

Sport

FIFA carves up 1998 World Cup map

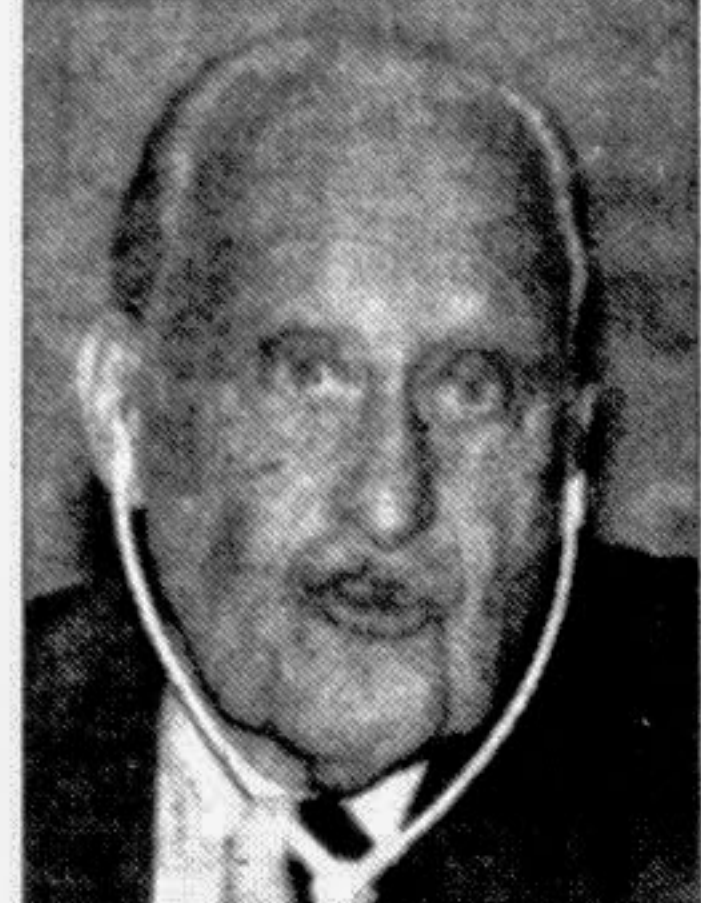
Africa comes away big winner

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Africa came away as a big winner Thursday, getting two more guaranteed berths for a total of five at the next two World Cups...

With the World Cup expanding from 24 to 32 teams in 1998, the additional berths mean Europe will have 15 countries competing in France and South America five...

With Europe having seven of the eight quarterfinalists at the 1994 World Cup and the second highest membership in FIFA (49 nations, second only to Africa's 51)...

Some have questioned giving South America five berths considering it only has 10 member nations. At the last World Cup in the United States, Europe had 13 berths...



JOAO HAVELANGE

While some reporters questioned the logic of the announcement, both Blatter and Havelange insisted the allocation was equitable. "It is fair. If you share with your neighbour, that is fair," Blatter said.

The secretary general explained that with eight additional berths, it was generally viewed that each confederation would receive one, leaving only two to dispute. Six for South America, he said, would leave that continent with 60 per cent of its membership in the World Cup...

Other decisions included making three points for a victory and one for a draw in all professional and amateur competitions throughout the world. The decree will take effect in the next competitive season of each respective league.

Maradona's tears of gratitude

BUENOS AIRES, Oct 28: The world soccer body FIFA nearly made Diego Maradona cry again on Thursday — not tears of anger but of gratitude for letting him become a coach reports Reuter.

This time they acted more humanely than I had expected," he said on television in telling his countrymen that FIFA, which two months ago had banned him from all soccer, would now let him coach Argentina's Deportivo Mandiyu.

The former superstar — who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 1986 — has been informally coaching Mandiyu for three weeks now. But he said FIFA, which on August 24 banned him for 15 months and fined him 15,000 dollars for failing a drugs test at the US World Cup finals, would now allow him to take a course to get his official coaching title.

