Sports Reporter

Totam snapped up five wickets for only seven runs to guide Dhaka Wanderers to a facile 69-run win over Ajax Sports Club in the lone Yamaha First Division cricket superleague match at the City Club ground yesterday.

Chasing Wanderers' handsome total of 198 in the stipulated 45 overs, Ajax, who finished second behind City Club on completion of the first round, were cruising comfortably at 84 for two in 22.2 overs before Totam began his act.

Ajax lost their last eight wickets for only 45 runs as they folded on 129 in 36.2

Earlier, Wanderers' total was built around an obdurate half-century by S Islam, who shared priceless 80 runs for the sixth-wicket with Faruque after the eventual winners lost their first five wickets for only 26 runs.

Islam, who clubbed five fours and one sixer in his 102ball 55, put on another 61 runs for the seventh wicket after Faruque departed for a patient 61-ball 37.

Totam, who later shone with the cherry, featured in an entertaining knock of 24.

Ajax's new-ball bowlers Colonel and Bhola, who were responsible for the early Wanderers hiccups, shared seven wickets between them. Colonel finished with four for 36 while Bhola claimed three wickets for 38 runs.

TODAY'S MATCH Railway vs Agrani Bank (City

Club ground).

Azhar at the helm

CALCUTTA, Mar 7: Mohammed Azharuddin will lead India (senior) in the first limited over day-and-night cricket tournament to be played by three teams — India (senior). India "A" and India "B" at Eden Gardens here from March 18 to 21, reports PTI.

Announcing the names of each squad comprising 12 players selected by the senior selection committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), here yesterday Jagmohan Dalmiya, hony secretary told a press conference that S Manjrekar would lead India "A" and Ajay Sharma India "B".

Dalmiva said that the tournament had been conceived by the board as selection trial for all the leading players of the country keeping in view of the international competitions.

In fact, the tournament_ would be a sort of pre-test for selection of the Indian team that would play the Asia Cup in Sharjah in April this year. Dalmiya said that all the national selectors would be present in Calcutta to watch the performance of the cricketers in this tournament.

Gaudenzi guns Fromberg down INDIAN WELLS. California

Mar 7: Andrei Gaudenzi of Italy recovered from a lethargic first set Monday to beat Richard Fromberg of Australia 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) in the first round of the dlrs 1.8 million Newsweek Champions Cup. reports AP.

Gaudenzi, seeded 13th, was the only seed to play on the opening day of the eight-day tournament.

In other first-round matches. David Wheaton eliminate Cedric Pioline of France 6-3, 6-1; Arnaud Boetsch of France topped Adam Peterson 6-1, 6-2; Carlos Costa of Spain beat countryman Alberto Costa 6-3, 6-3; Horst Skoff of Austria beat Andre Chesnokov of Russia. 7-5, 6-3; and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden beat Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia 7-5, 6-2.

The top eight seeds receive first-round byes. Fifteen of the top 20 players in the world are entered, including No. 1 Pete Sampras, No. 2 Andre Agassi, No. 3 Boris Becker of Germany, and No. 4 Michael Chang.

Agassi could overtake Sampras at number one in the ATP Tour rankings if he wins the tournament and Sampras loses before the quarter-finals, according to tour officials.

Gaudenzi, ranked 19th in the world, played a lacklustre first set before coming alive against the baseliner

Fromberg. Gaudenzi double-faulted on break point to lose his serve in

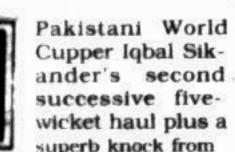
the third game, and then committed numerous errors while losing his serve in the seventh game. Fromberg never faced a break point in the first

Gaudenzi began hitting his groundstrokes with more authority in the second set, and it paid off when he broke Fromberg on net approaches in the sixth and eighth games to win the set.

The third set went on serve into a tiebreak. The Italian took control of the tiebreak at 2-2, blasting groundstrokes for winners and taking the last five points of the match.

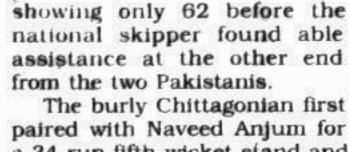
Rusty Abahani roll on Malik sacked SA ensconsed at Auckland

Sports Reporter



superb knock from Akram Khan carved joint holders Abahani Krira Chakra's eighth victory in the Navana Premier Division cricket league yesterday.

