and Murphy Su'a.

spinner Dipak Patel.

vaging some pride.

Without Morrison and Nash,

the Kiwi bowling attack lacks

both potency and experience

and much may hinge on off-

Patel was relegated to 12th-

man duties for the first Test

but Carisbrook is expected to

be receptive to spin and he

could play a large role in any

hopes New Zealand have of sal-

Aravinda de Silva said his team

was planning to forget all about

K RUTHERFORD

its historic triumph in Napier.

again and forget about the first

Zealand to improve on what we

saw in Napier. New Zealand

are a capable side and I'm cer-

tain they'll be trying to square

tempted to introduce young

uncapped left-arm spinner

Jayantha Silva, and have in-

cluded him in their 12-man

squad pending a pitch inspec-

TEAMS

Rutherford (captain), Darrin

Murray, Bryan Young, Mark

Greatbatch, Stephen Fleming,

Shane Thomson, Adam Parore,

Gavin Larsen, Dipak Patel,

Murphy Su'a. Chris Pringle.

Ranatunga (captain), Aravinda

de Silva. Asanka Gurusinha.

Dulip Samaraweera, Sangjeeva

Ranatunga, Hashan Tillekara-

tne, Chamara Dunusinghe, Ch-

aminda Vaas, Pramodya Wick-

remasinghe, Muthiah Murali-

daran, Ravindra Pushpakurma,

Jayantha Silva, Sanath Jayas-

uriay. Ruwan Kalpage. Janak

Gamage. Chaminda Mendis.

backfield should prove suscep-

tible to threatening runs by

Gianfranco Zola (13 goals) and

Colombian striker Faustino

Milan, in third place but 13

points behind Juventus, play at

Champions Cup semifinals on

Wednesday by passing Benfica

on a 2-0 aggregate, have lifted

their level of play the last

three months and have lost but

once in their last 16 league

striker Ruud Gullit, for six full

seasons a member of the Red-

and-Black, play against his old

mates for the first time since a

mid-season trade sent him to

league-leading scorer Gabriel

Batistuta of Argentina (19

goals) and his Fiorentina squad

against Padova's league-worst

the first US-born player in the

Italian First Division, may miss

Bari-Napoli; Brescia-Torino;

Cagliari-AS Roma; Internazio-

nale-Foggia: and Lazio-Genoa.

Padova defender Alexi Lalas.

Other matches Sunday:

defence (44 goals allowed).

the match with influenza.

The late match features

The match will see Dutch

Sampdoria on Sunday.

Defending champions AC

Milan, who qualified for the

Asprilla.

matches.

Samp.

SRI LANKA (From): Arjuna

Kerry Walmsley.

NEW ZEALAND: Ken

tion on Saturday morning.

The Sri Lankans are

Test," de Silva said.

the series."

"We have to start all over

"We definitely expect New

Sri Lankan vice-captain,

Navana Premier super league from today

Sports Reporter

Abahani, who recorded a dramatic one-run win over Bangladesh Biman in the last league match on Thursday, will take to the field against Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stawhen the Navana Premier Division cricket super league begins today.

in the other match of the day, star-studded Kalabagan. who jointly finished atop the table along with Abahani on completion of the first phase, will meet Victoria Sporting Club at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Meanwhile, organisers the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has fixed the rate of tickets for the six-team super league which also figures strong contenders Mohammedan Sporting Club and Bangladesh Biman.

The rate of tickets are -VIP enclouser No-1 Taka 100: VIP enclouser No.-3 Taka 50 and galleries taka 15.

Challenger Trophy cricket on Star TV

The Star TV network's 24hour sports channel Prime Sports has acquired satellite and cable broadcasting rights to the inaugural India No. 1 Challenger Trophy which begins today. Three teams from India (Senior, "A", "B") will play in this triangular series of day-night limited overs matches with Rs500,000 in prize money at stake, says a press release.

This event will give selectors a chance to make their final decision for the team to play in the upcoming Asia Cup. which Prime Sports will broadcast live 5-13 April. The oldest and most prestigious cricket ground in India, Calcutta's Eden Gardens which holds over 100,000 spectators, will host the event.

The India No. 1 Challenger Trophy will be televised on Star TV's Southern Beam.