Atherton not amused

PERTH, Oct 28: England captain Mike Atherton was unimpressed by the experimental quarters' format of limited-overs cricket, while his team was unimpressive in suffering a 51-run defeat to Western Australia on Thursday night, reports AP.

Atherton said Friday that he would be quite happy never to play another game of quarters' cricket, in which matches are split into four quarters of 25 overs instead of the usual two innings of 50 overs.

England trailed a half-way mark in both runs and wickets — 83 for four in reply to Western Australia's 90 for one — and was all out for 197 in 45.5 overs chasing the home team's imposing target of 248 for five.

Taxing SA tour for England

LONDON, Oct 28: England's cricketers face a demanding schedule of five Tests, followed by seven one-day internationals, when they tour South Africa in 1995-96, reports AFP.

Alan Smith chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said: "The two boards see this tour as unique in having two distinct parts. A five-match Test series with preparation will form the first part and the second phase will be a seven-one-day match series."

ENGLAND TOUR ITINERARY The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) on Thursday announced the itinerary for England's tour of South Africa in 1995. It includes South Africa's first five-Test series since their return to international cricket in 1991, as well as seven one-day internationals.

England expect to make some team changes at the end of the Test series. This is relatively easy with the United Kingdom and South Africa in near enough the same time zone," he said.

It will be the first five-match Test series South Africa have played against England since the 1964-65 season which Mike Smith's team won. England will also be the first side to tour South Africa in a five-match Test series since Bobby Simpson's Australian side in 1966-67 which South Africa won 3-1.

The tourists will play a first-class match in Johannesburg's Soweto township against the South African invitation XI. Another first-class match will take place in the township of Chatsworth, outside the port city of Durban against a Combined South African Universities and Colleges side.



THE DELIGHTED DUO ... Lipi Akhter of Bangladesh Ansars (L) and M Abdul Hamid Ripon all smiles after bagging nine golds each in the 14th national age-group swimming championships, which concluded yesterday at the Mirpur national swimming complex. — Star photo

Nat'l age-group swimming ends

Sports Reporter M Lipi Akhter and M Abdul Hamid Ripon stood out with individual hauls of nine golds each while Bangladesh Ansars natants reasserted ascendancy in the 14th national age-group swimming championships which came to conclusion at the Mirpur national swimming complex yesterday.

Ten records were rewritten on the final day that saw Lipi, representing Ansars, win one and Ripon, the Pabna swimmer, bag two more. The new records set on the concluding day were by Nibedita Das of Bangladesh Biman in 400m freestyle (girls 15-17), Mili Akhter of Biman in 200m individual medley (girls 11-12), Seema Dutta of Bangladesh Ansars in 100m backstroke (girls 13-14), Mita Shome of Bangladesh Ansars in 200m individual medley (girls 15-17), Abdul Halim of BKSP in 50m butterfly (boys 10 years), Mahmuda Sharif of Bangladesh Ansars in 100m breaststroke (women), Masud Rana of Rajshahi Education Board in 200m backstroke (boys 15-17), Monira Rahman Dalia of BTMC in 100m butterfly (women), Jobeda Khatun of Bangladesh Ansars in 100m breaststroke (girls 15-17), and Mosharraf Hossain of BKSP in 50m freestyle (boys 11-12).

Dr Sofia Hasna Jahan Ali, former president of the Bangladesh Women's Sports Federation, was chief guest in the closing ceremony and gave away prizes among the winners. Bangladesh Swimming Federation supreme M Asafuddin was also there.

Six-figure sum for WC teams

NEW YORK, Oct 28: World Cup teams will receive 700,000 dollars per match played in last summer's championship, FIFA announced on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Winners Brazil, who pocketed nearly five million dollars from their seven-match run at the tournament, received a further payout and some impressive hardware in accepting two awards at the press briefing following the FIFA's executive meeting. Brazilian federation president Ricardo Teixeira claimed trophies for fair play and most entertaining team at the World Cup — and took away another 100,000 dollars for each award.

