



Indian bowler Venkatesh Prasad, who returned an excellent bowling analysis of four for 11 only from eight overs, lets out an ecstatic yell as Bangladesh's Al Shahrar plays horribly to bring his downfall in the SAARC cricket tourney final yesterday at the Dhaka Stadium.

Argentina beat Yugoslavia

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 28: Argentina scored their third win in three games under new coach Daniel Passarella when they beat Yugoslavia 1-0 in a friendly international on Tuesday but their performance was far from convincing, reports Reuter.

Twenty-year-old striker Sebastian Rambert scored the winner in the 26th minute but Yugoslavia, ban imposed in 1992, were worth at least a draw.

Yugoslavia, who have retained their name but now call on players only from the republics of Serbia and Montenegro, lost their comeback match 2-0 to Brazil in Porto Alegre on Friday. The ban had been imposed by FIFA in the wake of United Nations sanctions against the country.

Rambert scored when he deflected a cross-cum-shot by fellow striker Ariel Ortega, one of only two survivors from Argentina's World Cup squad, into the goal defended by Goran Pandurovic.

The goal came at a time when Yugoslavia, with nine foreign-based players in their starting line-up, appeared to be taking control of the game and the 27,780 crowd at the River Plate Stadium had begun jeering Argentina.

In the eighth minute, Yugoslavia had come close to taking the lead when Milan's Dejan Savicevic set up veteran Dragan Stojkovic, whose efforts was well-saved by Argentina goalkeeper Carlos Bossio.

Yugoslav midfielder Sinisa Mihajlovic was sent off three minutes from the end for throwing the ball at Uruguayan referee Jorge Nieves.

Argentina, whose other results under Passarella were a 3-0 win over Chile and a 1-0 defeat of Romania, came more to life after the goal and the performances by Ortega and Rambert were encouraging, though the latter faded in the second half.

But with Savicevic outwitting his marker Roberto Ayala on several occasions, Yugoslavia always looked dangerous and Bossio turned out to be one of Argentina's top players.

TEAMS

ARGENTINA: Carlos Bossio, Javier Zanetti, Roberto Ayala, Nestor Fabbri, Rodolfo Arruabarrena, Marcelo Escudero, Hugo Perez, Christian Basso, Marcelo Espina (Gustavo Lopez, 68th minute), Ariel Ortega, Sebastian Rambert.

YUGOSLAVIA: Goran Pandurovic, Slobodan Kimitjenovic, Miroslav Djukic, Branko Brnovic, Goran Djorovic, Slavisa Jokanovic, Vladimir Jugovic, Dragan Stojkovic, Sinisa Mihajlovic, Predrag Mijatovic (Darko Kovkevic, 60th), Dejan Savicevic.



Indian players are caught in a chorus of an appeal for a run out decision but Bangladesh's Enamul Huq Moni is home and dry just in time. Akram Khan keeps a worried watch while running at the other end during yesterday's SAARC cricket tournament final at the Dhaka Stadium.

Springboks still carry the apartheid legacy

by Phil Minshull

The 1995 Rugby World Cup could provide South Africa with its biggest sporting success since its re-admission to the international arena. But, reports Gemini News Service, the game still carries the bitter legacy of its dismal record in the days of apartheid.

Next year's Rugby World Cup in South Africa is being hailed as evidence of a new multiracial era in South African sport — but Errol Tobias, the Springboks first black player, believes there is still an unspoken resistance by the predominantly white administrators to the selection of blacks.

And because of bitter memories of the sport's role during the apartheid era, comparatively few blacks will be cheering the home team on.

At least they might not be cheering the opposition, which often used to be the case.

"We never supported South Africa," recalls Tobias, one of only three black players ever to pull on the famous yellow and green shirt. "We all supported whichever country the Springboks were playing. The whole stand used to cheer for the opposition and all the other people in the white sections used to glare and shout at us. But we didn't mean anything to South Africa so why should we have supported them?"