Broadcast Schedule: Match

India v India A 2:30 pm

India v India B 2:30 pm India A v India B 2:30 pm Final 2:30 pm

Sher-e-Bangla Cup soccer Sports Reporter

Bulbul notched up a brilliant hattrick as Bogra sauntered into the quarter-finals of the 19th Sher-e-Bangla Cup national football championship with a convincing 4-1 win over Kushtia at the Naogaon Stadium vesterday.

The fleet-footed striker scored all four goals for Bogra while Sohrab pulled one goal back for the losers in a high voltage encounter in which two players were sent off reducing both sides to ten men.

MSC executive body formed

A 52 member executive committee of the Mohammedan Sporting Club was unanimously elected for the next two years in the annual general meeting and election of the club here, reports BSS. According to a club press

release yesterday Mosaddek Ali and Md Fazlur Rahman have been elected president and general secretary respectively. Foreign Minister ASM

Mostafizur Rahman; who is also the chairman of the governing body of the club, was present at the meeting.

Tanvir Haider and Anwarul Huq Helal have been elected additional general secretary

and treasurer respectively. The executive committee includes 11 vice presidents,

the press release added. Bangladesh

Bank sports Delwar Hossain and Saidur Rahman became joint champions in the men's group while Mahmuda Khatun and Hosneara Begum shared the women's title in the annual sports competition Bangladesh Bank held at the

Hockey Stadium yesterday. Two hundred and fifty competitors featured in 30 events in the day-long meet attended among others by the Governor of the Bank Khorshed Alam who later distributed prizes among the winners.

Army b'ball begins today

COMILLA, Mar 17: The annual basketball championship of Bangladesh Army will start at the Comilla Cantonment tomorrow, an ISPR press said. reports BSS.

Twelve teams will take part in the robin league matches. The opening match will be held between the hosts and the Bogra Area.

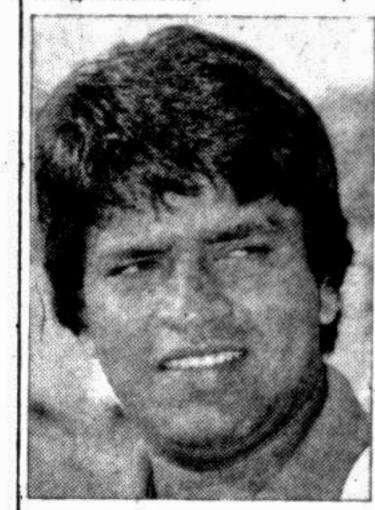
Second Test begins today

SL aim to dampen NZ spirit



able 100th centenary cricket season by beating them in the second Test which begins at Carishbrook Park from Saturday, report agencies

They're having a very tough time of it but we want to take advantage of that." Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga said today



A RANATUNGA

It has proven the latest disaster for a steadily worsening New Zealand side which now plays to empty grounds and discontented sponsors.

The Kiwis have enlisted the services of Christchurch sports psychologist Gilbert Enoka, who coach John Reid has called in to help lift his players' self confidence.

Ranatunga conceded that New Zealand were not unique in having difficulties, saving "We've been through a bad patch just like the Kiwis.

"We lost four Tests in a row by an innings last year and it was horrible," he said, adding "It's very difficult when you're going through a bad period. When things are going against you things like injuries and losses invariably follow."

But Ranatunga said he would not allow his players to dwell on the first Test

"We were quietly confident before we arrived in New Zealand and everything to date has gone precisely to plan," he said. "Our No 1 goal on tour was to win our first Test overseas. Now that we've done that we will aim to achieve our secional goal of winning the F. H. Vara

New Zealand captain Ken Rutherford is undecided about,

ROME. Mar 17:

They top the

First Division, are

in the Italian Cup

semifinals and

this week reach-

ed the UEFA Cup's final four.

Juventus and Parma must

avoid a let-down in Sunday's

matchups with relegation-zone

squads Cremonese and Reggi-

ana, respectively, reports AP.

Having substantially dis-

tanced themselves from the

rest of the 18-team league.

