

Tk 60cr cricket stadium to be built in city

The National Sports Council (NSC) has taken up a project to build a separate cricket stadium at Maghbarah in the city, reports UNB.

The work on the stadium estimated to cost Tk 60 crore, will begin during the coming fiscal year (1995-96) is due for completion by two years.

This was disclosed at the 19th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Youth and Sports Ministry held Thursday with State Minister Sadeque Hossain in the chair.

Police sports

By Staff Correspondent

The annual sports meet '95 of the armed police battalion was held in the city yesterday.

The Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan inaugurated the meet held at the Uttara Armed Police Battalion ground in the afternoon.

The third Armed Police Battalion, Bogra, became champions.

Bangladesh blow it

Sports Reporter

The up-and-down game was decided on penalty kicks after both the regulation period and extra time ended goalless.

In the first minute of the second half of extra time Bangladesh striker Mizan missed a golden chance to break the stalemate but his shot was cleared off the line by the Indian skipper PV Sathyan.

Ten minutes later Ranjan also saw his effort thwarted by some heroics from Indian defender Jacob.

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break the deadlock.

Only Jewel Rana and Rakib managed to beat the Indian custodian Sumit Mukherjee.

The second semifinal between Sri Lanka and Nepal was in progress when this report went to press.

Windies 195 all out at Bridgetown

Sports Reporter

The West Indies were all out for 195 shortly before the close on the opening day of their first cricket Test match against the visiting Australians at Bridgetown, Barbados, according to radio reports monitored in Dhaka late last night.

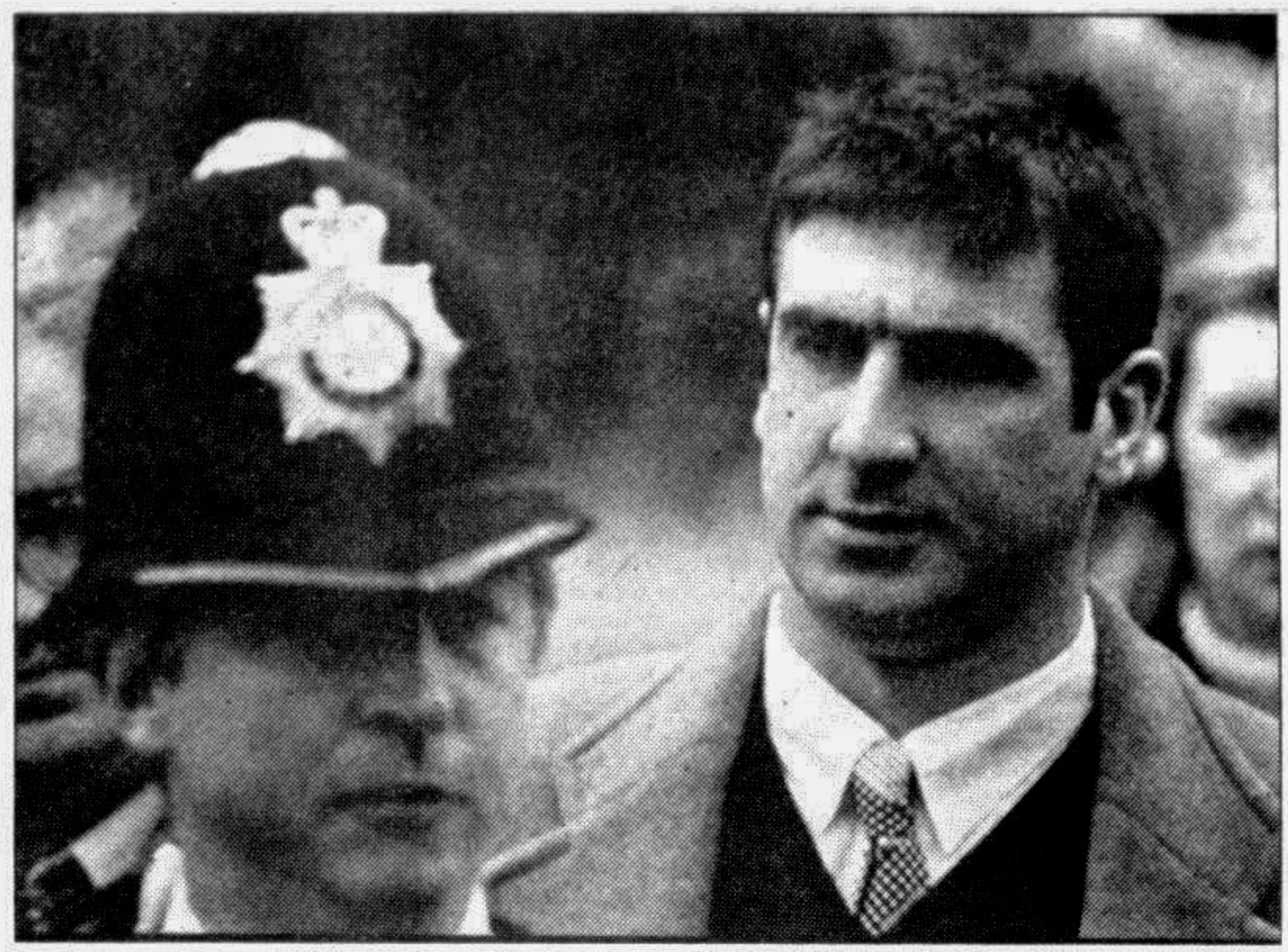
The home team made a disastrous start after skipper Ritchie Richardson, returning to the team after a long absence, won the toss and elected to bat.

