

**Italian spikers incuse Argentina**

TOKYO, Nov 20: World champions Italy had three players out of action but showed no weakness in beating Argentina Monday for their third straight victory in the World Cup men's volleyball tournament, reports AFP.

Pasquale Gravano was sidelined due to a cold and Samuele Papi and Michele Pasinato due to minor injuries, but the Italians coasted to a lopsided 4-1, 15-6, 15-3 victory.

"Although we missed three players today, the starting six players did their job 100 per cent. I'm pretty much content with the win. Especially, our blocking was good," said Italian coach Julio Velasco.

"It is good that we could play well at blocking before meeting strong teams like the Netherlands, Cuba and Brazil," he added.

Earlier in the day, Canada, who lost key player Simon Berleur with a right knee injury in the opening match on Saturday, had to battle for two hours 20 minutes to beat Egypt 12-15, 16-14, 15-12, 10-15, 15-10.

"Egypt came out stronger than we had expected and my players were a little bit nervous," said Canadian coach Clement Lemieux. "This afternoon, we were favourites and we were supposed to win. My players had a hard time to cope with that situation."

In Kumamoto, western Japan, the Netherlands and South Korea both coasted to straight-sets victories.

The Netherlands, runners-up to Italy at the European Championships, demolished the United States 15-10, 15-7, 15-6, while South Korea outgunned African champions Tunisia 15-9, 15-10, 15-9.

**Rain reigns**

PRETORIA, Nov 20: Heavy overnight rain delayed the start of the fifth and final day in the first Test between South Africa and England at Centurion Park today, reports Reuter.

England are 381 for nine in their first innings.

**New body**

Sports Reporter  
A 42-member cricket committee of Mohammedan Sporting Club was formed on November 19 for the running season with Abdur Rob and Abdur Rouf as chairman and secretary respectively.

Kutubuddin Ahmed, Shahnewaz Chowdhury MP and Ali Azgar Lobi were also made as vice-chairmen of the committee.

Olympic hockey qualifiers

**Englishwomen gun Germans down**

CAPE TOWN, Nov 20: Britain enjoyed the best result at the women's Olympic hockey qualifying tournament on Saturday, beating the powerful German team 2-1 in a hard fought match, reports Reuter.

The results more than made up for their disappointing 1-1 draw with lowly Canada on Thursday and moved them up to third place on the table of eight teams — five of which qualify for Atlanta.

Right wing Pauline Robertson opened the scoring with a remarkable shot from an impossible angle close to the goal line in the second minute and the score remained 1-0 until 10 minutes after half-time.

Fran Hentschel levelled with a fierce strike from open play but Britain earned the two points when Sue Fraser shot with equal power from a short corner 10 minutes later.

Pre-tournament favourites South Korea were held to an exciting 2-2 draw by the Netherlands in a high-paced match which combined the best of speed, stick-skills and finishing the tournament has seen so far.

Dutch captain Wietske de Ruiter's seventh minute short corner strike was cancelled out by her opposite number Eun Jung-Jang seven minutes later when the Korean spectacularly volleyed home a cross from Hyun Kwon-Soo.

Ellen Kuipers' reverse stick cross was flicked home, also with a reversed stick, by Suzan van Der Wielen nine minutes after the restart but Eun Jung-Cho ensured a fair result with a short corner goal five minutes from time.

Hosts South Africa upset the form book against Argentina by forcing a goalless draw in the other match.

It was a brave performance from the home team who lost skilful striker Karan Symons after just five minutes with a leg injury and then saw influential captain Karen Roberts leave the field in the 20th minute for stitches in a nasty face wound.

**Aussies worsen Pak woe**



HOBART, Australia, Nov 20: Australia proved their ability to win even without master leg-spinner Shane Warne by thrashing Pakistan by 155 runs in the second Test today to wrap-up the three-Test series, reports Reuter.

Fast bowler Glenn McGrath shouldered the extra responsibility in Warne's absence by taking five wickets to dismiss the tourists for 220 in their second innings with a day to spare.

Australia were forced to rely on pace after Warne, a repeated match-winner in recent years, was unable to bowl a single delivery at Bellerive Oval because of a broken toe.

All-rounder Greg Blewett played a vital support role for Australia by claiming his first wickets in Test cricket at a



MARK TAYLOR... m-o-m crucial stage of the match today and taking two fine catches.

