

Sport

Column One SPORTS TALK



Chris Lewis (England all-rounder) 'Making comparisons is really the problem of the critics. I really don't take comparisons that seriously. As far as my cricket is concerned I just go out and perform as best as I can. I don't pay attention to comparisons at all.'

DID U' KNOW? (The Professor does)

HAT frog-jumping is a well-followed sport, though not widely publicized. They even have a world championship, not the frogs but the people who own them. At the World Championship trials in California in 1950, an African frog jumped 28 feet, doubling the world record at the time and almost equalling the human long jump record.

Either Leapy's watch was slow or he wasn't paid his fees. Frogs can be human, or is it the other way round?

Sports WHIZZ KID COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN The rules are published every Saturday.

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-15 Tick the Correct Answer (Competition closes: 8 p.m. Dec 1, 1995)

- 1. The World Cup cricket 1996 final will be held in Calcutta Karachi Lahore
2. Test cricketer Hanif Mohammad was born in India Pakistan Bangladesh
3. Besides India, with whom did Australia play a Test? England Pakistan West Indies
4. ITF Thai-Bangladesh Satellite tennis was played locally in Dhaka and Chittagong Comilla Rajshahi
5. Ajax ...? Holland Amsterdam Milan

Name: Class: Roll No: School Address: Phone: (if any)

Wimbledon proves profitable

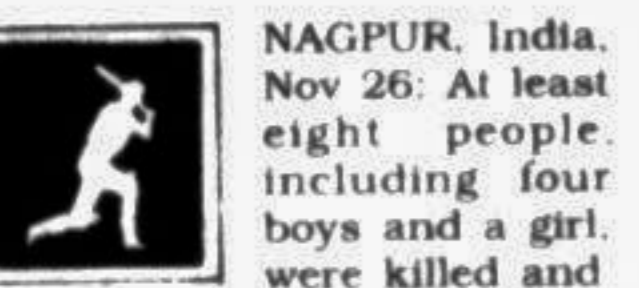
LONDON, Nov 26: This year's Wimbledon Championships made a surplus of 27.9 million pounds (43 million dollars) equalling the record set last year, the English Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) said at a news conference on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

LTA chief executive Ian Peacock said the surplus would have been even higher but some of the income from the Championships had gone towards building a new number one court complex, likely to be completed by the end of next year.

The LTA receives the surplus after the championship committee has decided how much it needs to take from income to keep the Wimbledon competition running. The Wimbledon surplus is used by the LTA for the improvement of tennis in Britain.

The LTA said their total income for 1995 was 42 million pounds (65 million dollars), including the Wimbledon surplus, 6.3 million pounds (10 million dollars) from sponsorship, grants and donations and a 1.3 million pound (2 million dollars) return on investments.

Indians date with incubus 8 killed in stadium collapse



NAGPUR, India, Nov 26: At least eight people, including four boys and a girl, were killed and 69 others injured when a stadium wall collapsed during the one-day cricket match between India and New Zealand here today, police said, reports agencies.

The incident occurred shortly before the lunch-break when a newly constructed brick wall at the eastern end of the stadium collapsed.

Indian team physiotherapist Ali Irani told AFP over the telephone that the players only heard about the collapse after the game ended.

Officials at the Vidharbha Cricket Association (VCA) stadium feared that the final death toll might rise.

'More casualties are feared as people fell from a height of nearly 30 feet,' police officials here said, after rushing the injured to hospital.

'About 100 people were seated on the wall at the time of the accident,' a witness said. 'The wall just gave in, but the noise from some 40,000 spectators at the stadium drowned the cries for help.'

Three people died instantly and another five succumbed to their injuries in hospital, police said, adding more casualties were feared.

'Immediately threw myself to save two children in front of me,' said 23-year-old Pappu Ramteermalle, who was taken to hospital with three leg fractures and a gash in his stomach.

Hundreds of people gathered outside the Mayo Hospital in Nagpur, in Maharashtra state in western India, as news of the accident spread.

The area around the base of the stand where the wall collapsed was splattered with blood and littered with bags and personal belongings.

'The wall was a single-brick one and so failed to support the weight,' said Rajiv Tambhe, a senior municipal official.

The match, the fifth one-day international between India and New Zealand in the Kiwis' current tour, continued despite the tragedy after the customary 45-minute break for lunch.

'There would have been a riot if we had suspended play,' a VCA official told Reuters.

The VCA stadium was renovated last month to accommodate an additional 10,000 spectators for the Australia-Zimbabwe match in the World Cup next year.

VCA officials said they would launch an enquiry into the incident to determine whether there was a fault in the construction.

New Zealand won the match by 99 runs to level the one-day series 2-2 after piling up a huge 348 for eight, the third-highest score ever in limited-overs cricket.