Ctg football

CHITTAGONG, Oct 28: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club crushed their juniors, Mohammedan Blues, 8-1 in the only match of the CJKP First Division football league at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS. The winners led the first half 5-0. Mohammedans collected 20 points from 15 matches while Mohammedan Blues got 12 points from an equal number of encounters.

Div II hockey

Mukta Bhangra Tarun Sangha recorded in emphatic 4-1 victory over Cantonian SC in one of the two super league matches of the Green Delta Second Division hockey at the Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNB. Abul Kalam scored four superb field goals for the winners in the 9th, 32nd, 50th and 69th minutes. Moimuddin netted a consolation goal for the losers in the 57th minute. In the other match Barpak Samaj and Tejgaon Agra-gami Club shared points in a goalless draw at the same venue.



Pakistan wicketkeeper Rashid Latif dives to whip the bails off to terminate South African opening batsman Gary Kirsten's tenure at the wicket during the triangular series match at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad yesterday. Kirsten was run out for 69 and Pakistan won the match by six wickets. — AFP photo

SA end triangular series empty-handed

Ijaz propels Pakistan

Faisalabad, Pakistan, Oct 28: Ijaz Ahmed hit a breezy 98 not out to help Pakistan crush South Africa yet again in the triangular series here at the Iqbal Stadium on Friday, reports AFP. Ijaz featured in a match-winning unbroken 148-run stand for the fifth wicket with Basit Ali as Pakistan overhauled their opponents' total of 222 with five and a half overs to spare.

That left a miserable South African side with six defeats in six outings against Pakistan and Australia, who contest the series final in Lahore on Sunday. Pakistan had begun shakily, losing four wickets for 75 runs in the first 22 overs. Saied Anwar (14), Aamir Sohail (25), Inzamamul Haq (19) and skipper Salim Malik (7) had all gone cheaply before Ijaz and Basit, who ended on 52, shored up the innings. Ijaz's contribution included 11 fours and a six in 87 deliveries. Basit boasted seven boundaries and faced just 60 balls.

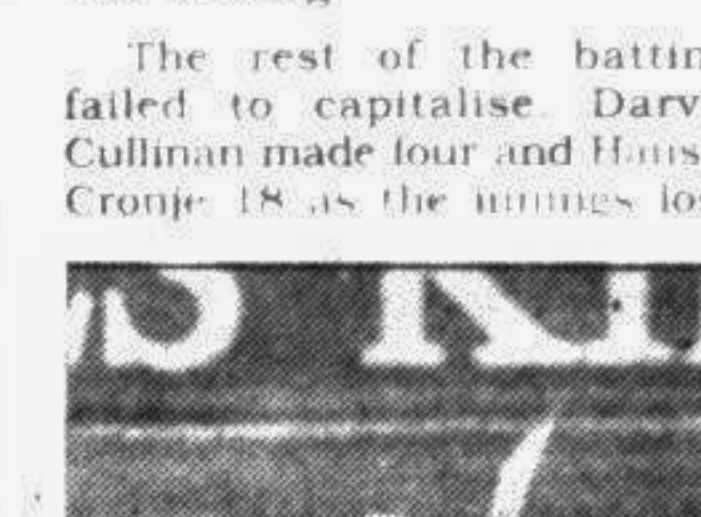
The finale, however, offered some excitement for the fans, with Pakistan needing a single to win and Ijaz requiring two for his century. He attempted a huge haul and was bowled by Eric Simons — off a no ball, which gifted Pakistan its winning run. Earlier South African captain Kepler Wessels won the toss and saw his side make 222 for four.

Wessels with opening partner Garry Kirsten put on 125 runs on a placid surface. Kirsten was run out in the 31st over, beaten by a Salim Malik throw. Kirsten made 69 off 97 deliveries and hit four boundaries while Wessels reached 51 before he was caught by Wasim Akram off his own bowling. The rest of the batting failed to capitalise. Darvill Cullinan made four and Haise Cronje 18 as the innings lost.