Italy's top clubs have created a

Some would say it's a one-

horse race, with Juve's depth

and experience - and current

four-point advantage - too

standing as one of Europe's top

clubs with an impressive six-

day run of three victories in as

many matches. They outscored

their opponents - Foggia,

Lazio and Eintracht Frankfurt

- by a combined 6-0 while us-

The Turin side sat Portu-

guese playmaker Paolo Sousa

and leading scorer Gianluca

Vialli, both bothered by muscle

pulls, in their UEFA match

French midfielder Didier

Deschamps - played a solid 90

minutes, while Vialli's -

Alessandro Del Piero - tallied

start against Cremonse, who

are in 15th place. Juve should

Olympiakos in

Euro b'ball

final four

Olympiakos Piraeus beat CSKA

Moscow 79-54 on Thursday

and became the second Greek

team to advance to the final

four of the European Basketball

Championship in Spain next-

naikos Athens trounced Buc-

kler Bologna 99-56 to gain a

berth in the final-four in

Zaragoza, scheduled for April

Real Madrid of Spain and

The Russian coach Stanislav

France's Limoges are the other

two clubs which will join

Panathinaikos and Olympiakos

Eremin used just five players

in the match because the other

five were hospitalized with

Earlier Thursday, Panathi-

month, reports AP.

11-13.

in the final four.

food poisoning.

PIRAEUS, Greece, Mar 17:

Both Sousa and Vialli will

one goal and two assists.

Result? Sousa's fill-in -

ing 16 different players.

with Eintracht.

Juventus confirmed their

much to overcome.

two-horse race for the title.

his future after a season that has produced five defeats and a

draw in seven Tests. Sri Lanka claimed their first victory, on foreign soil by beating New Zealand by 241 runs in Napier on Wednesday, sparking speculation that Rutherford may be about to retire after a 10-year international career spanning 56 Tests.

Rutherford did nothing to smother the rumours Friday. but said he does not plan an immediate announcement

'My future is something I'll be thinking about during the month of April." he said. "I'm very keen to personally finish the season on a high with a Test hundred and to finish the one-day series very strongly as

"I'll be taking four or five weeks away from the game starting in April and ascertain where I think K R Rutherford should be going."

Rutherford said the season had personally been particutarly demanding.

"Mentally it's been tough," he said. "No one likes losing and I'm the guy in the middle of it being subjected to most of the criticism and the backlash from the poor results.

"I am fully aware of that and realize I'm the guy who is most accountable.

"I am prepared to take that on the chin, to push on, to box on to the next challenge."

Carisbrook Park, the world's southern most Test ground, is an infrequent Test venue and the last time New Zealand played a Test here in February 1989 their match against Pakistan was abandoned without a ball being delivered.

A cold southerly hit the city Thursday and with it an overnight forecast for snow to fall to 800 metres (2640 feet).

Scattered rain is predicted Saturday with gusty winds prevailing for the next two days. To complete the gloom, daylight saving time ends Sunday an event traditionally opening the rugby season. While the Sri Lankans have

enjoyed a problem-free tour to date. New Zealand's continual injury woes have affected their preparation.

Their most experienced pace bowler Danny Morrison has been ruled out for the rest of the season after breaking his thumb at Napier while fastmedium right-armer Dion Nash aggravated a side strain during the first Test.

In their place come Auckland pair, Chris Pringle

Battle for Serie A resumes

have no trouble winning, but

the club have shown a

propensity for playing poorly

has played well against all

competition of late, stringing

together 529 consecutive

shutout minutes in league play.

Ravanelli (18 goals between

league and UEFA play) and Del

Piero are all bidding to be

called up to the Italian national

the league title yet, but must

play more consistently. Coach

Nevio Scala's club has rarely

put together two good halves

this season, and last round a 2-

0 lead was erased by Samp-

Reggiana, who are next-to-last.

Chiara and Antonio Benarrivo

will miss the match due to

suspension. But Roberto Mussi

and Argentine international

Nestor Sensini are more than

adequate substitutes, especially

given that Reggiana have regis-

tered a paltry 15 goals in its

Reggiana is also disqualified.

Stopper Angelo Gregucci of

Without his leadership, the

23 matches.

On Sunday, Parma travel to

Parma defenders Alberto Di

doria before Parma won 3-2.

Parma have not conceded

Peruzzi, striker Fabrizio

Goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi

against poor competition.

BCCP starts probe into Malik charges

ISLAMABAD, Mar 17: A probe is under way into bribery charges against former Pakistani cricket captain Salim Malik, a cricket official said Thursday, reports AFP.

Malik will remain barred from playing cricket pending the investigation into the charges levelled by two Australian players, said Arif Ali Khan Abbasi, a member of a committee supervising cricket affairs in Pakistan.

Abbasi said Malik had submitted his reply to the chargesheet handed to him by the committee and the next step in the inquiry would be taken after obtaining legal opinion on it.

