

SA-England 3rd Test drawn

DURBAN, Dec 18: The third Test between England and South Africa at Kingsmead was abandoned as a draw when the fifth and final day's play today was called off 40 minutes before the scheduled start of play because of persistent and heavy overnight rain, reports Reuter.

Result: Match abandoned as a draw. First Test: Pretoria - match drawn. Second Test: Johannesburg - match drawn. Fourth Test: Port Elizabeth - December 26-30. Fifth Test: Cape Town - January 2-6.

Kenya sweep the series

NAIROBI, Dec 18: Kenya beat the Netherlands by nine runs in their fourth and final World Cup warm-up match on Sunday, reports Reuter. Kenya won the series 4-0. Scores: Kenya 234-7 in 45 overs (Maurice Odumbe 51), Netherlands 225-8 in 45 overs (Nolan Clarke 73, Baas Zuidereit 52).

Aussies to play two warm-up matches in SL

COLOMBO, Dec 18: The Australian cricket team will play two warm-up matches against Sri Lanka's 'A' team in February before the World Cup begins, an official said Monday, reports AP.

The one-day matches would be on Feb 7 and 8 at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club ground, said Anura Tennekoon, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka.

Although Sri Lanka will field a second string side, several players of the national team who need practice may be included, Tennekoon told reporters.

Seventeen World Cup matches will be in India, 16 in Pakistan, and 4 in Sri Lanka.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, England, the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands will participate in the tournament that is held every four years.