The tall leg-spinner took five for 39 to restrict Greater



The burly Chittagonian first paired with Naveed Anjum for a 34-run fifth-wicket stand and then teamed up with Sikander for the sixth wicket for 49 more runs to steer his side close to victory.

Although Sikander left for 15 at 145, wicketkeeper



WAY OUT IS THE ONLY WAY: Abahani skipper Gazi Ashraf's wispy optimism turns into horror as the umpire upholds a leg before appeal against the veteran batsman during yesterday's Navana Premier cricket league match at the Dhaka Stadium. Champions Abahani stayed atop the points table beating GMCC by four wickets. - Star photo

Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC), coasting at one stage on 121 for three after electing to take the strike, to a manageable 148 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs and then Akram followed up his halfcentury in the previous match with a timely unbeaten 56 to see his side to 151 for six in 36.4 overs.

However. Abahani's chase for a modest target was off to a surprisingly shaky start as the top four batsmen were dismissed with the scoreboard

Khaled Masud staved there until the end to make sure no further damage was done.

Akram's 89-ball tenure at the crease was embellished with two fours and a huge six that flew right over Sharfuddowla ibne Shaheed's head and landed a few feet away from the sight screen. ·· Naveed Anjum followed

Akram in the individual scorers' tally with 24 runs while skipper Gazi Ashraf Hossain chipped in with 21.

In the morning, Sikander

South Africans in semis

raised his league haul to 24 to overshadow the efforts from opener Javed Omar Belim and

captain Mahbubur Rahman. Javed Omar, whose maiden exposure to international cricket came during England A's recent tour to Bangladesh, added 79 runs for the third wicket with Mahbub to set GMCC on course for an impressive total before Sikander started his magic.

Although medium paceman Saiful Islam made the breakthrough by sending back Javed Omar for a well compiled 54, it was the leggie who simply ran havoc.

Sikander started his demolition act with the wicket of Mahbub, who made a patient 46, and went on to picking the next four in the space of only 15 runs as GMCC caved in meekly.

Sikander apart, Saiful also bowled well and bagged two for 25 in nine overs.

KALABAGAN CRUISE

In the other match of the day at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, a masterly 61 not out from former national opener Zahid Razzaque led Kalabagan to a facile seven-wicket victory over Suria Tarun.

The tall right-hander teamed up with his new peer at the national level, in-form opening batsman Athar Ali Khan for an 86-run partnership for the second wicket to set Kalabagan up for an impressive win.

Although Athar went back for an unusually aggressive 56ball 51 made of nine fours. Zahid held his end up till the end of the chase on a sparkling 61, spanned over 87 balls and interspersed with seven hits to the fence.

Earlier, despite a determined 104-ball 62 from Syeduzzaman, Surja Tarun could muster only 141 in 44.1 overs.

With the score precariously placed at 12 for three, Syed featured in a fourth-wicket partnership with Emadul Huq (32) to give the Tarun total a semblance of respectability.

Saidul Islam had the batsmen cornered with his offspinners and returned figures of three for 25. The win takes Kalabagan

atop the points table along with Abahani Krira Chakra, both having eight wins from nine matches each to their credit.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Biman vs Mohammedans (Dhaka Stadium)

Brothers vs Eskaton (DCS)

The 48-year-old claimed Zealand, though."



BOMBAY, Mar 7: South African veerans gained a stunning six-wicket victory agai nst Sri Lanka he-

re today to set up a Masters Cup semifinal clash with the West Indies, reports AFP. Henry Fotheringham stole

the thunder from fellow opener Barry Richards (28) with an unbeaten 94 against Sri Lanka's spin-dominated at tack to take South Africa to the

205-run target with 3.3 overs to spare.

Old rivals Australia and England will meet in the last Group B game on Wednesday to complete the lineup for the last four stage.

Although Fotheringham set the pace during his two-and-a half-hour stand at the crease with support from Richards and Ken McEwan (40) - it was left-arm spinner Baboo Ebraham who took the team to

four wickets for 38 runs in nine overs to check the Lankan batsmen. Though Sri Lankan openers

Sidath Wettimuny (31) and Gerald Aponso (29) put on 53 runs, followed by a masterful 36 by skipper Duleep Mendis, the South Africans ensured that target would not be too difficult for their batsmen.

