Puerile PCB!

KARACHI, Jan 28: The current tensions between Pakistan and India along the border in Kashmir will not affect the holding of the forthcoming World Cup. cricket officials here said today, reports AFP.

"It is a multinational commitment and not a Test series between India and Pakistan which we can postpone," Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official, Salman Taseer, said

Bilateral issues should not affect the "prestigious" world competition. Taseer told AFP. The World Cup, due to start from February 14, is be-

ing jointly hosted by Pak istan, India and Sri Lanka. "People are more interested in cricket than political disputes." Taseer said. adding that "it is the International Cricket Council (ICC) which is the overall organiser

of the World Cup." He said, he hoped that tensions between the two countries would subside soon and pointed out that India and Pakistan will not play against each other in the initial stage of the tournament.

A PCB delegation will leave for India on February 11 to attend the inauguration in Calcutta, Taseer added.

Tension mounted between Pakistan and India following a rocket attack on a mosque near the border in Kashmir which Islamabad claimed was carried out by Indian troops. India has denied its troops were involved.

Twenty worshippers were killed and an equal number injured in the attack, which was followed by exchange of fire between troops of the two sides in areas along the line dividing Kashmir between the two countries.

Logie doesn't want Lara as opener

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Jan 28: World Test record-holder Brian Lara should not be used as an opener by West Indies in the forthcoming World Cup, according to his former teammate Gus Logie, reports Reuter.

Lara scored 77 in 83 minutes for Trinidad in their Red Stripe Cup match against Barbados on Saturday in his first innings since he controversially declared himself unavailable to tour Australia with the West Indian

But Logie believes the West Indian selectors should resist the temptation to put Lara in first, in the absence of Carl Hooper who has with-drawn from the World Cup

"Lara is too precious to the West Indies cause to be used as an opener, it will be sacrificial to ask him to perform that chore again," said Logie. "If we want to do well he should bat lower.

"In 1992, when he was used as an opener, he was young and still trying to prove himself. Now things are a little bit different, he is the main focus of our batting. and when he falls there does not appear on recent evidence to be much support around.

One option could yet be Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who hit a record-breaking 303 not out for Guyana on Saturday as they piled up 559 for five against Jamaica at Sabina

PSG broaden gap at top

PARIS, Jan 28: French league leaders Paris St Germain moved six points clear on Saturday with a 2-1 win over Cannes - thanks to a double strike from Patrice Loko. reports Reuter.

The Parisians extended their unbeaten run to 14 games but were far from impressive early on against a determined Cannes side. struggling against relegation.

Loko picked up loose ball after a shot by right back Jose Cobos had been parried. to open the scoring just before the break and a second by the striker on the hour put the issue beyond double.

Cannes, former club of Paris St Germain trainer Luis Fernandez, scored through Laurent Charvet 10 minutes from time.

PSG, boosted by the return of central defender Alain Roche after a five-month absence with a serious knee injury, have 51 points after 25 games, six more than Auxerre, who moved up to second place when they beat Le Havre 1-0.

A goal from midfielder Sabri Lemouchi, capped by France for the first time in a friendly against Portugal on | scored their three goals in an Wednesday, in the 26th minute gave Auxerre all three

points. Metz dropped to third when their home game against Lyon was called off because of a frozen pitch. They are seven points behind

the leaders with a game in Fourth place Lens lost half-time when defender ground when they went down 2-1 at Rennes whose goals

were scored by Jean Pierre Cyprien and Pierree-Yves An-Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson had a miserable match for Monaco, missing a

penalty and then getting sent-off. Struggling Bordeaux recovered from a goal down at halftime to beat Gueugnon 3giving themselves a little breathing space just above the relegation zone.

SL start a cliff-climb

ADELAIDE. Jan 28: Sri Lanka made a determined start in pursuit of a daunting victory target in the third and final Test against Australia today after cutting short veteran batsman David Boon's farewell innings in Test

cricket, reports Reuter. In his final visit to the crease before retiring from the Test arena. Boon contributed 35 as Australia set the tourists a target of 401 to win at the Adelaide Oval.