They lost their first three wickets with just six runs on the board. The Australian pace trio of Brendon Julien, Glen McGrath and Paul Reffel scythed through the top order on a favourable strip.

It then fell upon master batsman Brian Lara and Carl Hooper to try and repair the damage. The two mixed caution with aggression to pull their team out of trouble. Lara made 65 while Hooper 60.

At tea, the Windies were 178 for six.

Julien had figures of four wickets for 33 runs while Reffel and McGrath picked up a wicket each.



Manchester United's French star Eric Cantona arrived at Croydon Crown Court in London yesterday to appeal against a two-week jail sentence. — AFP/UNB photo

Tony Lock passes away

PERTH, Mar 31: Former England Test cricketer Tony Lock has died here after a long battle with lung cancer, hospital sources said Friday, reports AFP.

The left-arm spin bowler, who represented his country in 49 Tests between 1952 and 1968, was 65.

Lock died at a hospice in the inner Perth suburb of Shenton park, where one of the last people to see him was Australian fast bowler legend Dennis Lillee.

The pair were teammates in the Western Australian Sheffield, Shield side for many years.

Lock's death comes two months after sex charges against him were dropped on the ground of his ill health.

The decision came after a district court jury in Perth in December had been unable to reach a verdict on four charges alleging Lock indecently dealt with a 10-year-old girl.

Lock migrated to Western Australia in 1962 after an illustrious career with Surrey and England.

He captured 174 Test wickets.

Lock was the partner of Jim Laker at Manchester in 1956 in one of the most famous of all Tests.

Laker captured 19 Australian wickets, with Lock snapping up the other one.

Lock's career with Western

Australian spanned 10 years. As captain, he carried Western Australia to their first Sheffield Shield title in 1967-68.

After the charges against him were dropped, Lock lamented that he would not be remembered for his cricketering career, but for the controversy in his later years.



TONY LOCK

"I suppose when I die it won't be Tony Lock, the greatest slow-left arm bowler to play for England, but Tony Lock, the guy who was up on sex charges," he said.

Reuter adds: Lock believed he would go to his grave remembered more for unproven charges of indecent assault

than his Test cricket, his son said today.

"I think it's a tremendous shame that dad devoted his life to cricket but that people will remember him for the sex charges," said Lock's eldest son Graeme, 41, adding that Lock believed the charges would overshadow his cricket.

As testaments to his father's illustrious career poured in, Graeme Lock told Reuters: "It had a dreadful effect on the whole family. I'm very tentative with people these days. You can't help wondering what people are thinking."

"He was a master of the game, one of the best in his time," said a former teammate, Tony Mann. Lock was "a terrific guy who played a crucial role in transforming Western Australia into major cricketering force," he added.

Another Western Australia teammate, John Inverarity, said Lock was a courageous cricketer who was fiercely competitive but scrupulously fair.

Lock is survived by two sons and a daughter. His wife, Audrey, died last September. His body is expected to be cremated next week, but funeral arrangements have not been finalised.

"Even though he'd had the disease for some time, his death still came as a shock," Graeme said. "He went to a private schools association competition match only last Saturday."

Whatmore new SL cricket coach

MELBOURNE, Mar 31: Sri Lankan-born Australian Dav Whatmore has been appointed the national cricket coach of Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

Whatmore will leave his position here as head cricket coach at the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) to take up his new position in June.

