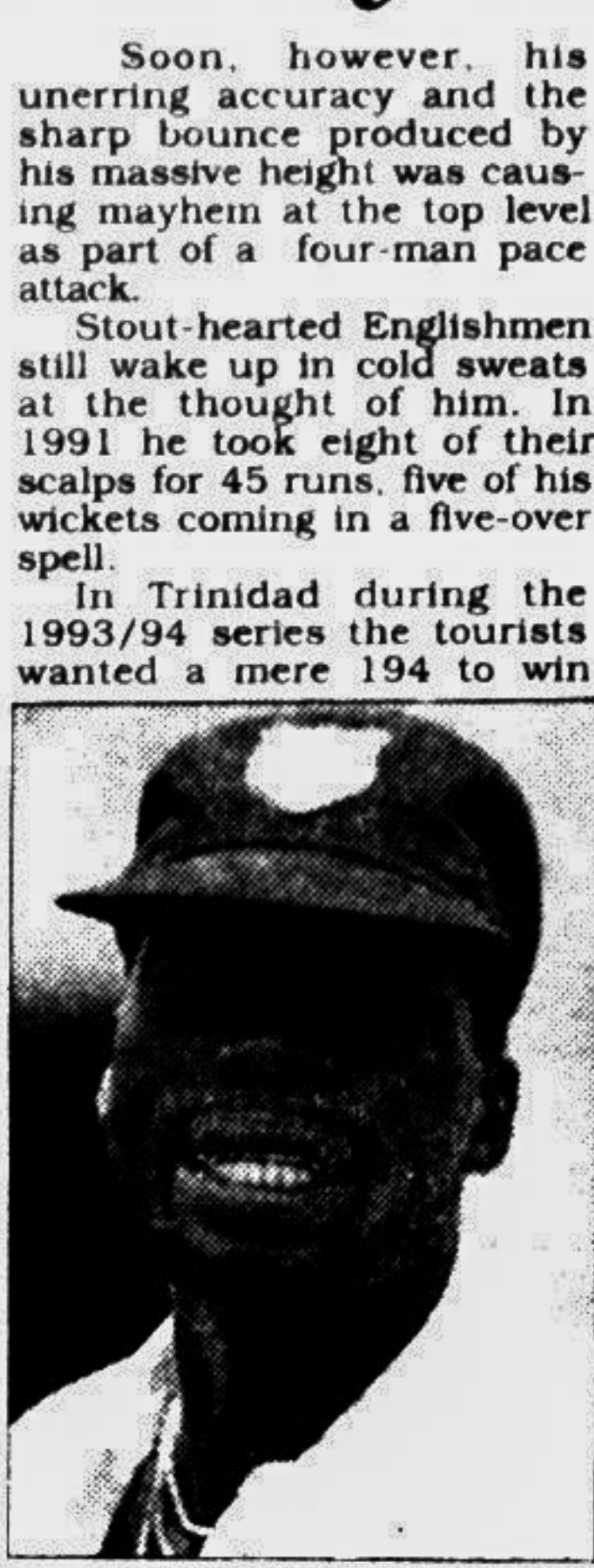


Intikhab's high optimism

KARACHI, Jan 26: The Pakistan cricket team manager Intikhab Alam Thursday rated as high his squad's chances of winning the sixth cricket World Cup...

Call for Curtly to wake up

ISLAMABAD, Jan 26 (AFP): They don't make West Indies like Curtly Ambrose anymore. The 32-year-old Antiguan is the last in a long line of great strike bowlers that used to roll off the Caribbean production line...



C AMBROSE only to reach a shellshocked 40-8 by the end of the fourth day.

Australians have also come in for the Ambrose treatment. His most famous spell came three years ago in Perth, when he took seven wickets in 32 balls, conceding one miserly single on the way...

Becker, Chang in good nick

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan Boris Becker had a nice practice session against Mark Woodforde before his final against Michael Chang Sunday...

Becker's date with Chang

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: A ruthless Michael Chang has only Boris Becker to beat now to end drought after annihilating defending champion Andre Agassi in straight sets in the Australian Open semifinals today, reports Reuter...

