japan Football Association (JFA) will dump Falcao at a meeting after the Games.

Bangladesh in 12th Asiad: Day 10

Bangladeshi performance in different disciplines on the tenth day of the 12th Asian Games at a glance:

Kabaddi
Bangladesh 44 Nepal 14
Bangladesh 25 Japan 19

Shooting
Standard Rifle — 3x20 (women's)
Kazi Sahana Parveen - 549 (finished 14th among 24 competitors)
Sabina Sultana - 526 (finished 24th among 26 competitors)
Razia Nowshad - 515 (finished 25th among 26 competitors)

Track and Field
100-metre sprint (women):
Feroza Khatun - 12.58 seconds (finished sixth among 6 in the preliminary heat)
Nilufar Yasmin - 12.86 seconds (finished last in the preliminary heat).

But, if per chance, a couple of England batsmen can break his stranglehold, Atherton could be well on his way to becoming number five on the quizmaster's list.

ENGLAND TEAM: Mike Atherton (capt), Alec Stewart (vice-capt), Joey Benjamin, John Crawley, Phil DeFreitas, Mike Gatting, Graham Gooch, Darren Gough, Graeme Hick, Martin McCague, Devon Malcolm, Steve Rhodes, Graham Thorpe, Phil Tufnell, Shaun Udal, Craig White.

Ctg football

CHITTAGONG, Oct 12: Both the matches of CJKP First Division football league ended in draws at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

The first match between Regency Club and Chittagong City Corporation Club ended in a goalless draw.

In the other match of the day, Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bakalia Kirra Sangtha shared points with a one-all draw.

Cronje ploughs in sands

LAHORE, Oct 12: Australia beat South Africa by six runs, despite vice captain Hansie Cronje's unbeaten 98, Wednesday in the first game of the one-day triangular series that will also feature Pakistan, reports AP.

After opting to bat first, Australia scored 207 for six. After 50 overs South Africa came up six runs short with a final score of 201 for eight.

The 25-year-old right-hander, Cronje produced a brilliant 125-ball innings. But it was overshadowed by Steve Waugh's all-round performance that propelled Australia to victory.

off-spinner, Gavin Robertson, as well as seven boundaries.

Australia managed a competitive total with some sensible batting by the fifth and sixth wicket pairs.

After a breezy opening, wickets stand with mark Taylor and Michael Slater sharing 98 runs. Australia lost their way losing four wickets for 30 runs.

Taylor continued with his new found form to hit 56 runs off 72 balls, while Slater contributed 42 before becoming left-arm spinner, Tim Shaw's, second victim.

But the brightest batting came from Steve Waugh at the crease. He first laid the foundation with left-hander Michael Bevan in putting on 32 runs.

Waugh reached a well-deserved half century during a 42-run stand with Ian Healy, who remained unbeaten on 18.

Man-of-the-match, Waugh, faced 73 balls for his 56 runs, hitting five boundaries before falling to an outstanding outfield catch.

Pakistan and Australia will meet in the second game of the triangular on Friday in the Punjab city of Multan.



S WAUGH ... m-o-m

Waugh hit Australia out of a 'middle order collapse, anchoring the batting with 56 runs. He captured two important wickets to check South Africa's progress.

South Africa appeared poised to overhaul the Australian total, until fast bowler Craig McDermott uprooted the stumps of Eric Simons, Dave Richardson and Craig Matthews in two brief overs.

After being reduced to 50 for three, Waugh removed Jonty Rhodes, but not before Rhodes and Cronje shared 76 runs for the fourth wicket.

Cronje hit a towering six off

S Waugh leads Aussies to a six-run win

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
de Villiers	9	1	38	1
Matthews	10	1	41	1
McMillan	3	0	24	0 (1nb)
Simon	10	0	34	2
Cronje	10	1	32	1

SOUTH AFRICA:	
Wessels c Healy b Fleming	6
Kirsten c Healy b Fleming	4
Cronje not out	98
Cullinan c Slater	
b Steve Waugh	12
Rhodes lbw b Steve Waugh	42
McMillan b Mark Waugh	3
Simons b McDermott	19
Richardson b McDermott	4
Matthews b McDermott	1
Shaw not out	1
Extras: (b-4, lb-7)	11
Total: (eight wickets)	201
Fall of wickets: 1-8: 2-15:	

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard at the end of the one-day international match Wednesday between Australia and South Africa in Lahore:	
AUSTRALIA:	
Taylor st Richardson	56
b Shaw	
Slater st Richardson	44
b Shaw	
Mark Waugh c and b Cronje	3
Boon run out	8
Steve Waugh c Kirsten b Matthews	56
Bevan run out	15
Healy not out	18
Robertson	1
Extras: (lb-1, nb-5)	6
Total: (six wickets)	207
Fall of wickets: 1-98; 2-107; 3-107; 4-128; 5-160; 6-202.	
Did not bat: Craig McDermott, Shane Warne and Damien Fleming.	