At close of play on the fourth day. Sri Lanka were 69 for one, still needing another 332 runs to win - or more realistically to bat throughout the day on Monday to avoid a third successive Test loss in the three-

Sri Lanka lost opener Chandrika Hathurusinghe for 14 when he edged a catch to wicketkeeper Ian Heally off the final ball of fast bowler Glenn McGrath's six-over spell with the new ball.

But fellow opener Sanath Jayasuriya safely negotiated the remaining seven overs to finish on 50 not out, an innings which has already contained two sixes.

The Sri Lankans enhanced their prospects by restricting Australia's scoring were no ducks and I spent rate to below three runs an some time in the middle," over with an accurate and determined bowling performance earlier in the day.

Australian captain Mark Taylor finally declared 40 minutes after the tea interval with his side on 215 for six. All-rounder Steve Waugh, who scored a century in Australia's first innings 502 for nine declared, remained unbeaten on 61, lifting his Test average to just above fifty in 81 Tests.

Waugh, batting at number five, occupied the crease for one minute over three hours in scoring his runs from 129 deliveries.

Left-arm pace bowler Chaminda Vaas provided the inspiration for Sri Lanka by taking the wickets of Boon. Mark Waugh and Ricky Ponting at a cost of 44 runs from 21 overs.

On his 107th Test appearance for his country, the 35-year-old Boon batted with confidence and authority for 92 minutes after surviving a confident appeal for caught behind first ball.

He remained to face 65 deliveries before edging a catch to wicketkeeper Romesh Kaluwitharana just before lunch, prompting an ovation from the crowd and the Sri Lankan players as he walked slowly back to the pavilion

It left Boon, who scored 43 in Australia's first innings with an aggregate of 7,422 runs at an average of 43.66 in a Test career spanning 12 years. Only his former captain Allan Border has scored more Test runs for Australia.

"I was a bit disappointed to miss out on a big score after getting a start in both innings but at least there Boon told reporters later.

"There were no tears as was walking off but it was a bit emotional. I have been overwhelmed by the public's response and the crowd today was sensational.

"The end of your career is a moment that all Test cricketers dread but I just hope we can get ourselves in a position to win on Mon-

day." Boon said The chunky right-hander is planning to play for at least two more seasons for his state side Tasmania in the domestic Sheffield Sheild competition.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third and final Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at Adelaide Oval today: AUSTRALIA: First innings 502 for nine declared (Steve Waugh 170, Mark Waugh 71,

Ian Healy 70) SRI LANKA: First innings 317 (Hashan Tillekeratne 65. Sanjeeva Ranatunga 60, Paul Reiffel five for 39)

AUSTRALIA: Second in-

nings Slater b Wickeremasinghe Taylor b Pushpakumara Boon c Kaluwitharana b Vaas M Waugh c Tillekeratne b Vaas S Waugh not out Ponting c Kaluwitharana b Vaas Healy c Hathurusinghe b Pushpakumara Reiffel not out Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-3) Total (for six wickets declared 73

Fall of wickets: 1-22; 2-36; 3-70; 4-75; 5-122; -6-44 3 Pushpakumara 63

Dharmasena 67 0 SRI LANKA: Second in-Hathurusinghe c Healy b McGrath Jayasuriya not out Gurusinha not out Extras: (lb-1, nb-2) Total: (for one wicket, 21 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-51

Wickremasinghe

Bowling: 25 McGrath Reiffel 20 S. Waugh 9 0 14



Australian Mark Woodforde (L) and Latvian Larisa Neiland hold aloft their mixeddouble trophy at the Australian Open in Melbourne on January 28. - AFP/UNB photo

AUSSIE OPEN NOTEBOOK



MELBOURNE Jan 28 (AP): The third time's the charm for Mark Wood-

Australian Open — half a charm, at least. Woodforde and Larisa Netand beat Luke Jensen and

Nicole Arendt 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 for the mixed doubles title. Earlier in the Australian Open. Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge - the top-

ranked men's doubles team lost in the first round, a shock to the Australians. Woodforde sharpened up his singles game and, in an

equally surprising develop ment, made it to the semifinals before losing to Boris Becker He and Neiland picked up US 66,000 dellars (88,000

Australian dollars) for their victory. "I'm pretty cuffed with

myself." Woodforde said. "It's been just a great feeling.