"When I played for my country, I saw it as a job and nothing more. I was all too aware that my compatriots still endured a rotten life so I didn't share my team-mates' pride when I put on my Springbok shirt. For me it was only a temporary escape route," says Tobias.

The reality was that as soon as it left my body, I was a second-class citizen in an abnormal society. I didn't consider myself truly South African until April 27, 1994, the day on which Nelson Mandela was elected state President.

Many of Tobias' compatriots still feel rugby is a white man's sport in which black players are grossly under-represented.

When Tobias made his debut as a Springbok in 1982 less than 15 per cent of the

250,000 rugby players in South Africa were black.

Today, three years after South Africa rejoined the international sporting community, the proportion is not

couldn't afford to make any mistakes. It's no different now. You've still got to be better than the whites to be selected and if you look at the senior provincial sides there are hardly any Coloureds (apartheid South Africa's term for mixed race) playing."

The pressures are enormous off the field, too.

Tobias reckons the newest black Springbok, Chester Williams, who joined the team in 1993 "is the best player in the world except for (Australia's) David Campese", but Williams appreciates that he cannot afford any slip-ups, even though he took his tally of caps to nine with a couple of appearances in the Tests against Scotland and Wales on a recent South Africa tour of Britain.

Another reason for popular disinterest in the game is the record of other rugby-playing countries and of the sport's international organisers. While other sports banished South Africa from the sporting landscape from the mid-1960s until 1991, the International Rugby Football Board actively encouraged links with South Africa, refusing to impose sanctions and allowing South African visits abroad and overseas touring sides to visit the republic.

A tour by New Zealand to South Africa in 1976 led directly to the boycott of the Montreal Olympics by 17 African nations, even though rugby was not an Olympic sport.

But as long as the majority of the population continues to have an antipathy towards the sport, winning the World Cup would be a hollow victory. — Gemini News

About the Author: Phil Minshull is a British sportswriter and broadcaster with a special interest in African sport.



Chester Williams: 'I'm a role model' significantly higher, despite a substantial effort by local rugby authorities and international touring sides to bring the rugby gospel to the townships.

Much more remains to be done to make young blacks feel welcome. While teams from other sports have Africanised their titles, South Africa's rugby internationals resolutely stick to Springboks — the name for an antelope renowned for its running leaps.

Africans have to be extra-good to make their mark: "I knew I had to play better than any of my team colleagues to keep my place," says Tobias. "I

Tragic!

HARARE, Dec 28: Former Zimbabwean wrestling champion Oliver Tengende committed suicide after shooting dead his girlfriend and her sister as they watched television, police reported on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

They told reporters that Tengende, 49, shot himself in the head in a Harare church early on Tuesday morning after confessing the murders to a pastor.

They said the man popularly known as black panther gunned down his girlfriend, Linda Mangwiro, and her sister Alice and severely wounded three other people at a Harare home late on Monday night.

The former wrestling king, who retired and went into business in 1985 after 25 years in the ring, had burst into the home and attacked everyone there, accusing his girlfriend and her relatives of exploiting him and "falling in love" with his money, the police said.

There is no doubt that it was outright, premeditated murder and suicide," a police spokesman said, adding that the ex-wrestler left a long suicide note.

Tengende was last year cleared of a possible murder charge at an inquest into the death of his wife Nomso, who died from poisoning.

Tail puts SA ahead

DURBAN, Dec 28: Dave Richardson and Fanie de Villiers staged a crucial 10th-wicket partnership Wednesday to help South Africa to a 41-run lead in the second Test against New Zealand, reports AP.

South Africa completed their first innings at 226 all out just after lunch on the third day of the Test, compared to New Zealand's first innings of 185 all out.

After a promising start to their innings, South Africa fell apart and lost their eighth and ninth wickets at 182 runs. Then de Villiers, the pace bowler batting 11th, joined Richardson, the wicketkeeper batting eighth, and the pair combined patience and good placement to tack on 44 runs and give South Africa the lead.

Simon Doull led the New Zealand attack, seizing five wickets and yielding just 73 runs in his 29.5 overs, while Danny Morrison claimed four wickets.