Whatmore, 41, played seven Tests for Australia and more than 90 Sheffield Shield matches for Victoria, and is generally considered to have performed an outstanding job as coach at the VIS.

During Whatmore's four years in charge at the institute, he produced 14 players who graduated to play for Victoria in the shield.

But Whatmore, who has an agreement to coach the Sri Lankans for the next two years, will not have long to wait to return to Australia.

He will be with the Sri Lankans when they play three Test matches in Australia next summer, including the Boxing Day Test here, as well as the one-day series with the West Indies.

Barisal cricket

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 31: Barisal Cricket Club (BCC) beat Uttar Alekanda Boys' Club by seven wickets in one of two low scoring matches of the First Division league played at the Outer Stadium here today.

Batting first, Alekanda were skinned out for 86.

Monu was the mainstay of their innings with 33.

In reply, BCC reached 89 for three.

In the other fixture at the Inner Stadium, Four S Club trounced Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC).

Four S Club winning the toss, scored 106 all out.

Sumon, with 63 was main run-getter.

Chasing a modest total, SBMC fell thirteen runs short.

Uzbeks well placed

TASHKENT, Mar 31: Uzbekistan took a 2-0 lead over Sri Lanka in an Asia-Oceania Zone Group Two, second round play-off Davis Cup tie today, reports Reuter.

Results (Uzbek names first): Oleg Ogorodov beat Rohn De Silva 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. Aleksei Tomachevich beat Gyendra Wecheskera 6-2, 6-1, 6-0.

Court relieves Cantona

CROYDON, England, Mar 31: Manchester United's French striker Eric Cantona walked free on Friday after a British judge quashed a two-week jail sentence for his two-footed assault on an abusive fan in January, reports Reuter.

Judge Ian Davies at Croydon crown court, south of London, ruled that Cantona, 28, should serve 120 hours of community service helping others improve their soccer skills.

Cantona, smartly dressed in a grey jacket and tie, smiled and looked relieved at the judge's decision. Fans in the public gallery applauded and some young girls in court wept with relief.

"We express the hope that he will be able to be used in carrying out his public duties by helping young people, men and nowadays women, who aspire to be professional footballers," Davies told the court.

Cantona was sentenced to two weeks in jail on March 23

for a "kung-fu" leap into the crowd during United's match against Crystal Palace on January 25. Spectator Matthew Simons was alleged to have shouted abuse at Cantona after he was sent off.

Cantona was granted bail pending Friday's appeal.

"Cantona reacted in a way out of character and he would not have done so but for the provocation aimed at him," Davies said. The fan's behaviour would have "provoked the most stoic."

When Cantona was asked if he would agree to do community service, the former French national captain nodded his head and smiled.

Simons faces trial on two charges of abusive behaviour on May 23. On the same day, Cantona's Manchester United teammate Paul Ince faces trial on charges of assaulting another spectator after Cantona's jump into the crowd.

Cantona's lawyer David Poole told the court an immediate custodial sentence for

common assault was rare. He said Cantona was given a jail sentence because of his high profile in the soccer world, not because of the seriousness of his crime.

"He does not seek to justify his actions and his action that night was wholly out of character and committed at a time of intense provocation," Poole said. "We ask for the opportunity to make amends by community service."

Outside the court Cantona's fans, most of whom had travelled from Manchester in the north of England, cheered and waved placards pleading with the judge for clemency for their idol.

A brilliant player who helped Leeds and Manchester United win three league titles, Cantona has a history of clashes with authority both in England and his native France.

He "retired" in 1991 after being banned for two months by French officials he called "idiots" at a disciplinary hearing.

Voeller to sue Marseille

LEVERKUSEN, Germany, Mar 31: Former German international striker Rudi Voeller is suing his former club Olympic Marseille for 5.9 million francs (1.2 million dollars) in unpaid taxes, reports Reuter.

German's SID sports news agency reported on Thursday that French tax officials were asking Voeller, who has since moved back to Germany and now plays for Bayer Leverkusen, to pick up the tax bill that the French side should have paid.

Under former Marseille president Bernard Tapie, soccer players were paid net salaries and the taxes should have been paid by the club.

Voeller's action represents another problem for Marseille who were demoted from the First Division at the end of last season after it was proved they bribed Valenciennes players in a league match in May 1993.