India found the target of seven runs an over, beyond their reach, and folded up for 249 in the 40th over.

Before the tragedy struck, opener Nathan Astle led New Zealand's spectacular run spree with a smashing 114 off 129 balls, his maiden one-day century. The other top-order batsmen chipped in with useful scores against ragged bowling by the Indians.

1987 World Cup surpassed New Zealand's total against India. New Zealand's previous highest score was against Bangladesh, a country sans Test status, in Australasia Cup tourney at Sharjah in 1989-90, where they amassed 338 for four.

New Zealand never looked back after openers Mark Greatbatch and Astle put on 50 off the first 45 balls, and took their stand to 62 by the 11th over.

Greatbatch hit 38 off 40 balls before he was bowled in off-spinner Ashish Kapoor's second over, but there was no respite for the home team.

Astle shared a 128-run stand for the second wicket with Martin Crowe, who made 63, and then added 98 for the third with left-hander Stephen Fleming (60) to take the score to 288 for two by the 44th over.

India used seven bowlers to contain the rioting Kiwis, but none made any impression. Prasad went for 61 runs in eight overs. Sachin Tendulkar 54 in six and front-line seamer Manoj Prabhakar 55 in eight.

Tendulkar smashed a typically belligerent 65 off 59 balls, including nine boundaries and a six, to raise a flicker of hope for the home team.

The 22-year-old batting wizard was 50 when India reached 83 after 15 overs, but they had lost three top-order batsmen by then.

India's slim chances vanished when Tendulkar was run out in the 22nd over after a horrible misunderstanding with Sanjay Manjrekar which saw both batsmen stranded at the same end.

Manjrekar made 44 and Ajay Jadhava a breezy 61 off 45 balls as the Indians went for the runs to narrow the margin of defeat.

Scoreboard of the fifth one-day international between India and New Zealand at Nagpur today.

NEW ZEALAND Greatbatch b Kapoor 38 Astle c Azharuddin b Prasad 114 Crowe st Mongia b Kapoor 63 Fleming c Azharuddin b Prasad 60 Cairns c Manjrekar b Kumble 14 Twose run out 9 Thomson lbw b Kumble 15 Gernon b Srinath 1 Larsen not out 1 Nash not out 4 Extras (lb-20, nb-2, w-3) 25 Total (for eight wkts in 50 overs) 348

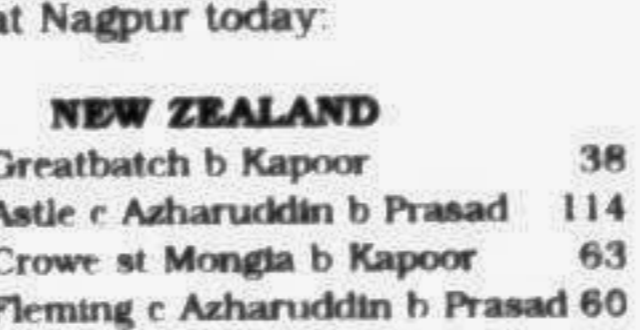
INDIA Prabhakar run out 9 Tendulkar run out 65 Kambli c Crowe b Cairns 16 Asharuddin b Cairns 1 Manjrekar c sub (Young) b Astle 44 Jadhava st Gernon b Larsen 61 Mongia c sub (Young) b Thomson 20 Srinath c Nash b Thomson 6 Kapoor lbw b Larsen 6 Kumble c sub (Young) b Thomson 12 Prasad not out 0 Extras (lb-5, nb-4) 9 Total (all out in 39.3 overs) 249

Bowling O M R W Prabhakar 8 0 55 0 Srinath 9 0 42 1 Kapoor 7 0 48 2 Kumble 10 0 49 2 Prasad 8 0 61 2 Tendulkar 6 0 54 0 Jadeja 2 0 19 0

Bowling O M R W Morrison 4 0 25 0 Nash 5 0 35 0 Cairns 7 0 32 2 Larsen 9 0 58 0 Astle 5 0 31 1 Thomson 9.3 0 63 3