South Africa will play the West Indies in the second

Fernandez wins Evert Cup



INDIAN WELLS California, Mar 7: Eighth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez used a con

sistent serve and

steady ground strokes to deleat No 4 Natasha Zvereva 6-4. 6-3 Monday in the rain delayed singles championship match of the dlrs 430,000 Evert Cup, reports AP.

In the doubles final, the second-seeded team of Lindsay Davenport and Lisa Raymond rallied for a 2-6. 6 4. 6-3 vic tory over top seeds Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain and Larisa Neiland of Latvia.

Atlanta Games, taxpayers' worry

ATLANTA, Mar 7: Residents of the state of Georgia are becoming increasingly worried about the possibility of having their taxes increased to pay for the 1996 Olympic Games, according to a new poll, reports AP.

A Georgia State University poll asked respondents to rate the likelihood their taxes would be raised to pay for the Games.

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest likelihood, the average response was 6.88 — up from 6.59 a year

The latest poll also confirmed earlier ones that found Georgian's other top concerns included traffic congestion. price gouging and strain on law enforcement. The latest respondents rated those as larger problems than in past polls.

The matches were delayed for 4 1/2 hours Sunday before being rescheduled.

The weather was ideal Monday and Fernandez, who lost only one set during the tournament at the Hyatt Grand Champions Resort, was at the top of her game. "I thought it was a pretty

ATP's top 20

MONTE CARLO, Mar 7 Leading men's tennis rankings as released by the ATP Tour on Monday, reports Reuter. Pete Sampras (US) 4,389

points 2. Andre Agassi (US) 4,017 3. Boris Becker (Germany)

3.251 4. Michael Chang (US)

2.697 5. Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 6. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia)

2,500 7. Alberto Berasategui (Spain) 2,488 8. Michael Stich (Germany)

2.467 Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 2.434 10. Richard Krajicek (Ne

therlands) 2.239 11. Jim Courier (US) 2.012 12. Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) 1.937

13. Todd Martin (US) 1,909 14. Andrei Medvedev (Uk raine) 1,863 15. Magnus Larsson (Swe

1.723 16. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 1,681 17. Marc Rosset (Switzer

land) 1.506 18. Thomas Muster (Aus tria) 1.493 19. Andrea Gaudenzi (Italy)

1,439 20. Jacco Eltingh (Netherlands) 1.248

semifinal on Friday.

good match. said Ferhandez.

who earned dlrs 79.000. "I

knew she would attack and

come in I didn't want to make any mistakes. I know she's Fernandez. 23. who won this tournament in 1993, kept her mistakes to a minimum in the I hour 24 minute match

She has now beaten Zvereva in all five matches the two have played against each other. I got some points on my serve at the right time. Fernandez said. "Basically. I hit

"I think that one day of rest was good for both of us. Today was a beautiful day. I couldn't

ask for better conditions." There were seven service breaks in the match - five by

ing around vesterday didn't

in Saturday's semifinals.

was too late for me.

vided dirs 11.800

I was just trying to keep my

calm," said Zvereva. 23. "But it

needed 1 46 to beat Sanchez

and Neiland. The winners split

dirs 23,500 and the losers di-

Davenport and Raymond

Fernadez, including the final My control over the balls wasn't that great today." said Zvereva, who earned dlrs 39.500. "I just didn't have it today. I started well, but then got very sluggish. I think wait

Krajicek, 23, ranked 10th She played very well. I was in the world, hurt his right so excited to be in the finals. It takes a whole lot of me to get to the finals, and when you get there, you still have to play a Rotterdam on Sunday. top player.

knee examined in hospital on Zvereva, of Belarus, upset Monday and has been passed Sanchez Vicario, the top seed and No 1 player in the world. fit for the March 31-April 2 "I'm not trying to take anything away from Mary Joe, but

with Jan Siemerink and former world doubles champions Paul Haarhuis, whom he beat in Sunday's final, and Jacco Eltingh

Krajicek's win on Sunday was his second straight tournament success, having earlier triumphed in Stuttgart.

LAHORE, Mar 7: Pakistan's cricket authorities said today they had sacked national team captain Salim Malik, who has been accused of offering bribes to two Australian players last

year, reports Reuter. A statement by an ad-hoc committee running the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP) said Malik had been asked to explain his conduct within seven days, during which he would remain suspended from playing first-class cricket.