Pakistan, set a daunting 376 victory target, finally succumbed when McGrath flattened the middle stump of leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed for eight, one hour before the scheduled close today.

Blewett stuck with only his third ball of the match to remove opener Aamir Sohail, the one batsman who looked capable of lifting the tourists to an unlikely victory.

Sohail was caught by substitute fielder, Brendon Julian at Midwicket for 57 with the total on 132 for two.

Blewett two overs later removed middle-order batsman Ijaz Ahmed leg before wicket for four.

Pace bowler Paul Reiffel also made a telling contribution with three wickets.

Australia were deprived of Warne's services after he was struck on the foot by a Yorker from fast bowler Waqar You-

nis on Friday. Warne, who took 11 wickets in Australia's crushing innings victory in last week's first Test, played no further part in the match, watching the action from the pavilion while undergoing treatment on his left big toe.

Australia captain and opener Mark Taylor, who won the man of the match on the strength of his innings of 40 and 123, paid tribute to his pace bowlers afterwards.

"It is a very satisfying result, especially without Shane Warne," Taylor told reporters.

"There have been a few rumours that without Shane we are not a very good side but we have proved that wrong today.

"Obviously, it would have been good to have him out there but the pace bowlers did very well, especially Glenn McGrath who is bowling with a lot of pace at the moment," Taylor said.

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram rated Australia as the best side in the world after twice failing to extend them into a fifth day during the series.

"When I came here I thought that Australia were one of the best sides in the world but now I think they are definitely the best side," Wasim said.

Resuming on 15 for no wicket, Pakistan briefly threatened to challenge Australia's domination when Sohail and Inzamam added 70 runs for the third wicket with some ease before Blewett's dramatic entry.

When Inzamam fell leg before wicket to Reiffel for 40 before tea, the result appeared inevitable, despite a few lusty blows late in the innings from Wasim, who made 33.

"Whenever Sohail or Inzamam get out the rest of the batting seems to fold a bit. Our batting let us down in this match," said Wasim.

The scoreboard supported Wasim's view as Pakistan slumped from 132 for two to 157 for six in the space of nine overs after Sohail's dismissal.

Australia set up the target by scoring 306 in their second innings on Sunday, bolstered by Taylor's century and telling 73 from fellow opener Michael Slater.

Pakistan struggled to 198 in their first innings in reply to Australia's 267 on Friday.

Taylor said he would give Warne as much time as possible to prove his fitness before the two sides face each other again in the third and

final Test in Sydney, starting on November 30.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test match between Australia and Pakistan at Bellerive Oval today:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 267 (Mark Waugh 88; Mushtaq Ahmed five for 115)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 198 (Rameez Raja 59; Reiffel four for 38)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings 306 (Mark Taylor 123, Michael Slater 73; Mushtaq Ahmed four for 83)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings (Overnight 15 for no loss)

Elahi c Boon b McGrath	17
Sohail c sub (Julian) b Blewett	57
Rameez lbw b Reiffel	25
Inzamam-ul Haq lbw b Reiffel	40
Ijaz lbw b Blewett	4
Basit b Reiffel	5
Moin c M Waugh b McGrath	16



McGrath... 5 for 61

Wasim c Blewett b McGrath	33
Mushtaq b McGrath	8
Waqar c Blewett b McGrath	4
M Akram not out	0
Extras: (lb-11)	11
Total: (84.3 overs)	220

Fall of wickets: 1-27: 2-62: 3-132: 4-142: 5-152: 6-157: 7-205: 8-210: 9-220.				
<b>Bowling</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
McDermott	16	7	38	0
McGrath	24.3	7	61	5
Reiffel	14	6	42	3
M Waugh	12	2	24	0
S Waugh	8	1	19	0
Blewett	10	4	25	2

**Result: Australia won by 155 runs**  
**Man-of-the-match: Mark Taylor (Australia)**  
**The third and final Test in Sydney on Nov 30.**

**Gurushina in doubt**

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 20: Key Sri Lankan batsman Asanka Gurushina will have X-rays on a suspected broken thumb, team manager Duleep Mendis said today, reports AFP.

Gurushina was stuck on the thumb in Sunday's opening tour game, a one-day match in Cairns where the Sri Lankans lost by 46 runs to Sheffield Shield champions Queensland.

Mendis said he hoped the injury was minor with the tourists due to play the first of three Tests against Australia in Perth in just over a fortnight's time.