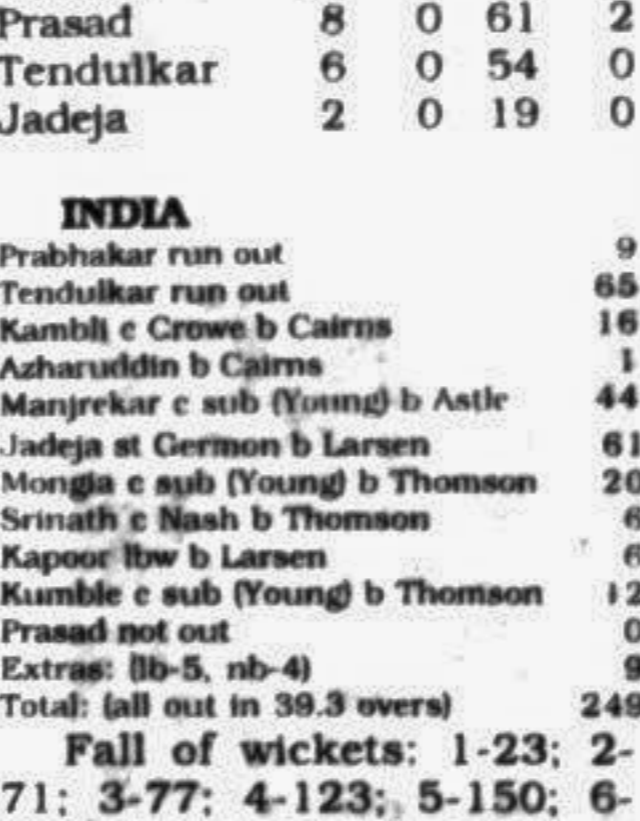
Result: New Zealand won by 99 runs. Man-of-the-match: Nathan Astle.

Ijaz, Radhika lift crowns



Ijaz Ahmed of Pakistan and Radhika Tulpule of India clinched the boy's and girl's singles titles respectively in the first leg of the second Central Asian junior (U-14) Circuit yesterday.

Girls' doubles champions India's Radhika Tulpule (L) and Shruadi Dhawan appear in a photo session after they beat compatriots Sonal Phadke and Rekha Natrajan 6-3, 6-3 in the final of ITF Central Asian Junior (U-14) Circuit yesterday.



Asian junior (U-14) Circuit which concluded in the capital yesterday evening.

In Sunday's finals at the Ramna Tennis Complex second seed Ijaz, recorded an upset victory over his compatriot and the defending group, who also won the doubles crown yesterday partnering Qamar made a brilliant rally in the second set to win it 6-2.

The evenly contested third set went into a tiebreaker after both were locked at 6-6.

Ijaz finally won the battle of nerves with the stocky class nine student from Lahore winning the tiebreaker 7-2 to wrap up the match 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2).

After the final, a tired but euphoric Ijaz said that he was very satisfied with his victory. He said, 'Qamar was not in right frame of mind today. I knew that and tried to keep within my game plan. I wanted to take the match upto the third set. This has certainly paid me off well as you have seen.'

On the otherhand, Qamar, after failing to retain the title, attributed his sickness for the defeat. He said he was suffering from typhoid before the meet and hardly had time to recover.

In the girl's final, it was a one way traffic for Radhika, a student of Batra Tennis Academy of Pune. She faced little resistance from her Bombay counterpart Sonal on her way to a 6-4, 6-2 win.

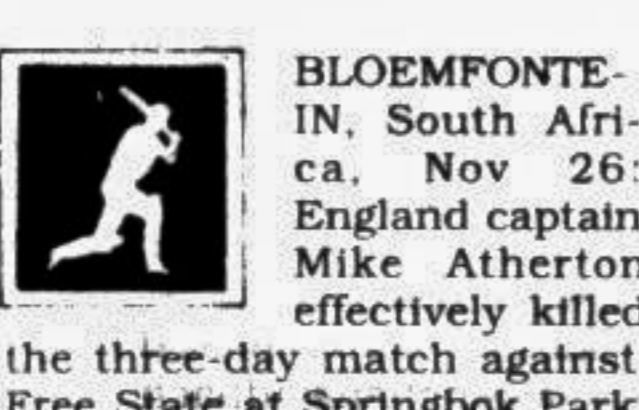
This was the first title victory for Radhika in any international meet who also bagged the girl's doubles title yesterday along with compatriot Shruadi Dhawan.

Earlier in the morning, Ijaz Ahmed and Nomi Qamar won the boys' doubles final with a straight set 6-4, 7-5 victory over Indian duo of Aditya Khanna and MA Salman. In the girl's doubles, Radhika and Shruadi lifted the championship beating countrymates Rekha Natrajan and Sonal in the final 6-3, 6-3.

Sadeque Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, witnessed the singles finals in the afternoon, distributed prizes among the winners.

The second leg of the three leg tournament, will begin in Calcutta tomorrow. All the participants including a six-member Bangladesh team will be pitting in the Calcutta leg. The third leg will begin in Colombo from December 3.

Atherton opts to play safe



BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 26: England captain Mike Atherton effectively killed the three-day match against Free State at Springbok Park on Saturday by refusing to declare until 70 minutes in to the afternoon session, reports Reuter.

England's batsmen crawled to 239 for four before Atherton's belated declaration set Free State just 55 overs to score 311 to win at a run rate just under six an over.