The BCCP statement, issued after an eight-hour meeting of the ad-hoc committee, said a new captain and a team manager would be named later for the team to play in the Sharjah Cup next month. Earlier, the committee

called Malik to its meeting in the Punjab province capital of Lahore.

Malik was later seen leaving the meeting with an envelope in his hand. He declined to answer re-

porters' questions and said he

was going to consult his legal

adviser.

Lankans take NZ Academy XI on a spin

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand, Mar 7: Spinners Muthiah Muralidharan and Javantha Silva finished with five second-innings wickets apiece Tuesday as Sri Lanka crushed the New Zealand Academy XI by 242 runs in their four-day cricket match at Fitzherbert Park, reports AP.

Sri Lanka bowled out the Academy side - who were chasing 448 for victory - for 205 just after lunch on the final day.

The Academy XI resumed their second innings at 110 for four, but wickets continued to drop at a brisk rate as the New Zealanders struggled to counter the wiles of the spin twins.

Three wickets fell before lunch and the final three shortly after the break.

Canterbury allrounder Nathan Astle made the tourists work hard, going to the break unbeaten on 65 and making 80 before he finally fell to Silva after more than three hours at the crease. Astle's 232-ball innings in-

cludes 10 fours and two sixes. Muralidharan finished with 5-56 off 39 overs and Silva claimed 5-77 for a match analysis of 10-106. The pair accounted for all but one of the Academy wickets to fall in the

match. "I always knew our spinners were potential matchwinners. and it was nice to get them on a pitch which rewarded them." said Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga. "We don't expect another track like this in New

Even Romario can't compete

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 7: Romario hit his eighth goal since joining Brazilian club Flamengo on Sunday but was outshone by rival striker Tulio who scored four times for Botafogo in another match, reports Reuter.

Romario scored the final goal as Flamengo beat Friburgense 3-1 in a Rio de Janeiro championship Group B match, taking his tally in the tournament to eight, three of them penalties.

But Tulio, a possible successor to Romario in the Brazilian national team attack, took his total to 14 with four goals in the 5-1 win away at Entrerrience in Group A.

Flamengo and Botafogo are both expected to comfortably progress to the last eight of the marathon and bafflingly complex competition.

Corinthians and Portuguesa provided a depressingly negative display as they drew 0-0 in the top game in the Sao Paulo championship.

Krajicek to play in Davis Cup tie against Germany

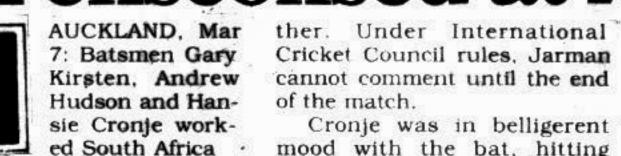
ROTTERDAM. Mar 7: Richard Krajicek, who injured his knee on the weekend, will play for the Netherlands in their Davis Cup World Group quarter final against Germany at the end of the month, the Dutch news agency ANP said today, reports Reuter.

knee as he lunged for a shot on match point in winning the World indoor tournament in The tall Dutchman had the

> thinks his experience and physical condition can return He will line up in the squad

> > title in October with a 12round decision over Richard Mason in Atlantic City, New Jersey