The super-mobile American mastered the almost gale-force conditions better than his compatriot and almost sat back and watched as Agassi unleashed a string of uncharacteristic errors...



The gritty American Michael Chang shows little emotion after spoiling compatriot Andre Agassi's dream of consecutive Aussie Open crowns in Melbourne yesterday. Chang outclassed a stunned Agassi in the semifinal 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 (7/1).

Down two sets, Agassi showed only glimpses of the form that saved him from defeat in the nail-biting quarter-finals against Jim Courier, a win that gave him the points to wrest back the number one spot from Pete Sampras...

Time for reconciliation

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Jan 26: West Indies, the best team in world cricket for more than a decade, have to find unity and renewed consistency to mount an effective World Cup campaign on the sub-continent, reports Reuter...

Richardson must now restore confidence, spirit and purpose to his side against the background of the Lara controversy and criticism from some parts of the Caribbean over his tactical acumen and ability to motivate his players...

Lara, apparently refreshed by a subsequent break from the game, has been included in West Indies' final Cup squad of 14, setting Richardson the task of bringing fresh harmony to a side driven by dissension seven months ago...

Asprilla off to England

PARMA, Italy, Jan 26: Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla left Italy for Newcastle on Thursday to sign for the English Premiership pace setters in a seven million pound deal, reports AFP...

3rd Asian Winter Games in China

The third Asian Winter Games will be held in Harbin, China. Athletes from more than 15 Asian nations will compete in the Games, one of the largest events in the history of Asian sports...

Acme Div II cricket

Sports Reporter Dhaka Mariners Young Club and Rainbow Athletics Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches on Friday...

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan 26: Carl Hooper has withdrawn from the West Indies World Cup squad, citing 'personal and health reasons'...

Hooper pulls out of World Cup

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Jan 26: Carl Hooper has withdrawn from the West Indies World Cup squad, citing 'personal and health reasons'...

A WICBC statement said: 'Hooper expressed regret at the lateness of his decision and the great inconvenience caused, but given his mental and physical state over the last year, this has to be taken in both his best interest and that of West Indies cricket.'

form specialist openers Phill Simmons and Stuart Williams. Hooper has appeared in 144 one-day internationals for the West Indies, scoring 3,903 runs at an average of 33.03...

Result: Mariners won by six wickets.

Rain plays havoc at Napier

NAPIER, Jan 26: Steady rain on Friday morning forced the abandonment of a limited-overs cricket match between Zimbabwe and Central Districts, reports AP...

Progati Div III soccer

Both the Progati Insurance Third Division football league matches - Kawranbazar Progati Sangha vs Chalantika Krira Chakra and Purbachal Parishad vs BG Press were tied goalless at the Rajuk Ground yesterday...



CARL HOOPER

Tunisia in Nations' Cup quarterfinals

PORT ELIZABETH, Jan 26: Two goals from striker Imed Ben Younes helped Tunisia overpower Ivory Coast 3-1 in a heated match at the Boat Erasmus Stadium on Thursday night to secure the final place in the African Nations' Cup quarter-finals, reports Reuter...



German bomber Boris Becker acknowledges the fans after sweeping aside local favourite Mark Woodforde 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinals of the Aussie Open in Melbourne yesterday.

Seles eyeing 4th crown

MELBOURNE, Jan 26: Even an injured Monica Seles has been far too strong for the opposition on the way to a third Grand Slam title, reports Reuter...

Zaire stun Liberia

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 26: A stunning 2-0 victory for Zaire put George Weah's Liberia out of the African Nations' Cup on Thursday, reports Reuter...



MONICA SELES

injury treated during a rain break in Thursday's clash with Rubin. While Seles will probably spend much of Friday on the treatment table - she has brought along her own physiotherapist for the tournament fortnight - Huber will doubtless spend her time...

Ghana beat Mozambique

BLOEMFONTEIN, Jan 26: Ghana maintained their 100 per cent record in the African Nations' Cup when they beat Mozambique 2-0 on Thursday to qualify for a quarterfinal against Zaire in Port Elizabeth on Sunday, reports Reuter...

Linford warms up Down Under

ADELAIDE, Jan 26: Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie of Britain cruised to an easy victory Friday night at the Adelaide Grand Prix track and field meet, reports AP...