The home side made no attempt to reach the target and were 110 for three in their second innings when the match ended in a tame draw.

Hansie Cronje, the Free State and South African captain, showed his displeasure at Atherton's tactics by holding himself back in the batting order and allowing Free State to take some meaningless batting practice as they finished at 110 for three.

Devon Malcolm picked up his third first-class wicket of the tour when he had Gerhardus Liebenberg lbw for 18, but the Derbyshire pacesman still looked way short of Test form.

With Cronje declining to shake hands on draw at five O'clock Atherton turned to the occasional spin of Mark Ramprakash as the match petered out before a disinterested crowd.

England were in a powerful position overnight, leading by 192 runs with nine wickets in hand. But against the much improved Free State seam attack the batsmen dawdled through the morning session, scoring just 60 runs in 130 minutes.

Ramprakash added only five to his overnight score before falling lbw to Nico Cork provided the few positive strokes of the day in reaching 67 not out from 115 balls with eight fours, but he spent the last 40 minutes of his innings after lunch looking in vain for Atherton's sign from the dressing room.

Atherton said after the match, 'On that pitch you needed a whole day to bowl a side out. We didn't have enough runs overnight so it was never really an option.'

The two sides meet again on the same pitch for a one-day match today.

MSC-Kalabagan match today

The final second round league match of the 16th Damal Summer Cricket tournament between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Kalabagan Krira Chakra, billed for yesterday, will now be held at the Dhaka Stadium today. The match was postponed due to unplayable ground condition.

However, the two semifinals and the final, scheduled for December 28, 29 and January 1, will be held as per schedule. This was confirmed by the Secretary of the tournament committee Golam Faruque Apu last night.

Victoria abase Pakistan

MELBOURNE, Nov 26: Victoria thrashed Pakistan by eight wickets with more than a day to spare today to deepen the touring side's gloom before this week's third and final Test against Australia, reports Reuter.

Pakistan, humbled by Australia in the first two Tests, suffered further humiliation with a dismal late collapse in their second innings at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Middle order batsman Inzamam Haq delayed the outcome until the final session with a defiant 132 as Pakistan stumbled to 279 all out, losing their last five wickets for just 23 runs.

He was at crease for 296 minutes and hit 18 fours. Pakistan's collapse left the home side chasing a meagre 72 for victory, a total they achieved in just 16.4 overs for the loss of opener Mathew Elliot and number three Rohan Larkin. Resuming on 49 for two, Inzamam shared a 115-run partnership for the third wicket with Ijaz Ahmed, who made 39.

Finge Australia Test pace bowler Damien Fleming hastened Pakistan's demise by taking four wickets in three overs, including the prize scalp of Inzamam, to finish with figures of four for 64.

Victoria, bolstered by a century from captain Dean Jones, scored 362 in their first innings, against Pakistan's paltry 154.

Wicketkeeper Darren Berry took 11 catches in the match, a new record for the state in a first-class fixture.

Pakistan captain Rameez Raja said of his side's morale: 'It's a little low at the moment but we're trying hard to keep it going.'

Faridpur soccer

FARIDPUR, Nov 26: The second phase of third Primary and Mass Education Gold Cup football tournament began at the Faridpur Stadium here today, reports UNB.

Peter for fatherly step



BONN, Nov 26: The father of German tennis star Steffi Graf is ready to accept full responsibility in a million-dollar tax evasion case to shield his daughter from taking any blame, the news weekly Focus reported on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Peter Graf has been in jail since August on suspicion of evading tax on millions of marks earned by the women's world number one tennis star. Steffi Graf is also being investigated but authorities have so far seen no need to arrest her.

In an advance release from next week's edition, Focus quoted Peter Graf's lawyers as saying he planned to make his offer to the prosecutors' office in Mannheim on Tuesday. It said Peter Graf, who has not yet cooperated with investigators, would also pledge to reveal full details of his daughter's earnings and what had been done with the money.

In return, he hoped that the investigation against the tennis star would be dropped, and that he would be released from jail where he is currently being kept to prevent him fleeing the country or concealing evidence, the magazine said.

Peter Graf, 57 has handled his daughter's financial affairs since the start of her career. She says she took no interest in the matter and did not even know how much she had earned.

'We can remove the danger of escape by posting a bond,' added the lawyer, who could not be reached for further comment.

Steffi Graf has already deposited 20 million marks (14 million dollars) to cover taxes investigators believe may have been evaded.

One of the few top earning German sports stars not to have fled to a tax haven abroad, she is believed to have lifetime earnings of more than 100 million marks.



Star photo



Star photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer and CRYPTOQUIP. Includes crossword clues and a grid for the cryptogram puzzle.