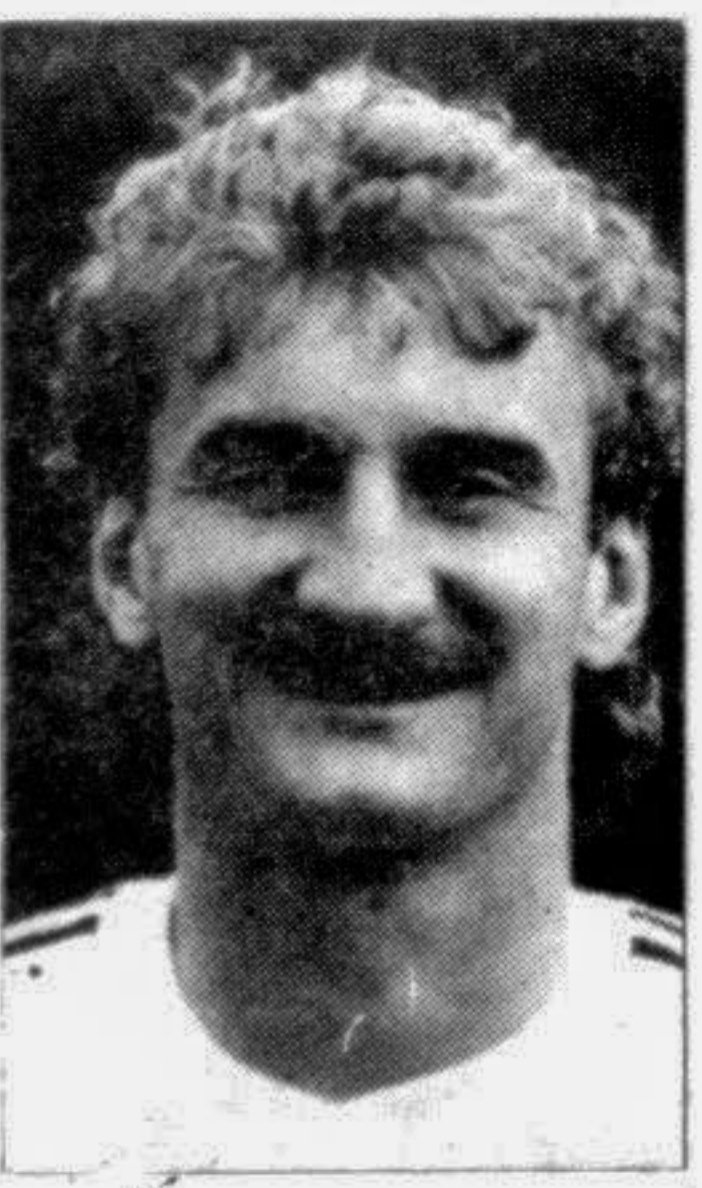
All of Marseille's elite overseas stars, including Voeller, have since left the club while Tapie is facing a jail sentence.

Voeller, who will be 35 next month, played 57 league matches for Marseille in two seasons, scoring 24 goals.

He was also a lethal finisher at international level and is Germany's second all-time

highest scorer with 47 goals in 90 internationals. Only Gerd Muller scored more.

The high spot of his career with Marseille came on May



RUDI VOELLER

26, 1993 when Marseille beat AC Milan 1-0 to become the first French team to win the European Cup.

Voeller's lawyer EVA Sterzing told French sports daily L'Equipe on Thursday. "Rudi Voeller received a net income from Marseille and his

income tax was taken at source."

In France, income tax must usually be declared to the tax man by the taxpayer. But the deal signed by Voeller and Tapie's right-arm man Jean-Pierre Bernes in 1992 apparently made it clear that Marseille would pay the income tax for the striker.

Sterzing added that she had also asked the legal committee of the French league to provide details of the contract signed by Voeller for Marseille. Irregularities in the contract had apparently been found, she said, without elaborating.

Voeller, a member of Germany's World Cup-winning side in 1990, signed for Marseille in 1992 from AS Roma. A former Werder Bremen player, he was offered a new two-year contract by Marseille at the end of last season but decided instead to join Leverkusen.

His action is another blow for Marseille as it seems all but certain, according to club sources, that the team will go in to receivership next week with a debt estimated at 217 million francs (44 million dollars).

If the news was confirmed, it would mean Marseille would be relegated to the Third Division for next season.