Man-of-the-match: Steve Waugh (Australia)	
Umpires: M Aslam Mian and Athar Zaidi	
ICC Match Referee: John Reid (New Zealand).	

Result: Australia won by six runs.	
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Did not bat: Tim Shaw, and Fanie de Villiers	
Bowling:	
McDermott	0
Fleming	10
S Waugh	10
Warne	10
Robertson	7
M Waugh	3
O	2
M	32
R	2
W	3

Gurusinha hits 3rd slowest Test ton Sri Lanka all out for 383

HARARE, Oct 12: Sri Lanka opener Asanka Gurusinha compiled the third slowest century in Test history before his side collapsed against Zimbabwe today, reports Reuters.

Gurusinha reached three figures in 533 minutes — a time exceeded only by Pakistan's Mudassar Nazar and South African Jackie McGlew in Tests.

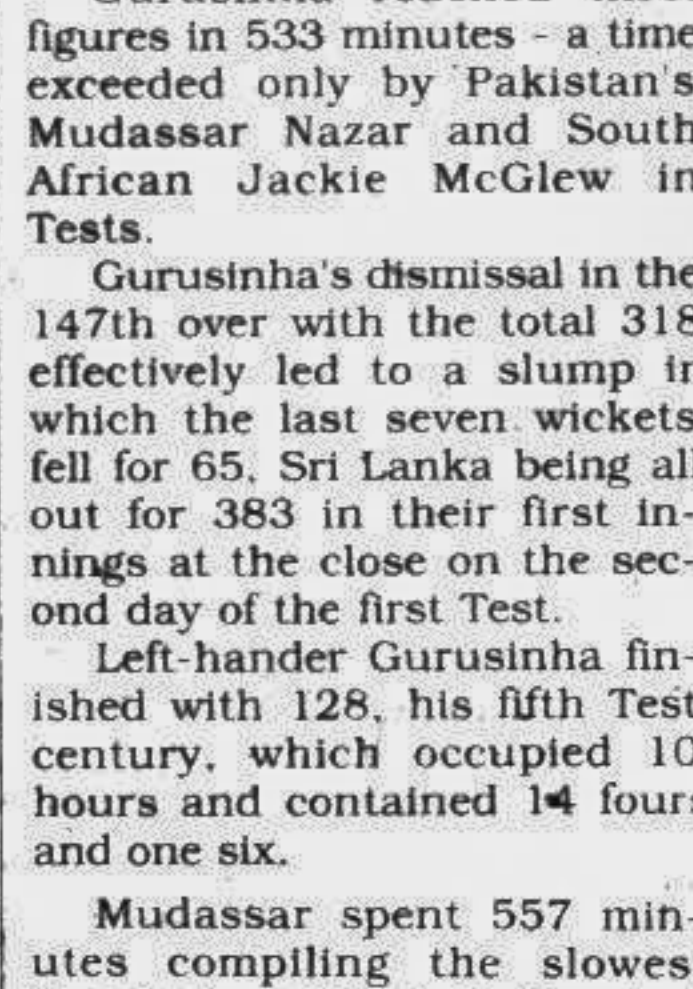
Gurusinha's dismissal in the 147th over with the total 318 effectively led to a slump in which the last seven wickets fell for 65. Sri Lanka being all out for 383 in their first innings at the close on the second day of the first Test.

Left-hander Gurusinha finished with 128, his fifth Test century, which occupied 10 hours and contained 14 fours and one six.

Mudassar spent 557 minutes compiling the slowest hundred, against England at Lahore on the 1977-78 tour, while McGlew took 545 minutes to reach three figures against Australia 20 years earlier.

Sri Lanka, who had patningastakingly made 157 for one on the opening day, continued their innings on a marginally quicker note, with Sanjeeva Ranatunga completing his maiden Test century in only his second appearance.

Ranatunga, younger brother of Sri Lanka's captain Arjuna Ranatunga, scored 118 in a little under eight hours and struck 17 fours.



GURUSINHA ... 128

A key moment was the dismissal of Aravinda de Silva to cut short his threatening innings. He had made 19 in 17 balls when he attempted to on-drive left-arm pacesman Malcolm Jarvis, who clung onto a one-handed catch diving to his right.

Medium pacer Guy Whittall returned his Test-best figures of four for 70 and fellow pacesman Heath Streak mopped up the tail to end with four for 79.