New Zealand won the first Test of the three-Test series, but failed to win a match in the Benson and Hedges quadrangular limited overs cricket series that also included Pakistan, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

meet in the best-of-three final of the limited overs series in January.

Pakistan, Sri Lanka and New Zealand are all making their first visit since South Africa returned to international cricket in 1991 after being banned two decades because of apartheid.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the third day of the second Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Kingsmead on Wednesday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 185 (S Thomson 82; F de Villiers 5-64).

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 122-5)
A Hudson c Young b Morrison 8
G Kirsten c Parore b Doull 29
J Commins c Hart b Doull 30
D Cullinan lbw b Doull 34
H Cronje c Thomson b Morrison 19
J Rhodes c Fleming b Hart 1
B McMillan b Doull 17
D Richardson not out 39
C Matthews c Parore b Morrison 7
S Jack c Crowe b Morrison 0
F de Villiers c Fleming b Doull 28
Extras: (lb-6, nb-8) 14
Total: 226

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-61; 3-110; 4-111; 5-122; 6-141; 7-168; 8-182; 9-182.
Bowling O M R W
Morrison 25 4 70 4
Doull 29 4 73 5
Pringle 15 5 23 0
Hart 17 2 54 1

Sporting still unbeaten

LISBON, Dec 28: Twelve players were booked and two sent off as Sporting kept their unbeaten Portuguese League record to edge past old rivals Benfica 1-0 in a bad-tempered derby on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Sporting's Nigerian winger Emmanuel Amunike scored the only goal of the game after 56 minutes, blasting home a powerful shot in a goalmouth scramble.

Benfica's Helder Cristovao was dismissed by referee Antonio Marcal in the 78th minute for a foul on Sporting's Polish striker Andrzej Juszkowiak.

Ten minutes later Cristovao was followed teammate Manuel Nelo for a foul on winger Sapinho.

But it could have been worse for Benfica who were missing top scorer Isaias Soares, recovering from an injury received in a European Champions' League match two weeks ago.

Benfica's Belgian World Cup goalkeeper Michael Preud'homme was voted man-of-the-match after making four spectacular saves.

Faint light at end of tunnel

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 28: Police investigating widespread corruption in Malaysian soccer hope to eradicate the problem before the next season, a senior official said Wednesday, reports AP.

He said investigators are checking bank accounts and assets of players and bookmakers suspected of involvement in the biggest match-fixing scandal to hit Malaysian sport.

"We hope to contain this problem before the new season," which starts in March, said Mohamad Said Awang, chief of the Criminal Investigation Department.

The investigation has not been smooth because police have received little cooperation from the parties involved, the national news agency, Bernama, quoted him as saying.

"We practically started from scratch and had to rely on our own intelligence sources to gather information," said Mohamad Said.

Police are holding 28 players, former players and officials for questioning. They already have interrogated 23 others and a former coach from eight Malaysian state teams about allegations that bookmakers paid huge bribes to control the outcome of matches.

None of the players or coaches has been formally charged so far.

Vana, a striker imported from the Czech Republic by Singapore, with receiving 199,218 dollars in bribes from bookies.

Mohamad Said said local soccer players can be placed under virtual house arrest under a law known as the Restricted Residence Act.

Under the Act, police can move a suspect from his home state to another state, which he is not allowed to leave.



Liverpool's Steve McManaman darts between Leicester City defenders Simon Grayson and Steve Thompson during their English Premier league match in Leicester on Dec 26. Liverpool won 2-1. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
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35 Parlor SCORN JOE JAI
piece ABOUT BIGSHOTS
36 Dieter's LASH EMU EVIL
lunch ETTA GAS METE
38 Unruly

Solution time: 21 mins.
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 4-20

CRYPTOQUIP
DB EKKMBZKY KSZYRQMA
QMNRSAT DS MKVB NRSS
NMDST E LEB DMAKZY
KMMK EKL KZYRN
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT TEDIOUS GATHERING, THE ART UP ON THE WALLS WAS THE STILL LIFE OF THE PARTY.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: K equals N
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.