Gurushina and Roshan Mahanama were the in-form batsmen against Queensland with Gurushina scoring 50 and Mahanama top-scoring with 58.

The tourists' next match will be a four-day outing against Queensland, which starts in Mackay, in the state's north, on Wednesday.

**Sohail fined**

HOBART, Australia, Nov 20: Pakistan batsman Aamir Sohail was fined half his match fee and handed a two-match suspended sentence for throwing his bat during the second Test against Australia today, reports Reuter.

International Cricket Council match referee Raman, Subba Row imposed the penalties after ruling Sohail's actions had brought the game into disrepute.

Subba Row, who conducted a hearing after the close of play, said Sohail will be banned from two Test matches or limited-overs internationals if further charges are found against the left-handed opener over the next six months.

Sohail threw his bat to the ground after being dismissed for 57 in his side's second innings at Bellerive Oval.

**Meyrick Pringle replaces Schultz**

PRETORIA, Nov 20: Pace bowler Meyrick Pringle has been recalled after a three-year absence to South Africa's squad for the second Test against England starting at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on November 30, reports Reuter.

Pringle is the only change and replaces left-arm pacesman Brett Schultz, who was not considered after straining a muscle in the current first Test at Centurion Park.

Peter Pollock, the convener of selectors, said: "Meyrick enhances the attack because he swings the ball away from the bat."

But he went on to say that left-arm spinner Clive Eksteen who was 12th man at Centurion Park, will "probably play."

Pringle played the last of his three Tests in the 1992-93 series against India, also at the Wanderers. He was hit in the face by a short ball from Javagal Srinath in the second Test, missed the rest of the series and subsequently lost form.

But Pringle took a hat-trick against England in Soweto last month playing for a South African Invitation XI and has been back to the form that made him South Africa's best bowler at the last World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in 1992.

**Squad:** Hansie Cronje (captain), Andrew Hudson, Gary Kirsten, Daryll Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Brian McMillan, Dave Richardson, Shaun Pollock, Meyrick Pringle, Clive Eksteen, Craig Matthews, Allan Donald.

**Paulus makes her mark**

PATTAYA, Thailand, Nov 20: Top seed Barbara Paulus of Austria defeated Chinese rising star Qing Yijing 6-4, 6-3 in an hour and 13 minutes to emerge women's single champion of the 1995 Volvo women open tennis championships here Sunday, reports AFP.

The 25-year-old Austrian player from Vienna used forehand top spins and crosscourt shots to dominate the game over the unseeded 21-year-old Chinese from Nanjing in both sets.

Paulus led all the way in the first set while the second set saw the Chinese fight-back strongly in the early stage. The Chinese player tried to rally to the baseline but made many mistakes.

Paulus received 17,500 US dollars in winning the top place while Qing was given 8,250 dollars as runner up. Paulus improved her world rank from 28 to 24.

The women's doubles title was won by top-seeded pair of Jill Hetherington (Can) and Kristine Radford (Aus) when they defeated third seeds Kristine Godrige (Aus) and Nana Miyagi (Jpn) in three sets 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in an hour and 52 minutes.

**Boris breathes new life**



FRANKFURT, Nov 20: Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker clinched the ATP Tour World Championship for the third time on Sunday with a 7-6, 6-0, 7-6 victory over former French Open champion Michael Chang, reports Reuter.

The Fsthille Arena, just a short drive from his home town of Leimen and host of the Championship since 1990, has become Becker's favourite indoor court where the capacity 9,000 crowd, which included Becker's parents and wife Barbara, roared on every shot from the 27-year-old German.

After starting well Chang, who had upset fellow American world number one Pete Sampras in Saturday's semifinals, could not live with

Becker's power. The American ran hard for every point but it was not enough to stop Becker from establishing one of the best records at the Championship and the New York based Masters event it replaced on the circuit in 1990.

Becker previously won the event in 1988 and 1992 and Sunday's triumph put him level with some of the greatest players in the game. Ivan Lendl, Ilic Nastase and John McEnroe are the only other players to have won the tournament three or more times.

It also marked Becker's first triumph at a major event since he won here in 1992. The championship is regarded as the most prestigious title outside of the four Grand Slam tournaments — Wimbledon, and the US French and Australian Opens.

After Steffi Graf and Anke

Huber had reached Sunday's final of the women's year-ending championship in New York, Becker's victory provided a superb tennis weekend for Germany which has enjoyed a boom in the sport in the past decade.

