



BUDDIES ALWAYS: Romario and Hristo Stoichkov pose with their FIFA world player-of-the-year trophies during a ceremony held at the Lisbon Cultural Centre on Jan 30. Romario was named world footballer of 1994 by FIFA. Stoichkov was placed second and Roberto Baggio third.

### Sad Sunday for Serie A

ROME, Jan 31: Italian sports officials on Monday cancelled all national sporting events due next Sunday in protest against the murder of a football fan and mass riots at a match in Genoa at the weekend, reports AFP.

Brancaccio on Monday told a press conference that: "The cabinet is opposed to general measures such as the suspension of matches."

though it might provoke more trouble. "If in individual cases local officials see danger to public safety, they can take it on themselves to cancel the games in question."

### Romario FIFA's world booter for 1994

LISBON, Jan 31: Brazilian forward Romario was named World footballer of 1994 by the International Football Federation (FIFA) here Monday, reports AFP.

### England wander in delight

CALCUTTA, Jan 31: England A added to the smiles of Britain's cricket fans Tuesday by defeating India A in the second five-day international for a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series, reports AFP.

### Date dispatches Fendick

TOKYO, Jan 31: Japan's Kimiko Date overcame a slow start and a stomach injury to beat American Patty Fendick 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the 806,250 US dollar Pan Pacific Open on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

quert Australian Open but lost in the third round to compatriot Naoko Sawamatsu. Iva Majoli of Croatia, the eighth seed, scored an easy 6-4, 6-0 win over Pam Shriver of the United States.



Kimiko Date of Japan serves to Patty Fendick of the United States during her first round match in the Toray Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo yesterday. Date won 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

wreaked revenge over the Spaniard to win her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open last Saturday.

"It was like a dream come true for me to win a Grand Slam tournament. Winning the tournament definitely gave me a lot of satisfaction and confidence, because I've been working hard and I'm very happy about that," Pierce said.

Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez of Spain is seeded top here, but Pierce beat her 6-3, 6-1 in their first encounter at the Melbourne semifinals.

"It seems that I have to meet the Australian Open champion in the final... it's a long way to reach, because all the players are playing very well. Hopefully, I'll play a very good first match and make my second round," Martinez said.

Other prominent players include Lori McNeil, a surprise winner over Graf in the Wimbledon first round last year, fellow American Gigi Fernandez, Japan's number two Naoko Sawamatsu, who reached the best eight at Melbourne, and number three Mana Endo.

### Arbachakov retains crown

SAPPORO, Japan, Jan 31: Yuri Arbachakov beat a nagging cold and waves of counter-blows from Mexican challenger Oscar Archinega to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title by unanimous decision Monday, reports AFP.

The Russian's sixth defence of the title turned into a slugfest as he chased hard from a slow start to land his deadly rights but the number-three contender battled back with crisp one-two attacks.

There were no knockdowns in the 12-round bout, the first world title match to be held in this 1972 Winter Olympic city for 12 years, and the 28-year-old champion went ahead on points with more clear-cut blows.

"I've gone through hard training and tried to do my best. But I could not show all I had," said Arbachakov. Arbachakov stretched his unscathed professional record to 20 wins, 15 of them inside the distance.

"I attacked on Yuri's body and chin which seemed vulnerable. I really wanted to knock him down," he said.

### Wolves owe Jones one

SHEFFIELD, Jan 31: Goalkeeper Paul Jones kept Wolves in the FA Cup here on Monday by producing a fine penalty save with just three minutes to go against Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday, reports AFP.

Jones dived to his right to parry Chris Bart-Jones' controversial spot-kick, earning Graham Taylor's First Division team a fourth round replay at home.

His feat saw justice was done after a thrilling 90 minutes dominated by the visitors. For former England manager Taylor, the encounter was a personal triumph, his side playing the better football throughout.

"I think justice was done because the penalty was a harsh decision. I'm very pleased," Taylor said. Even Chris Waddle, the winger so often snubbed by Taylor for England, could not fire Wednesday as Wolves took control from the opening minutes.

Wolves almost went ahead in the third minute when Sheffield born youngster Lee Mills beat the offside trap but scuffed his shot straight at the goalkeeper.

But Wednesday, dominated territorially and failing to click, almost broke the deadlock themselves when former Aston Villa man Guy Whittingham put a free header over after 18 minutes.