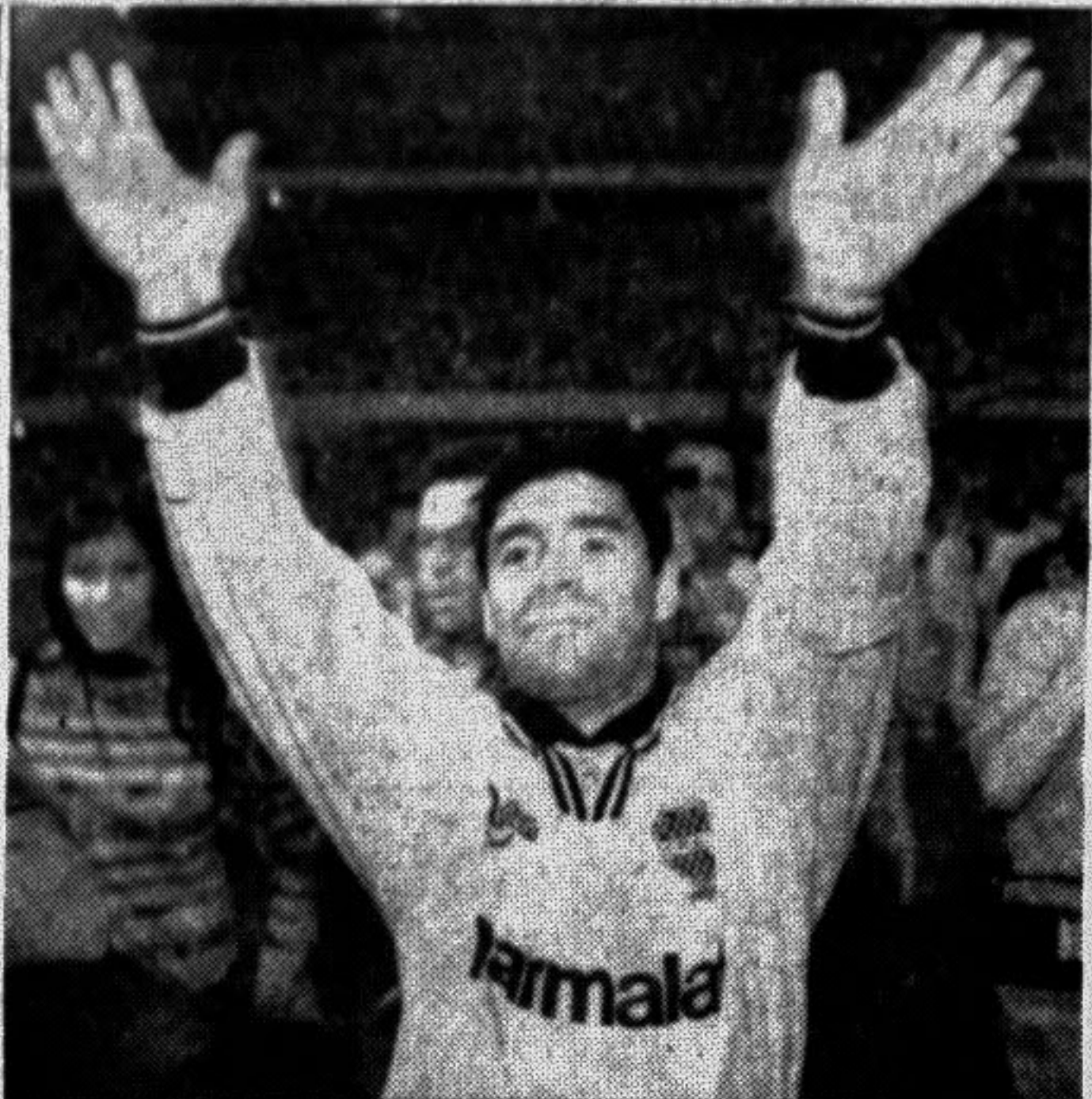
Lloyd defuses an ill move

DURBAN, Dec 18: Match referee Clive Lloyd dismissed as a "storm in a tea cup" allegations in British Sunday newspapers that South African fast bowler Craig Matthews had tampered with the ball on the second day of the third Test against England on Friday, reports Reuter.

Lloyd said there was no conclusive evidence to be obtained from the television pictures which allegedly showed Matthews picking at the seam.

"It doesn't look good on television when a bowler rubs his hand over the ball but it is just a habit of his," he said. "I have looked at the ball as have the umpires and there is no evidence that it has been altered. So there is no case to answer."

Lloyd, a former West Indies skipper, also rejected similar allegations about Shaun Pollock, who was seen to squeeze the ball when it was wet on Saturday.



Soccer's superstar Diego Maradona bids bye to Boca Juniors fans after their match against Deportivo Espanol in Buenos Aires on Dec 16. The temperamental idol declared the game as his last for Boca. — AFP/UNB photo

Diego hangs up Boca jersey?

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 18: Diego Maradona, involved in a dispute with new club president Mauricio Macri, played his last match for Boca Juniors here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Maradona scored a 61st minute penalty in a 2-2 draw with Deportivo Espanol in the last match of Argentina's opening championship.

Maradona brought the score back to 2-1, with Boca's Uruguayan Sergio Martinez hitting the equaliser seven minutes later.

"Diego don't go," shouted the crowd, but the former Argentine captain confirmed it was his last match.

The 1986 World Cup winner left the club after a disagreement with businessman Macri on his appointment as coach of Carlos Bilardo, whom Maradona does not get on with.

Maradona, 35, who has been at the club since the end of September.

WC's Calcutta venue at stake

NEW DELHI, Dec 18: Organisers may move the opening ceremony for the cricket World Cup from Calcutta after city police demanded money to fund security arrangements, reports AFP.

Calcutta police wrote to the organisers last week demanding 215,000 dollars to purchase jeeps, wireless equipment and motor cycles for the opening ceremony at the 100,000-capacity Eden Gardens Stadium on February 11.

The World Cup organisers refused and have threatened to shift the opening ceremony if the police did not back down.

"We have not paid money to the police in the past, and we will not do it now," a senior organising committee official said here today.

The official did not say if there were plans to shift the semifinal scheduled to be played at the Eden Gardens on March 13 as well.

The organisers, already under pressure to change some of the 17 World Cup venues in India, will meet in New Delhi on Wednesday in a bid to resolve the matter.

The meeting will also decide whether Nagpur, where 10 fans were killed last month when a stadium wall collapsed during a one-day international between India and New Zealand, will hold the Australia-Zimbabwe cup match on March 1.

Other Indian venues in doubt are the east coast town of Cuttack, scheduled to hold the India-Kenya match on February 18, and New Delhi, which is to host the India-Sri Lanka game on March 2.

Cuttack has neither an airport or a luxury hotel. The Feroze Shah Kotla grounds in New Delhi came under a cloud when the government ordered renovation work to be stopped because no prior permission was requested.

The World Cup, cricket's premier limited-overs tournament, will be held from February 11-March 17. Co-hosts Pakistan will hold 16 matches at six venues, while Sri Lanka will hold three matches in Colombo and one in Kandy.

Ily in need of DeFreitas

CAPE TOWN, Dec 18: England are set to recall Phillip DeFreitas to their squad for the seven one-day internationals against South Africa to be played after the current Test series, reports Reuter.