ball to Parore. ther. Under International



into a strong position against

New Zealand by the close of

play today, fourth day of the

one off Test at Eden Park,

four, an overall lead of 198, at

the close with Cronje not out

on 58 and Jonty Rhodes on

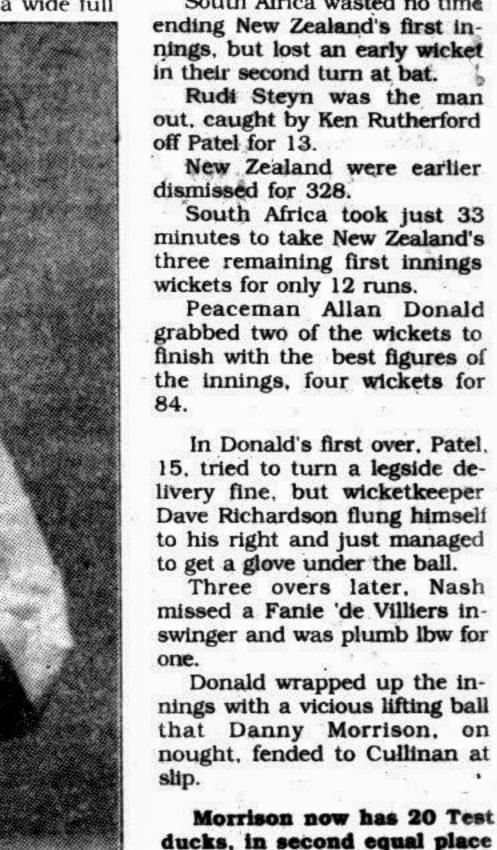
South Africa were 232 for

reports Reuter.

mood with the bat, hitting three sixes and four fours in his fourth Test fifty. He savaged the slow

bowlers, swatting Dipak Patel for two sixes over midwicket and driving Matthew Hart over mid-off for the same result.

Hudson fell to a brilliant catch by Bryan Young for 64 when he slashed at a wide full



New Zealand pace bowler Dion Nash who became the latest entrant into the ball tampering controversy, takes a good look at the very centre of rumpus the ball, on the trend back to his bowling mark during the fourth day of the one-off centenary Test against South Africa at Auckland yesterday. At stumps South Africa were 232 for four. - AFP/UNB photo

Kirsten scored 76 and Hudson 64.

South African coach Bob Woolmer said at a press conference captain Cronje would look to declare on the last day. "I'm sure he'll find some

way to make a game of it," he

There was also a hint of possible controversy during the day when television cameras focused on seamer Dion

Nash attending to the ball. Woolmer said at a press conference later he had spoken to match referee Barry Jarman about a minor matter, but he refused to discuss it furtoss outside offstump from Patel. The ball flew to cover, where Young flung himself to his left to catch it at full stretch. Hudson scored eight fours

in his 10th Test fifty. With

Cronje he put on 83 runs to

restore some order to the in-

nings, which had been teeter-

ing at 140 for three at tea. Gary Kirsten fell for 76 with the score at 123, when Nash induced him into hooking a

ball off his gloves to wicketkeeper Adman Parore. Twelve runs later, Daryll

Cullinan tried to leg glance

left-armer Hart, edging the

Kirsten became the latest player to throw away the chance of a hundred on the docile Eden Park pitch. Cullinan made 96 in South Africa's first innings while Young, 74 and Parore, 89, missed out of completing centuries for Nev Zealand.

Kirsten had batted aggres sively and soundly in making his score, and was disappointed to miss his maiden

Test century. South Africa wasted no time ending New Zealand's first innings, but lost an early wicket

in their second turn at bat. Rudi Steyn was the man out, caught by Ken Rutherford

off Patel for 13. New Zealand were earlier

dismissed for 328. South Africa took just 33 minutes to take New Zealand's three remaining first innings

grabbed two of the wickets to finish with the best figures of the innings, four wickets for

In Donald's first over, Patel, 15, tried to turn a legside delivery fine, but wicketkeeper Dave Richardson flung himself to his right and just managed to get a glove under the ball.

Three overs later, Nash missed a Fanie 'de Villiers inswinger and was plumb lbw for

Donald wrapped up the innings with a vicious lifting ball that Danny Morrison, on nought, fended to Cullinan at

all-time list, behind Wagwat Chandrasekhar, also of India, with 23. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the fourth

with India's Bishen Bedi on the

day of the centenary Test between New Zealand and South

Africa here today:

SOUTH AFRICA: 1st innings 294 (D Cullinan 96: D Nash 4-**NEW ZEALAND:** 1st innings

328 (A Parore 89; A Donald 4-SOUTH AFRICA: 2nd in-

nings G Kirsten c Parore b Nash R Steyn c Rutherford b Patel 13 64 A Hudson c Young b Patel D Cullinan c Parore b Hart H Cronje not out J Rhodes not out Extras: (lb1, nb1) Total: (for four wickets) Fall or wickets: 1-41; 2-123; 3-135; 4-218.