SCOREBOARD

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard on the second day of the first cricket Test between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka at Harare Sports Club today.	
SRI LANKA: First Innings	
(overnight 157 for one)	
Mahanama c James b Jarvis	28
Gurusinha c A Flower b Whittall	128
S Ranatunga c James b Whittall	118
De Silva c and b Jarvis	19
A Ranatunga c sub b Streak	62
Tillekeratne c James b Whittall	1
Dassanayake lbw b Whittall	0
Vaas lbw b Streak	3
Wickremasinghe c James b Streak	15
Muralidharan c and b Streak	0
Pushpakumara not out	6
Extras: (lb-19, nb-3, w-1)	23
Total:	383
Fall of wickets: 1-28; 2-245; 3-281; 4-318; 5-322; 6-330; 7-361; 8-376; 9-376.	
Bowling	
Brain	5
Streak	42.5
Jarvis	41
Whittall	33
Peall	50
G Flower	8
O	2
M	16
R	0
W	0



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Agragami catch the bus

Tejgaon Agragami booked the last seat to play in the eight-team super league of the metropolis — Green Delta Second Division Hockey league after a 2-2 draw with Uddity Club in the last group engagement at Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

The other teams are: Raktim Sangha, Mukta Bihanga Tarn Sangha, Victoria SC, Barnak Samaj, Combined SC, Cantonian SC and Uttara Hockey Club.

The league will begin from next Monday.

Earlier, Combined SC emerged unbeaten group champions to reach the super league beating Cantonian SC by a solitary goal.

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Graf pulls out

BRIGHTON, Oct 12: Top seed and world number one Steffi Graf has pulled out of next week's Brighton International women's indoor tennis tournament, organisers said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Graf, six times Brighton champion, has been suffering from a back injury and has not played since losing to Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in last month's U.S. Open Final.

In a letter to tournament officials Graf's agent Philip De Picciotto said: "Steffi's back is still injured and she will therefore not be able to play at Brighton. She is at least as frustrated as you are with the situation but unfortunately time is the only remedy."

The German's withdrawal leaves defending champion and world number four Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic as the top seed.

Earlier, Combined SC emerged unbeaten group champions to reach the super league beating Cantonian SC by a solitary goal.

Colin McRae the Scottish driver, who won the New Zealand and Australia rallies recently, has found his first attempt at the San Remo Rally harder than expected.

Tuesday's gravel stages lead the rally away from Umbria, through the Chianti wine region, back to the Italian Riviera and a final day made up of Tarmac stages on Wednesday.

Windies arrive in India

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: West Indies, the unofficial world champions, arrived for their tour of India today outwardly unworried by an outbreak of plague which forced officials to postpone the visit a week and reschedule the itinerary, reports Reuters.

"I have not heard a word about the plague threat from the cricketers since we got together," manager David Holford told reporters at New Delhi Airport.

Captain Courtney Walsh conceded his depleted side faced an exacting tour, which comprises three Tests and a five-match one-day triangular tournament with India and New Zealand.

Walsh takes over as captain from Richie Richardson, unavailable because of acute fatigue. Key strike bowler Curtly Ambrose, veteran opener Des Haynes and pace bowler Winston Benjamin will also miss the tour.

"This tour is of paramount importance," Walsh said. "We will miss the experience of the stalwarts but this is the opportunity for the youngsters to make their mark."

"We have some fine cricketers as replacements for them. By the time the Test matches are around these boys would be fine-tuned."

Walsh said his team's strength lay in the players' ability to switch from one-day cricket to Test matches.

The West Indies arrived from London without Brian Lara, who missed the flight. Walsh said he hoped to see his vice-captain in the next 24 hours.

The West Indies were to leave in the evening for the north Indian city of Chandigarh. They play their first game on Friday, a limited overs practice match against a team led by former Test skipper Kapil Dev which will include seven Indian internationals.

The tour begins with a one-day international at Faridabad on the outskirts of the Indian capital next Monday.



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Sino women cagers finish third

HIROSHIMA, Oct 12: China's women had no trouble at all in winning the Asian Games bronze medal for basketball, beating Taiwan 83-31 Wednesday, reports AP.

The mainlanders galloped to a 46-12 lead by halftime, and allowed Taiwan to score just four more points in the first 10 minutes of the second half.

Li Xin was China's high scorer, with 22 points. Chi Lin led Taiwan with eight.

The women's final between Japan and defending Games champions South Korea is to be played Thursday night.

Also Wednesday, in the second round of men's competition, Taiwan defeated Iran 95-90 and Kazakhstan beat Saudi Arabia 77-71. Kazakhstan and Taiwan will play each other Friday to decide fifth place.

The men's semifinals — China versus the Philippines and Japan versus South Korea — are on Thursday, with the finals Saturday.

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Sainz sets his sights

Carlos Sainz, the two-time World Rally champion from Spain, has a chance to score maximum championship points from this week's San Remo Rally in Northern Italy, and force the outcome of the 1994 series to November's RAC Rally in Britain, says a press release.



The Spanish driver for the 555 Subaru World Rally Team leads the three-day event around a sun-baked Umbria, Tuscany and San Remo by a substantial 51 seconds from Britain's Malcolm Wilson and Belgium's Bruno Thiry.

On one stage, Sainz was over half a minute faster than the opposition, many of whom could not come to terms with the 555 Subaru driver. Didier Auriol who had a chance of securing the 1994 title in Italy, almost certainly threw his chances away in a high speed spin and his Toyota teammate Juha Karunkken dropped out of the top ten after receiving a time penalty.

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