### Sixth BGCC: A tour diary

Thursday 26 January: There are three cricket matches lined up till the 29th, because CCFC from Calcutta are in town. But, the call of Bhatary is as usual overpowering. Plans made well in advance are in place; golf clubs (or rather irons in my case) are at the ready. The only hitch is the Biman flight at 7:30 pm. Even that takes off, "predictably" at 10.15. An eventual flight. Ashfaq Chowdhury takes command of a situation that seems to be getting crazily out of control. The F-28 consequently takes less than its normal flying time as it hurries through the night sky to Chittagong. A totally mesmerised ground staff watch the plane disappear, shell shocked for more reasons than one. Hour and half later, management to land at Chittagong Club, having missed the welcome party at Bhatary. Find Dhaka golfers, including notes Shawkat and Iqbal, still recovering from the blow by blow account of the club final match which Murad, my good friend and host, has won that afternoon against Mohammad Ali, and is describing it, shot by shot. It promises to be a long night.

Championship: Tee off is at 11:30, but do not get on the tee till about 12 noon, because Iftikhar is having problems getting off it. The dubious record of most OB's off the first tee is under dire threat from Iftikhar, who as I learn later, is also the holder of the previous record. Eight tee shots sail conclusively into OB, before Iftikhar coaxes a pitching wedge on to the fairway.

Standing on the first tee at Bhatary and looking through the very narrow inlet into the fairway below is nerve wracking at the best of times. Watching Iftikhar's high definition performance send cold shivers down the collective spines of those waiting to begin their assault on the 6th BGCC Open.

### Maradona's hearing now in April

ROME, Jan 31: A hearing set for Monday into allegations of drug trafficking against Diego Maradona has been put back until April, court sources said here, reports AFP.

Judge Maria Cordova was indisposed, the sources said, without giving details. Maradona is to answer allegations made by a former bodyguard Pietro Puglisi who was questioned in 1989 in connection with an international cocaine trafficking ring.

Sherry wins the ladies title as usual and doesn't look happy at all. She is such a class above all the rest. For the second year running the rapidly improving Fauzia Khan finishes second. Bhatary reserves it best for the final evening. The food is great, arrangements near perfect, and the entertainment excellent. The tournament committee there are past masters at ensuring that the participants have a great time. Many thanks chaps, and atleast Shawkat, Iqbal and yours truly would be back again sooner than you think. PS Murad does not get to speak that night. It would have been a good acceptance speech I should know, because I am a captive audience on the drive back home.

### Agassi aims at twin peaks

MELBOURNE, Jan 31: Andre Agassi is already plotting the next phase of his challenge to world number one Pete Sampras after giving men's tennis fresh impetus in Sunday's Australian Open final, reports Reuter.

Agassi's success at Flinders Park has given him the chance to become the second player in the Open era after Australian Rod Laver to collect all four major championships titles. The feat hinges on a victory at the French Open in June.

Even Sampras admits the 24-year-old Las Vegas star, also the reigning US Open champion, could win all three of the year's remaining major titles if he stays fit, and Agassi's coach, Brad Gilbert, was even quicker to hammer home the message.

### England wander in delight

CALCUTTA, Jan 31: England A added to the smiles of Britain's cricket fans Tuesday by defeating India A in the second five-day international for a decisive 2-0 lead in the three-match series, reports AFP.

The tourists made light of a fourth innings target of 254 on a wearing track to romp home by five wickets, a day after their senior team's sensational win over Australia in the Adelaide Test.

The emphatic triumph gave England A the "Test series" on their first ever tour of India and reduced the third and final Test at Chandigarh from Saturday to a meaningless contest.

The tourists, who won the opening encounter at Bangalore by four wickets, beat back India's three-pronged spin attack to end the match at the stroke of tea on the final day at the Eden Gardens.

### Diversification

MOSCOW, Jan 31: An enterprising Russian company that sells lavatories, makes shoes and buys property has branched out again, making history by becoming the first owner of a soccer club founded in the Soviet era, reports Reuter.

Until now, all professional clubs in Russia — and before that in the communist-ruled Soviet Union — have been run by ministries, city authorities and state-owned enterprises and later sponsored by the new money classes. But Vladimir Kalina, one of the five co-owners of the lowly First Division Smena-Saturn Club in St Petersburg, believes this must change and that the way ahead is the route long favoured by western teams.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a solution time of 21 mins and a solution key at the bottom.

### CRYPTOQUIP

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid and a key: X K F G X R V T J A W J B G C C A V R S N W W P B G T A F N C A W J J L V P W J G C J V R S A Z L J A T Z J K K J L G T R T G A X. Includes a clue: Yesterday's Cryptquip: PRESIDENT OF CUSTOMERS' UNION CAN SWEEP HIS WIFE OFF HER FEET.