The 29-year-old DeFreitas, discarded by England at the beginning of the tour, has been playing domestic cricket in South Africa for Boland and performed impressively in the province's tour match against his former team mates.

"We have talked to England about Phillip, but contract or no contract, we wouldn't even think about standing in his way. You can't stop someone from playing for his country, can you?" said Boland general manager Kevin Bridgens.

DeFreitas took one for 21 in 18 tight overs against England 10 days ago before contributing a robust 54 with the bat.

"It still think I'm good enough to play for my country," said DeFreitas afterwards.

Ctg soccer

CHITTAGONG, Dec 18: Chittagong Mohammedan Sporting Club earned full points in their first match in the CJKP First Division football super league beating Shatadul Sangha 2-0 at the Chittagong Stadium here today, reports BSS.

Mohammedans scored both the goals in the first half.

Bhishab and Liton scored one goal each for the winners. Bhishab put Mohammedan ahead in the 20th minute through a powerful shot (1-0).

Two minutes later Liton doubled the margin dodging two opponent defenders off a pass from Shafi (2-0).

Luck smiles on Botafogo

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 18: Botafogo took advantage of two controversial decisions to win the Brazilian Championship on Sunday, holding Santos to a 1-1 draw away in the second-leg of the final of win 3-2 on aggregate, reports Reuter.

Botafogo striker Tulio appeared to be off-side when he headed his team into the lead in the 26th minute and the bad luck piled up for Santos when they had what would have been the title-winning goal disallowed in the second half.

Marcelo Passos had equalised in the 47th minute, putting Santos one goal from the Championship. Santos would have won the title with a better over-all record in the competition if they had levelled the aggregate score.

They appeared to get the goal they needed in the 78th minute when Camanducaia headed the ball in from Giovanni's free-kick. But the linesman raised his flag and the goal was ruled out for off-side.

"There goal was illegal and I don't know why the referee ruled out our goal," said Santos captain Carlinhos after the game at the Pacaembu Stadium in Sao Paulo.

Tulio's goal was his 23rd of the Championship, which he finished as the run away top scorer.

The victory marked the first time Botafogo, who had won the first leg 2-1 in Rio De Janeiro on Wednesday, have won the Brazilian Championship, which was inaugurated in 1971.

Santos, who scored 52 goals in the Championships, dominated the game, while goalkeeper Edinho, the son

of Pele, spent the last few minutes praying in his penalty area as his teammates pressed desperately for the winner.

The skills of Santos attacker Giovanni had been expected to tip the tie in Santos' favour but instead it was Botafogo goalkeeper Wagner who stole the show with some stunning saves.

The unheralded Botafogo goalkeeper made a brilliant save to turn away a shot by Giovanni in the second half and another to push away a free-kick by Marcelo Passos. Giovanni missed a golden chance in the first half when he shot wide from point blank range at the far post shortly after Tulio's goal.

Santos, one of the world's great teams when Pele played for them during the 1960s, have not won a trophy since 1984.

Tulio, a fox on the field

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 18: Brazil's irrepressible striker Tulio has scored more than 50 goals this year for club and country, reports Reuter.

Most of them have been legitimate, some of them have been superb but the two most important ones have been engulfed in controversy.

When Tulio scored in the 80th minute in Brazil's Copa America quarterfinal against Argentina in July, he salvaged a draw they had looked unlikely to get and infuriated the entire Argentine nation.

Tulio appeared to control the ball with his arm before scoring, leading Argentine President Carlos Menem to complain of "armed robbery" as Brazil went on to win the penalty shootout.

On Sunday, Tulio pulled it out of the bag again and this time won his club Botafogo the Brazilian Championship.

"Tulio, who finished as the competition's top scorer for the third time with his tally of 23, did not use his hand but did appear to be in an off-side position when he scored a typically opportunistic goal that turned out to be the decider.

Santos players complained bitterly afterwards, just as

Argentinians had in July, but Tulio was unrepentant. "I'm not going to teach people my secrets for scoring," he said.

The match capped a remarkable year for Tulio who had already outscored Romario in the Rio De Janeiro Championship, hitting the back of the net 27 times, with seven goals for his country this year.

Botafogo's triumph had looked extremely improbable when the competition began just four months ago. The players had threatened to go on strike over unpaid wages and there were reports of resentment among other players over the amount of attention given to Tulio.