* * * Michael Chang has legions of fans across Asia, but none

more devoted than his great- weeks after the US Open grandmother, who still lives in Canton, China. When Chang takes on

Boris Becker in the Australian Open finals. "She might be watching, it may be on Star TV." Chang said Is tennis skill hereditary?

Chang was asked what her backhand is like.

"I don't know. Her footwork is pretty good," at age 94 or 95, Chang said. "At this particular time, she's able to get around quite a bit on her

Since Chang is renowned for his flashy speed on the courts, maybe he did inherit some of his prowess.

The Australian Open may be the main beneficiary of a decision by tennis officials to schedule the Grand Slam Cup earlier in the year, giving players more time to recover for the Aussie Open

Officials of the Association of Tennis Professionals and of the four Grand Slam tournaments have agreed in principle to schedule the cup a few which ends in early Septem-

The new date, effective in 1997, would be in early October, rather than early to mid-December, when it will be held in Munich this year.

For years players have been complaining about the nearly year-round season. which barely gives then a couple of weeks at the end to rest and recuperate, and then train for the Australian Open in mid to late January.

Sergei Bruguera and Michael Stich missed the Australian Open this year due to injuries that hadn't properly healed.

Pete Sampras came to the Aussie Open recovering from the flu, and Andre Agassi was still recuperating from the chest muscle injury that kept him off the tour for 3 1/2months.

With more time in December to recuperate and train, the Australian Open should have fewer lastminute withdrawals.

African Nations' Cup

Hosts face Zambia in semis



BLOEMFONTEIN. South Africa, Jan 28: Zambia losing finalists two years ago, came from behind to beat Egypt 3-1 and

ioin hosts South Africa in the semifinals of the African Nations' Cup on Saturday. reports Reuter

The Zambians, who 18-minute spell in the second half of their quarterfinal go on to Durban on Wednesday to meet the winners of today's clash between Tunisia

and Gabon. Egypt created more chances but finished poorly. their only goal putting them in front two minutes before Samir Ibrahim slotted home

a loose ball Zambia, with most of the 10,000 crowd behind them. mesmerised the Egyptian defence with their short passing game after the interval and equalised in the 59th minute when Andrew Tembo's cross was headed in

by defender Elijah Litana. Six minutes later. Zambia went ahead when Vincent Mutale tapped in captain Kalusha Bwalya's header Dennis Lota scored a welltaken third goal 13 minutes from time

Zambia's coach Rold Poulsen said: "I expected a tough match and it was. "Egypt has a very good national side. I have a lot of respect for them.

Egypt's Rudi Krol said: "A better team won Earlier South African midfielder John Moshoeu

scored a dramatic winner five minutes from time to give his side a 2-1 win over Algeria. Moshoeu's goal came just seconds after Algeria had forced an equaliser in the

driving rain and looked to

have forced the match into extra-time. South Africa, who had attacked from the opening whistle, opened the scoring after 72 minutes when sustained pressure saw central defender Mark Fish net his

Christie keeps his pace up

PERTH, Australia, Jan 28: British sprint star Linford Christie continued his good form in Australia by winning the 100 metres men's final in the Perth leg of the national Grand Prix series today, reports Reuter.

first international goal

Fish slid into score after another of his characteristic marauding runs from deep in defence, just beating Algerian goalkeeper Mohamed Haniched to the ball

South Africa, playing on their first Nations Cup looked on course for the semifinals when they were caught cold from a corner with just six minutes left. Tarek Lazizi rose ahead of

Fish to head home from the

set piece and stunned the crowd into silence. But straight from the kick-off South Africa stormed forward and after a series of passes Moshoeu found him-

self unmarked wide on the edge of the Algerian penalty The Turkish-based midfielder calmly looked up before driving a ferocious shot past Haniched.

South Africa had squandered an opportunity to take the lead at half-time when Haniched saved a penalty from Khumalo.

South Africa will be without English-based striker Phil Masinga for the semis after he collected a second caution in the tournament and will serve an automatic one-match suspension.