Davis Cup tie against Italy

Agassi puts US in front

PALERMO, Sicily, Mar 31: Andre Agassi swept Andrea Gaudenzi in straight sets Friday to give the heavily favored US team a 1-0 lead over Italy in Davis Cup play, reports AP.

Agassi, the world's No 2 player, won 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 in just over two hours. The match was interrupted for 90 minutes by rain.

The world's No 1 player Pete Sampras faced Renzo Furlan in the second singles.

Gaudenzi, ranked 19th in the world and Italy's top player, ignited hopes among the partisan crowd when he took a 2-0 lead in the first set. But they were short-lived.

Agassi's game proved too much, despite the especially slow red clay more adapted to the Italian's style.

The 21-year-old Gaudenzi played defensive tennis anchored to the baseline, rarely taking the game to his opponent. Agassi, in turn, moved him back and forth at will.

The crowd of 5,100 was partisan but friendly, often

applauding the American who set a fashion note in his white-speckled blue Bermudas, striped shirt and black bandana over his short-cropped hair.

Agassi and Sampras put their rivalry on hold to play for the US Davis Cup team.

The two Americans have battled in three major finals this year in a rivalry that has become one of the best individual duels in sports.

But Davis Cup ties do not always play to form, given the partisan flavor, home court advantage and choice of surface.

In fact, the red clay of the Palermo Tennis Club is Sampras' weakest surface. He has not played on clay in 10 months since losing in Jim Courier in last year's French Open quarterfinals.

"When you add up all the conditions, you hope to come through with a win," Agassi

said after the draw Thursday.

But both Agassi and Sampras say they are determined to win and reverse the US failure to reach a Davis Cup final since beating Switzerland three years ago.

Non-playing captain Adriano Panatta says it may be an advantage for his young team to be such underdogs.

"Psychologically, we know we have nothing to lose," said the former French Open champion.

But the doubles competition on Saturday spells equal trouble for Italy.

The pair of Stefano Pescosolido and Christian Brandi, who helped defeat the Czech Republic in February, face the world's top ranked partnership in Jared Palmer and Richey Reneberg.

The United States holds a 6-2 lead over Italy in Davis Cup play.

Teeny-weeny bikini pants!

LAMEZIA TERNE, Italy, Mar 31: A women's volleyball team in Italy were told on Wednesday that their teeny-weeny bikini pants were not sporting, reports Reuter.

Local federation president Antonello Sdanganelli said he had written to the Second Division club, Salumificio Mena, advising that more traditional shorts were in order.

He complimented the team on a "thrilling match" against rivals Palermo last Saturday, but added:

"While the other team were dignified and more functional elasticated shorts, your players exhibited skimpy bikini bottoms which, during their athletic efforts, revealed anatomical details whose sight tends to detract from the decency of a quality sporting event."



Action from the Cute Premier handball league match between Police and Dhaka Wanderers Club at the Outer Stadium yesterday. Police won 38-9. — Star photo

Tanui's lucky escape

MONTE CARLO, Monaco, Mar 31: Olympic 800-metre champion William Tanui of Kenya failed a drug test in 1993 but escaped a suspension because of a "mistake," the sport's world governing body confirmed Friday.

International Amateur Athletic Federation spokesman Christopher Winner said Tanui tested positive for the banned stimulant norephedrine at a meet in New Delhi, India, on Sept. 14, 1993.

Use of the product normally carries an automatic three-month ban, but the penalty was never imposed because of a mix-up in communications between the drug-testing lab and the IAAF.

Winner said the samples were tested at the International Olympic Committee-accredited lab in Moscow, but the IAAF was not notified of the result until 10 weeks later, on Nov. 29.

The Russian lab then went ahead and tested the "B" sample without notifying the IAAF and without Tanui or a representative of the Kenyan Amateur Athletic Association being present.

"By now more than four months had passed," Winner said.

The IAAF decided to put the positive drug test into its records but not to impose a ban or make it public.

"We made a mistake," Winner said. "It's embarrassing. Something fell through the net. The error amounted to the fact that he never formally served the ban. But by itself, it can not be allowed to discredit the worldwide anti-drug movement."

"The only mitigating factor is that the entire chain of events occurred when the IAAF was closing shop in London and moving its headquarters to Monaco," Winner said.

A second drug offense by Tanui would result in a two-year ban.

Tanui was among 24 top Kenyan runners who signed and appeal this week asking the IAAF to lift the four-year ban of five-time world cross country champion John Ngugi for refusing a drug test.