Sunday's victory also earned Becker 1.2 million dollars and helped him replace Chang as number four in the world.

Chang, who has worked hard on becoming a better all-round player in the last few years, produced one of his best performance ever indoors to surprise Sampras in straight sets on Saturday and reach the final for the first time.

The American started well when he broke Becker's serve in the second game. But once Becker battled back to take the first set with a 7-3 victory in the tiebreak, Chang rarely threatened to spoil the party.

Becker stormed away with the second set 6-0 and although the third set was tight, Becker produced his best tennis under pressure, finishing off the match with an ace after two hours and 16 minutes.

"You're the best fans I have in Germany, I mean that," Becker told the crowd. "It was tough getting back to take the first set but I played on another planet for half an hour in the second and then it was close again."

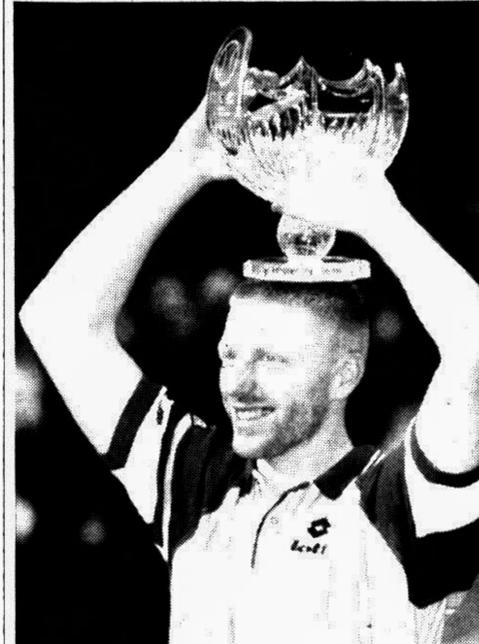
Chang said: "Boris served unbelievable today. I have never seen anybody serve like that. But it has still been a great week for me."

**Kenya Breweries win Super Cup**

KAMPALA, Aug 13: Kenya Breweries on Saturday won east Africa's Super Cup in the final match of a three-nation tournament held at Nakivubo Stadium here, beating Uganda's Express 1-0, reports AFP.

The only goal of the match, marred by hooliganism, was scored by Breweries' Otieno in the 28th minute.

Tanzania was represented by Malindi of Zanzibar, the current Tanzanian champions.



An ecstatic Boris Becker of Germany holds the trophy in front of his raucous home town fans after beating gritty American Michael Chang 7-6, 6-0, 6-7 in the final of ATP World Championships in Frankfurt on Nov 19.

**All's well that ends well**



NEW YORK, Nov 20: World number one Steffi Graf claimed her fourth WTA Tour Championship here on Sunday with a victory over unseeded com-

Graf, 26, was named WTA Tour player-of-the-year earlier this week for a season that included victories at the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

She finished the year with a 47-2 match record, her

Graf earned 500,000 dollars for the victory to take her earnings for the season to 2.5 million dollars.

Huber, who beat fourth seed Mary Pierce, number six Kimiko Date and unseeded Brenda Schultz to reach the final, earned 250,000 dollars.



World number one Steffi Graf of Germany, wearing a Gianni Versace jacket which was presented to her after winning the year-ending WTA Tour Championship, waits along with her compatriot counterpart Anke Huber (R) to receive trophies after the final in New York on Nov 19. Graf won 6-1, 2-6, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

patriot Anke Huber in a five-set final, reports AFP.

Graf beat Huber 6-1, 2-6, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. It was only the second time the final of the two million dollar season finale had gone all five sets.

She was treated for a foot injury several times during the match, but it was Huber who gave her the most difficulty.

Graf finally earned the key break in the eighth game of the final set to take a 5-3 lead.

She converted her fourth break point of the game as Huber hit a backhand into the net, and Graf served out the match with a love game.

"This caps an incredible year for me," Graf said. "It is a wonderful tournament to win."

success coming amid a host of injuries and the distraction of her father's arrest in Germany on charges of tax evasion when he managed her fortune.

Sunday's match started off life a typical Graf steamroller as she won the first five games to easily win the first set.

In the second, however, Huber broke Graf three times to level the match.

The pendulum swung again in the third, but Huber rebounded in the fourth to force the fifth and deciding set.