SCOREBOARD

Score Board of the triangular series match between Pakistan and South Africa here at the Iqbal Stadium today.

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Rows for Wasim Akram, Aaqib Javed, Waqar Younis, Akram Raza, Salim Malik, Aamir Sohail.



IJAZ AHMED ... m-o-m

momentum. Jonty Rhodes remained not out on 45 and David Richardson was unbeaten at 27.

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Rows for de Villiers, Matthews, Cronje, Simons, Eksteen, Shaw.

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Rows for Saied Anwar, Aamir Sohail, Inzamam ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Basit Ali, Aamir Sohail.

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Result: Pakistan won by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Ijaz Ahmed. Next match: Pakistan v Australia, final at Lahore, Sunday.

Zimbabweans 276 for four

HARARE, Oct 28: Zimbabwe were 276 for four in reply to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 402, at the close of the third day of the third and final cricket Test on Friday, reports Reuter. On Thursday Hashan Tillekeratne's maiden Test century was one of the few highlights of another tedious day as Sri Lanka crawled to a first innings 402 on the second day. Wicket keeper Tillekeratne then snapped up a catch to dismiss Grant Flower off the final ball of the day to leave Zimbabwe 10 for one in reply. Tillekeratne, who three times before in Test cricket had been dismissed in the nineties, took seven and a half hours in compiling 116, hitting 14 boundaries from the 287 balls he faced. Resuming at their overnight 248 for four, Sri Lanka might have been expected to look for runs but only 69 came in the morning session as they lost two more wickets. Captain Arjuna Ranatunga (39) and Sanath Jayasuriya (10) both fell to paceman Heath Streak and this appeared to take the confidence out of the visiting batsmen. Tillekeratne shared stands of 49 with Ruwan Kalpage (14) and 37 with Kumar Dharmasena (21) but there was little aggression in their batting. Tillekeratne eventually fell to a brilliant, one-handed catch by Mark Dekker at forward short leg off the leg-spin of Paul Strang. Streak finished with figures of 4-97 and Strang, making his Test debut, 3-65. Tillekeratne said it had been a relief to reach his century. "I was waiting for this for quite some time ... I'm very happy now."

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Rows for Jarvis, Whittall, Strang.

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Rows for Vaas, Pushpakumara, Dharmasena.



TILLEKERATNE ... 116

Table with 4 columns: O, M, R, W. Rows for Jarvis, Whittall, Strang, G Flower, Pushpakumara, Dekker.

Reid eager for Test recall

PERTH, Oct 28: Fast bowler Bruce Reid will be aiming to take a crucial step toward regaining his Test spot when he plays for Western Australia in a four-day cricket match against England starting Saturday at the WACA Ground, reports AP. The lanky 31-year-old has been plagued by injuries throughout his career, but has also twice starred against England in home Ashes series — taking 47 wickets at 20.40, including a career-best 13 for 148 in Melbourne in 1990-91. Reid had figures of none for 16 from six economical overs in a day-night game against England on Thursday and hopes he can rejoin the Test squad for the five-Test Ashes series. "I thought his first spell against England on Thursday was the best he has bowled this year," said Daryl Foster, the coach of the Western Australian state team. "He really bent his back a little bit, and got his follow-through going. It was most promising for us and for Australia later on." Reid has a total of 113 wickets from 27 Tests at 24.64 but his run of injuries started in 1988 when his back seized, forcing him to miss the next season. "He had to have several discs removed and still has a metal plate in his back. It still sets off alarms at airports, but only the hand-held ones, not the ones you walk through," Reid said. He currently is trying to strengthen a shoulder that collapsed at the start of last season, when he tore tendons off the bone trying to throw too hard into a stiff breeze at the WACA Ground.