Source said the Kenyans may threaten to boycott the World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, this summer unless the IAAF lifts Ngugi's ban.

India storm past Philippines

NEW DELHI, Mar 31: Favorites India swept aside the Philippines in the first day's singles match to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the Asia-Oceania Zone Group One Davis Cup tie here today, report AFP.

Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathy used their powerful serve and volley games to romp home in straight sets on the sun-baked grass courts of the National Sports Club of India (NSCI) here.

The Filipinos' gamble to play doubles specialist Sofronio Palahang in the opening singles mirrored as Paes raced to an easy 6-2, 6-0, 6-3 victory in an hour and 30 minutes.

Bhupathy, playing only his third Davis Cup match, needed just five minutes more than Paes to blast Robert Angelo, a late replacement for the indisposed Joseph Lizardo, off the court. The Indian won 6-1, 6-3, 6-4.

Lizardo pulled out an hour before the start with an upset stomach — a case of "Delhi belly" — and pushed Angelo into a contest from which he was surprisingly omitted on Thursday.

"Lizardo's unexpected illness set us back," said David Petersen, the Philippines' coach. "We would have had a good chance to make it 1-1 had he played."

Petersen, who had predicted a tough fight for the Indians before the tie began, conceded his team was now faced with an uphill task.

"We are up against it. The Indians must now clearly be favorites to win," he said.

Indian non-playing captain Jaideep Mukherjee said he was not surprised at the outcome. "We were the superior team and proved that conclusively. I don't think Lizardo's absence would have made a difference."

Added Paes: "It was smooth sailing for both Mahesh and me. We played good, solid tennis. It was fun out there."

China lead

BANGKOK, Mar 31: China was leading Thailand 2-0 on the first day of their 1995 Davis Cup tennis Asia-Oceania Zone Group two semifinal here Friday, reports AFP.

Two-time Asian Games men's champion Pan Bing beat Thailand's Voraphol Thongchoo 7-5, 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.

In the second match, Asian champion Xia Jiajing comfortably beat Narathon Srichaphan in straight sets, 6-2, 7-5, 6-3.

On Saturday Thanakorn Srichaphan and Vittaya Samrej will face Pan Bing and Xia Jiajing in the doubles match.

France's Furiani Stadium disaster

Six men sentenced, fined

BASTICA, Corsica, Mar 31: A French court on Friday jailed six men but acquitted a senior government official over the 1992 collapse of a Corsican soccer stadium stand which killed 17 people and injured more than 2,300, reports Reuter.

After an often bitter and emotional trial in January, judges took two months to reach their verdict over the collapse of a stand at Bastia's Furiani Stadium minutes before kick-off for a French Cup semifinal game against Marseille.

Angry friends and relatives in the courtroom booed when the judge acquitted Henri Hurand, the Paris government's representative in Bastia at the time of France's worst soccer disaster on May 5, 1992.

He had joined the defendants on the bench on the first day of the trial on charges by civil plaintiffs but the prosecutor had said there was no case for him to answer.

The court sentenced Jean-Marie Boismond, the engineer responsible for building the

stand, and Michel Lorenzi, former vice-president of the Bastia Club, to two years, imprisonment. Boismond was convicted of manslaughter and Lorenzi of forgery.

In sentences heavier than those requested by the public prosecutor, the judges also jailed a safety inspector and two senior officials of the Corsican soccer league for 18 months for manslaughter.

One other league official was jailed for a year and two former national soccer officials were given 18-month suspended sentences.

The court also slapped fines on the six men sent to jail.

More boos greeted acquittals for the former local director of official amenities and two fire brigade officials.

Prosecutors had charged that negligence, greed and favours led to the stand successfully passing safety tests. An extra 10,000 tickets were allowed to be sold.

The verdicts had been the subject of furious speculation in advance on this French Mediterranean island.

The disaster drew comparisons with the deaths of 96 Liverpool football fans crushed at Hillsborough Stadium in England in 1989 and the 39 people killed during a 1985 riot between Liverpool and Juventus fans at Brussels' Heysel Stadium.

Most of the 12-defendants-administrative and security officials as well as construction workers-faced charges of manslaughter and causing bodily harm. Three former soccer officials were charged with falsifying documents.

Death threats had been scribbled on walls around the island, known for underworld killings and where separatists have long waged a low-level guerrilla fight for autonomy from France.

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