Huber doubled the number of sets she had won in nine previous meetings with Graf, but she couldn't prevent Graf from taking her career record against Huber to 10-0.

**Atlanta Games on course**

BRUSSELS, Nov 20: The organisation of the 1996 Olympic Games is right on track and within budget thanks to soaring ticket sales and the absence of any hiccups during construction work one of the organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"So far so good," Charles Battle, executive vice president of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) told a news conference while on a two day visit to Brussels. "We feel good about where we are," he said.

"We are confident we will be able to host excellent Games within the parameters of our budget," said Battle who is also the committee's managing director for international relations.

The Atlanta Olympics is almost entirely funded by the private sector with the US federal government and the State of Georgia only providing some support in the area of security.

The total cost is put at 1.7 billion 550 million for construction work and the rest operational costs.

"We have now committed about 88 per cent of the 1.7 billion" he said. "The rest 200 million, would be found too."

"We are confident we will raise that money from the remainder of our ticket sales from our continuing effort to get additional sponsors and from our continuing and expanding merchandising efforts" Battle said.

He said all the construction work was right on schedule with most of it to be finished by the end of this year and adjustments to be made thereafter.

Battle said Atlanta organisers had started hosting test events in many of the Olympic facilities and would continue to do so right up to the Games.

**Earlier he couldn't, this time could he be**



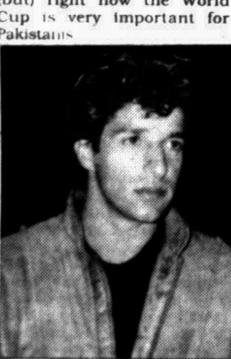
HOBART, Australia, Nov 20: Pakistan's main aim is its World Cup defence, but skipper Wasim Akram denied any downgrading in the status of Test cricket following his team's 155-run second Test hammering by Australia here Monday, reports AFP.

The World Cup takes centre-stage on the sub-continent in February-March next year, with Pakistan desperate to perform well before their fans after a nightmarish year of losses to Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and now heavy defeats to Australia.

"We're going through a learning process right now, we had a bad series against Sri Lanka and when I got the captaincy I told the boys that we would be preparing for the World Cup," said Wasim, the great left-arm speedster with 278 Test wickets.

"Everything is important, and Test cricket is definitely very important, but our main aim is for the World Cup and hopefully the boys are getting better, but we need more application on the field."

Asked if that made for a change in Pakistani philosophy on Test cricket and to the one-day game, 29-year-old Wasim said, "No, no, it can't be... Test cricket is definitely the cricket for me (but) right now the World Cup is very important for Pakistanis."



WASIM AKRAM

As to the well documented divisions in Pakistani cricket teams, with various internal cliques, Wasim said, "The team spirit is building up, especially after the two losses and the boys are to-

gether."

Wasim is looking ahead for further improvement within the team for the third and final Test with Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground, starting on November 30.

"In the first Test we didn't bowl well and our batting didn't click, and again it didn't click here, but hopefully it will click in Sydney."

"Psychologically, Aamir Sohail is our main player right now. He really played well here and in Brisbane and I think he should play the same way as (Australian captain) Mark Taylor and just stay out there as the main batsman."

Wasim said he was also prepared to back young batsman Basit Ali, who had another sorry Test in Hobart.

Basit, who posted centuries in the opening tour games in Perth and Adelaide, failed again against the Australian bowlers.

The 24-year-old was bowled by Paul Reiffel in Monday's second innings for five, and in four Test innings on the Australian tour has totted up 1, 26, 2 and 5.

**Mixed delight for Naim**



GUANGZHOU, China, Nov 20: Turkey's Naim Suleymanoglu retained the men's 64 kg title but lost a world record to Valerios Leonidis in a tremendous duel at the World Weightlifting Championships on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Leonidis lifted 148 kg in the snatch to beat the 147.5 kg hoisted by Suleymanoglu at the 1994 World Championships in Istanbul last November.

But the Greek had to settle for 147.5 kg in the results classification, which is compiled in multiples of 2.5 kg. World records can be set outside this framework.

The two rivals each returned 147.5 kg in the

snatch and 180 kg in the clean and jerk for two-lift aggregates of 327.5 kg but Suleymanoglu won the gold in each section because he had the lighter bodyweight.

Leonidis failed twice with attempts at 185 kg in the clean and jerk which, if successful, would have given him the title.

Suleymanoglu prevailed over Leonidis in a similarly close