Bowling: 45 0 Morrison 69 Patel 17 3 50 1

Graf not after No 1 spot



DELRAY BEACH. fit Steffi Graf is eager to restart her stalled 1995 season. However,

recapturing the top spot is not a priority, reports AP. Graf, the No 2 player in the world since Arantxa Sanchez Vicario unseated her from a 20-month perch as No 1, is the top seed at this week's dlrs 430,000 Delray Beach

Winter Championships. It is only her second tournament of the year after a series of injuries.

Thunder knows the score

PRIOR LAKE, Minnesota, Mar 7: Jimmay Thunder knows that beating a former heavy weight champion is one of the fastest ways to earn respect even if the former champion is 40 years old

Thunder, 28, of New Zealand, will face Israel T. Berbick, formerly Trevor Berbick, in a 12-round bout for the vacant World Boxing Council Continental Americas title Tuesday night at Mystic Lake Casino, reports AP. "This is unbelievable," said

Thunder, the International Bo-

xing Organisation champion.

"America is the land of oppor

tunity and, wow, this is an op-

portunity for me to get into the top 10. This is make or break for me. The International Boxing Council champion, Berbick (41-7-1 with 30 knockouts) served two years in prison on a rape conviction and is on probation after being charged with

The fight will be Berbick's eighth since being released from prison. Berbick, who lost the WBC

title to Mike Tyson in 1986,

grand theft.

him to his previous level. While Berbick is known as a technician who waits for an opportunity to strike. Thunder (23-5, 18 KOs) uses power as

his primary weapon. Thunder captured the IBO

"Being No 1 doesn't mat- utive times and five overall. ter," Graf said Monday, after getting a first-round bye. "I want to play more than anything else. I didn't feel like this was the way I wanted to

end my career." Graf will play Spain's Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 winner over Patricia Hy

Boulais on Monday France's Nathalie Tauziat. the ninth and highest seed to play Monday, had trouble with the wind before defeating Rita Grande of Italy 7-6, (6-2), 6-2. No 13 seed Angelica

Gavaldon of Mexico posted a 6-

STEFFI GRAF

4, 6-2 win over Tatiana

Ignatieva, while Aussie Nicole

Bradtke upset 15th-seeded

Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 7-6

an aching back since losing the

US Open final to Sanchez

Vicario in September. Stx

months of intense rehabilita-

tion, followed by re-occurring

injuries to a calf muscle, has

injury-free," Graf said. "If you

had seen what I went through

the past three or four months.

you would see what drive I

surprised herself by winning

her 86th WTA title at last

month's open Gaz de France.

In the final, Graf beat Mary

Pierce, the Australian Open

champion, 6-2, 6-2.

After a 12-week layoff, Graf

"My priority now is to stay

altered Graf's perspective.

Graf has been bothered by

(7-5), 6-2.

Biscayne. "I have to prove something first," Graf said. "Arantxa has been very consistent. I have to earn it. That will come in time. I won't force it."

Ince charged

LONDON, Mar 7: Manch-

London police station Monday night with assaulting a Crystal Palace fan during United's FA Cup game at Selhurst Park on Ince was released on bail

Ince was charged at a south

to face assault charges for attacking another spectator. The charges, which carry a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a fine of 5,000 pounds (dlrs 8,000), stem

room, Cantona vaulted over the front-row barrier and landed a kung-fu-style kick to the chest of a taunting fan. During the ensuing confusion, Ince al-

eras, Ince's were not.

Sept. 25. The ban was ex tended worldwide by FIFA, the sport's world governing body.

whom Cantona attacked, has been charged with two public order offences for provoking the incident.

Graf's stiffest competition

this week should come from second-seeded Conchita Martinez, third-seeded Anke Huber and sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez. Even if Graf wins, she wouldn't overtake Sanchez Vicario, who along with Pierce and Gabriela Sabatini, took this tournament off to prepare for next week's Lipton Championships at Key

ester United midfielder Paul Ince has been charged with common assault on a spectator in the same incident which led to Erick Cantona's worldwide suspension, police said Tuesday, reports AP.

Jan. 25, Scotland Yard said. and ordered to appear before magistrates on March 23, the same day Cantona is scheduled

from an incident which began when Cantona was sent off for a foul. On his way to the dressing

Matthew Simmons, the fan

"I was stunned I played that well," said Graf, who has won the Delray tournament. formerly called the Virginia Slims of Florida, three consec-

legedly hit another fan. While Cantona's actions were caught by television cam-The Football Association has banned Cantona through