Coach Paulo Autouri, who returned to Brazil after nine years spent coaching Portuguese clubs, was regarded as an unknown but on Sunday was praised by club president Carlos Montenegro for pulling the squad together.

"When he arrived, nobody knew him. Now, he can go out in the street and say 'I am Paulo Autouri'," Montenegro said.

Botafogo wrecked the dreams of Pele, who had played and active behind-the-scenes role as his beloved Santos rose from the wilderness this year to reach the final with his son Edinho

playing in goal.

Pele, who turned Santos into one of the world's great clubs when he played for them, had seen them slip into decline since leaving in 1973. They had not won any trophy since 1984.

Last year, Pele led a movement to depose Migeul Kodja Neto as club president and since then has been influential in the club's new policy of investing in promising young players and selling expensive ones.

The most successful signing has undoubtedly been the number 10 Giovanni, regarded as one of the club's best players since the great man himself. Giovanni, whose style of play most resembles former international Socrates, was signed for 300,000 dollars from Tuna Lusa less than one year ago and is now valued at 10 million dollars.

Ctg inter-varsity hockey champs

Sports Reporter

Chittagong University emerged inter-university hockey champions after beating the hosts Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) by a solitary goal at the BUET ground yesterday.

Abdul Matin of Chittagong University netted the all important match-winner in the 32nd minute.

Professor Mohammad Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of BUET, witnessed the final as chief guest and distributed prizes among the winners after the match.

TEAMS

Chittagong University: Chendan (captain), Mazhar, Kabir, Matin, Rajib, Sourav, Humayun, Karim, Mizan, Munir, Rana, Rabbani, Tuku, Asad, Mobarak and Shah Alam.

BUET: Russel, Joy, Afzal, Alamgir, Rinku, Nazrul, Mahbbub, Rahim, Maruf, Aga (captain) Hasanat, Mukti, Anis, Pulak and Tofa.



Prof M Shahjahan (L), Vice-Chancellor of BUET, gives away championship trophy of the Inter-University hockey tournament '96 to the captain of Chittagong University at the BUET ground Dec 18. — Star photo

Vogts, Sacchi sweating



ARRIGO SACCHI

BIRMINGHAM, England, Dec 18: Old rivals Italy and Germany were drawn to play each other in a group comprising four former European champions when the draw for the Euro '96 finals was made on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The two nations, who have won the World Cup six times between them and who clashed in the 1982 World Cup final in Madrid which Italy won, will meet at Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, on June 19.

After watching his country's name paired with the Italians and former European champions Russia and the Czech Republic in Group C, Germany coach Berti Vogts said: "I think both Italy and Germany have a 50-50 chance, although at the moment the Italians are more experienced than our team."

"But we still have a good chance of beating them. Of course I hope we do enough to qualify for the next round, not just beat the Italians and fall in our other two matches."

His Italian counterpart, Arrigo Sacchi, who saw his team lose on penalties to Brazil in last year's World Cup final, said: "It will be very dangerous if we pay too much attention to the match with Germany and ignore the other teams. We face three very difficult matches but all the three teams will stimulate you and pitch you forwards."

Another first round match-up to send the pulses racing far beyond British shores is the first encounter for six years between host nation, England and their ancient rivals Scotland in Group A.

The countries played the first ever soccer international in 1872 and have played 107 times since then. But they have not met since 1989 after "hooliganism" had blighted the annual fixture for many years.

They will meet at Wembley on June 15 in a group which also includes Switzerland and 1988 European champions the Netherlands.

England coach Terry Venables said although there were rumours before the draw that England and Scotland would be kept apart for security reasons, that clearly had not been the case.

"The behaviour of the fans will be looked at carefully but I am delighted with the draw. It is a fixture we have wanted for some time but the powers that be have been against staging it," he said.

Scotland manager Craig Brown said: "I can guarantee there will be no trouble from the Scottish fans and if all goes well from a security point of view it may help to get the match reinstated as an annual fixture."

The Netherlands, who beat Ireland in a play-off on Wednesday to reach the finals, defeated England during the 1988 European Championship in Germany and also eliminated them from the qualifying competition for the 1994 World Cup finals.

The Netherlands were installed as 9-2 favourites to win the tournament and an odds-on bet to qualify from the group along with England.