Malik, who was accused by Shane Warne and Tim May of offering them bribes during the Australian team's tour of Pakistan last year, was suspended by the BCCP last week.

In his reply, given to the committee in Lahore on Tuesday. Malik denied the charges, saying the allegations were "baseless" and based on hearsay.

"I am disappointed with the cricket authorities who con trary to assurances announced the suspension," he stated.

Queensland in

Friday, reports Reuter.

Queensland guaranteed their appearance in the final by taking a first innings lead at

After dismissing Tasmania for 155, the visitors were 142 for three in their second innings at the close of play on the second day, a lead of 221

runs with two days remaining. South Australia, the team most likely to join Queensland. endured a frustrating day against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Needing the two points on offer for a first innings lead to guarantee their place in the final, starting on March 24, the visitors reduced New South Wales to 280 for nine in reply to their first innings 301.

tralia were 218 for eight in reply to Victoria's first innings

Both sides need and outright victory to have any chance of overhauling South Australia. who shared top spot in the standings alongside Queensland with 32 points before the start of the current round of matches.

A draw at the Melbourne Cricket Ground would eliminate both teams.

Lankan party still going on

COLOMBO, Mar 17: Sri Lanka's first Test win on foreign soil in New Zealand sparked calls today for a national holiday to mark the achievement, reports AFP.

Wednesday's 241-run win over New Zealand was Sri Lanka's first abroad and only the fifth in all 59 Tests played. "To each and every member

of the tour party go out our heartiest congratulations and we would like to impress on our gladiators to keep up the good work, and stuff the Kiwis in the second test too," the state-run Daily News said.

"We wonder whether a national holiday would be declared to mark this historic victory," it added. The victory ironically came after the English magazine, The Cricketer, dubbed Sri Lanka the world's worst Test team.

Sheffield Shield final SYDNEY, Mar 17: Queens-

land, chasing their first Sheffield Shield title since entering the competition in 1926-27, secured a place in this month's final as they charged towards a likely victory against Tasmania on

Hobart's Bellerive Oval.

period victory Thursday and an advance to the Cup Winners' Cup semifinals, reports AP. Although Sampderia finished regulation play leading 1-0, the Italians 1-0 loss at home to Porto left the squads In Melbourne, Western Austied 1-1 on aggregate scores.

The Sampdoria offence kept the ball away from their own zone most of the first half. maintaining a steady pressure on Porto, currently top of the Portuguese League table, and keeper Vitor Baia. The attack paid off in the

49th minute, when Mancini fielded a rebound in front of the Porto net and drilled it past Baia to put Sampdoria up.

gal. Mar 17; FC

Porto's Russell

Latapy muffed his

chance on an ove-

rtime shootout.

giving Sampdoria a 1-0 extra-

points, forcing first a 15-

minute overtime, then a

penalty kick shootout.

Although Porto regrouped their offence in the second period and took the attack back to Sampdoria, quickly matching, then doubling, the Italians' shots-on-goal, the Portuguese were unable to score.

Rui Barros had a chance to knot the score on a free kick in the final minute, but his lofting shot sailed high over the crossbar.

Porto's Jose Carlos came

minutes into overtime, but his sharp header bounced in front of the Sampdoria net and into Zenga's arms. With no score after the ex-

Sampdona's Milianovic (L. makes his way past FC Porto's Secretario during their European

Cup Winners Cup match in Oporto, Portugal on Friday. Sampdoria advanced to the last

Cup Winners' Cup

Sampdoria, Arsenal in semis

close to snapping the tie 12

tra period, the two squads sent out their five men for the shootout. Latapy, shooting second for Porto, topped the rain-slicked

ball and gave Zenga an easy Lombardo nailed the last kick, giving Sampdoria a 5-3

victory in the shootout. Meanwhile in London, lan Wright's seventh goal in six Cup Winners' Cup games this season took defending champions Arsenal into the semifi-

nal of the competition with a 1-0 victory in Auxerre Thursday. The result, which gave the Gunners a 2-1 aggregate tri-

umph over the French club. means that two English teams have made it to the last four of the competition. Chelsea got there by downing Belgian club Bruges 2-0 on Tuesday. Spanish club Real Zaragoza

also reached the semifinal by scoring a 2-0 victory over Dutch team Feyenoord and advancing 2-1 overall. The semifinal draw is Friday in Geneva.