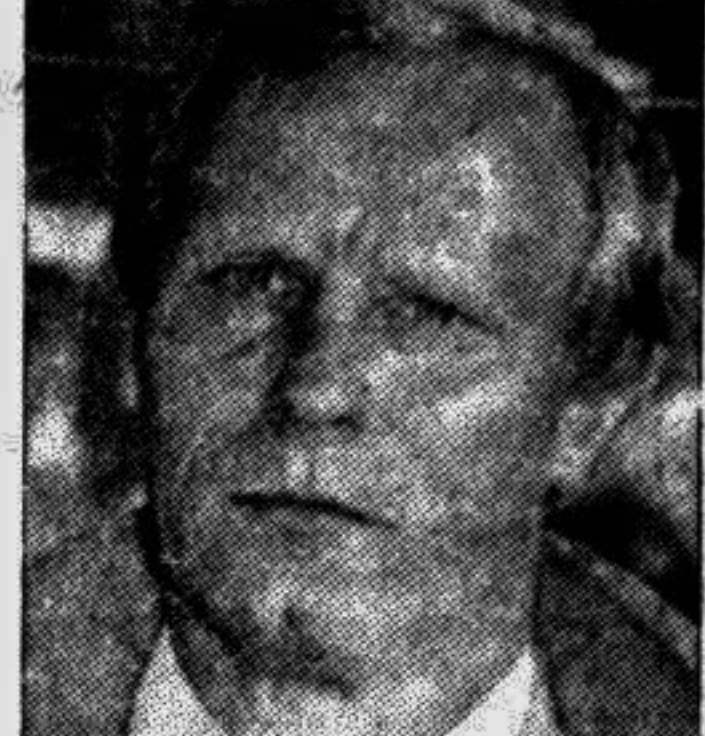
Switzerland, who lost a friendly against England at Wembley last month, return there on June 8 to play England in the competition's opening match.

It will be an emotional afternoon for Roy Hodgson, Switzerland's English coach, who heard news of the draw while he was coaching his Italian club Internazionale.

A series of intriguing encounters is in prospect in Group D, which features defending champions Denmark,

Turkey, highly fancied debutants Croatia and the attractive Portuguese team whose predecessors reached the semifinals of the World Cup in England in 1966.

Danish coach Richard Moeller Nielsen said he was delighted his team were playing all their games at Sheffield Wednesday's ground Hillsborough.



BERTI VOGTS

Turkey's youngsters beat Denmark to win the European under 16 championship last year and Turkey also won the European under-18 title in 1992—coincidentally against Portugal, whom they meet at Nottingham on June 14.

Although they have only a slim chance of reaching the last eight, they are likely to make things very tough for their opponents.

Group B brings together Romania and France, who met in the same qualifying group, and Spain and Bulgaria.

They will be playing their matches at Elland Road, Leeds, and St James' Park, Newcastle, and Aime Jacquet, the French coach, was hoping that would be an advantage for his side as Frenchman David Ginola has made such an impact in his first few months with Newcastle United.

The French national team have been performing for more than a year without Ginola, Cantona and Jean-Pierre Papin for that matter, and without those players we have qualified for the European finals and played very well.

"Now I have four months to think about it." Among others, Romanians Gheorghe Hagi and Cica Popescu play at Barcelona, Florin Raducioiu is at Espanyol and Lyuboslav Penev of Bulgaria is at Atletico Madrid.

Among Spain's opponents are France, who beat Spain in the 1948 final in Paris. They meet at Leeds on June 15 while the other repeat final in the first phase will be the game between Germany and the Czechs on June 9 at Old Trafford. Czechoslovakia beat West Germany to win the 1976 title on penalties.

The first phase of the finals lasts from June 8 until June 19, with the quarterfinals held on the weekend of June 22-23.

The semifinals, at Old Trafford and Wembley, will both be played on June 26, with the final at Wembley on June 30. There is no third-place play-off.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Past winners of the European soccer championships (host nation in parentheses):

- 1960 — Soviet Union (France)
1964 — Spain (Spain)
1968 — Italy (Italy)
1972 — West Germany (Belgium)
1976 — Czechoslovakia (Yugoslavia)
1980 — West Germany (Italy)
1984 — France (France)
1988 — Netherlands (Germany)
1992 — Denmark (Sweden).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department. Comilla Zone, Comilla. TENDER NOTICE. No 29/Dev/GPS/FD(CZ)/95-96. Dated: 9-12-95. Sealed tenders are hereby invited from A-3 contractors of Facilities Department for reconstruction of the undermentioned Govt Primary Schools under the project Reconstruction & Renovation of Govt Primary Schools during 1995-96 financial year.

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