Thursday's 'triumph for Arsenal comes at a time when the north Lendon soccer giants are in turmoil at home. Last month they fired manager George Graham, who had guided the team to six titles in

eight seasons, over allegations he took a financial kickback over two transfer deals. The club also have struggled in all three domestic competi-

- AFP/UNB photo

tions. Wright struck in the 16th minute at Auxerre, taking advantage of a blunder by two de-

fenders to maintain possession and curl a 20-yard shot through the goalkeeper's fin-Auxerre were less impressive than in the first leg at Highbury although Arsenal's

England goalkeeper. David Seaman, defied a rib injury to palm away a 30-yard free kick from Auxerre's Dutch sweeper Franck Verlaat.

Algerian midfielder Moussa Saib also hit the Arsenal cross-

Roberto Mancini's 49th minute strike for Sampdoria canceled out Porto's first leg advantage gained in Genoa. After 30 minutes scoreless play in extra time, the two teams went into a shootout and Attilo lombardo clinched a semifinal place for the Italians after Russell Latapy had missed for the Portuguese league

In Zaragoza, Feyenoord relied on defence to hang on to their 1-0 first leg lead but fell to two second half strikes. Miguel Pardeza struck the first for Real in the 59th minute and Santiago Araoon volleyed the second in the 71st.

FIFA tells Nigeria

World youth tourney is off



ZURICH, Switzerland, Mar 17: The 1995 World Youth Championship in Nigeria are definitely off.

('iting security reasons. FIFA announced Thursday it has decided to take the event away from Nigeria and stage it somewhere else, reports AP.

FIFA regrets that the Nigerian Football Association, which has made considerable efforts to provide the necessary sporting infrastructure for the Championship, will not be hosting this year's final." FIFA

"It remains FIFA's intention to ensure that the 1995 World Youth Championship takes place as soon as possible." The president of the local

organizing committee for the event in Lagos, Sebastine Williams, called the decision a rude shock." "It's shocking. I am really distressed. We gave all the FIFA asked of us." Peter Achebe of the

Presidential Task Force charged with providing necessary facilities for the event agreed. "We even went the extra mile to satisfy FIFA's conditions. We deserve to host the hampionship."

Last month. FIFA's emergency committee decided to cancel the under-20 event in Nigeria, originally scheduled for March 11-26. At that time, FIFA cited health reasons after reports of cholera and meningitis in some of the venue ci-

However, after strong protests from Nigerian officials. FIFA said it would reconsider its decision and possibly hold the event in Nigeria later in the year.

· Thursday's final cancellation came after an inspection group

Grobbelaar & co passports seized LONDON, Mar 17: British

police said on Friday they had seized the passports of five people, including foreign soccer stars Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, arrested this week over allegations of bribery and match-rigging, reports Reuter.

Premier League players Grobbelaar, Segers and John Fashanu were arrested on Tuesday and held for up to 36 hours before being released on bail without charge.

Fashanu's girlfriend. Melissa Kassamapsi, and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim were also arrested and released after a four month investigation in what could become Britain's biggest soccer scandal in 30 years.

"We have retained their passports so they cannot leave the country," a spokesman for Hampshire police said on Friday. The three soccer players have all asserted their innocence of involvement in any alleged match-rigging.

expressed concerns over security and the reluctance of insurance companies to provide coverage for the event.

The championships were thrown into further doubt after reports of a foiled coup attempt last week in Nigeria. Over the weekend, the military government declared the country safe and stable and called on FIFA not to use the coup attempt as a reason to

cancel the event. Information regarding an alternative venue will be issued

in due course. FIFA said. The news comes as another bitter blow to a country striving to make its name as a soc-

cer power. The Nigerian national team produced such an impressive show at last year's World Cup in the United States that it was tipped as a title contender at the next championship in

Many of its stars play for teams in Europe but there always have been doubts about the structure of the game back

France in 1998.

Nigerian officials had called the original decision to cancel the biennial tournament "racist.

A FIFA inspection delega-

tion headed by CONCACAF president Jack Warner in December decried the state of preparedness in Nigeria, say ing it would be a 'miracle" if the venues were ready in time. A subsequent visit said adequate progress made



other on the podium, as they celebrated their victories in the World Cup downhill events and in the overall downhill World Cup competition at Bormio, Italy on Thursday.

- AFP/UNB photo