Acme-Div II cricket

Sports Reporter

Udity Club, Azad Sporting Club and Mariners Young posted victories in their respective matches in the Acme Second Division cricket league yesterday.

At the western strip of the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium, Udity defeated Young Pegasus 'A' by 2 wickets while Azad SC defeated Orient SC by 4 wickets at the Dhanmondi Club Ground. Away at the Mirpur Outer Stadium, Mariners overcame Azad Boys Club by a massive 113 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

YOUNG PEGASUS 'A' 211 in 38.5 overs (Tipu 49, Shahinoor 42. Zaman 5/32) UDITY CLUB: 213/8 in

32-2 overs (Nahid 41. Bidyut 30 n.o. Sohel 30 n.o. Result: Uditi won by two wickets

ORIENT SC: 211 for eight in 40 overs IM Ali 48. Koosti 46. Tushar 44, Sumon 3/29) AZAD SC: 214 for six in

Adil 33) Result: Azad won by four wickets MARINERS: 189 in 40

38.4 overs (Jashim 37 n.o.

(Liton 62, Sorwar 33; Saiful 4/29) AZAD BOYS: 76 in 24 overs (Alam 23: Arman 3/8, Lunik 3/17, Shiplu

3/27Result: Mariners won by 113 runs.

Dorre wins Osaka race

OSAKA, Japan, Jan 28: Veteran German runner Katrin Dorre ran the last six kilometres (3.7 miles) alone and won the 1996 Osaka International women's marathon on Sunday by 100 metres (330 feet), reports

onds after running 42.195 kilometres (26 miles, 385 vards) through the streets of Osaka in western Japan. For the 34-year-old Dorre. it was her third victory in

hours, 26 minutes, four sec-

Dorre was timed at two

this race and her 18th career victory in 34 full marathon races she competed. "I'm very happy and am lucky. I ran in strong winds but I was encouraged by

cheer of spectators along the

course. I will try my best in Atlanta," said Dorre. Japan's Hiromi Suzuki. who ran shoulder to shoulder with Dorre through the 36kilometre (22 miles) point, came in second in 2:26.27 in ier first full marathon, about 100 metres (330 feet) be-

hind Dorre. Ikuyo Goto of Japan finished third in 2:26.37, ahead of Monica Pont of Spain who placed fourth in 2:27.53.

Mitsubishi Pajeros dominate 1996 Granada-Dakar rally

The 1996 Granada-Dakar rally the toughest test of endurance and performance in adventure motor sport, drew to a close in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, on Sunday, January 14, says a press re-

The surviving 71 cars and trucks and 50 motorbikes out of a total of 295 starters were treated to a rapturous welcome as they took a final bow with a race along Pink Lake Beach after a total of 7,579 Km completed in 15 days through rocky mountain tracts, open desert plains, mountainous sand dunes and forests. As well as surviving the punishing terrain, temperatures ranged from a cool 10 degree Celsius in Spain to over 40 degrees in the heart of the Sahara in strong sun-

Mitsubishi celebrated a superb 1-2-3 victory in the production car (TI) and Marathon classes, the ultimate test of reliability in which regulations prohibit the replacement of nearly all the major parts of the car during the event. In the modified class (T2) Nissan came in first and Mitsubishi second. T3 category for prototype vehicles, was dominated by Citroen with first and second position while Mitsubishi came in third

Boris clips Chang's wings



MELBOURNE. Jan 28: Boris Becker blended his uncanny survival instincts with the diving volleys of his

youth to win the Australian Open on Sunday, more than a decade after the first of his six Grand Slam titles, report

Facing a gritty comeback charge by Michael Chang, Becker changed his shoes. his rackets, his shirts. changed the pace and style of his game, did everything he had to do to secure a 6-2, 6-

4, 2-6, 6-2 victory. Becker didn't race outside the stadium to bellow among



THINGS WENT RIGHT THIS TIME: Germany's bionic tennis wizard Boris Becker proudly holds high the Australian Open trophy after outplaying American Michael Chang in the final at Melbourne yesterday. The gritty Germany, popularly, known as 'Boom Boom Boris, staged his typical customary elan to eliminate the Chinese-American 6-2, 6-4, 2-0, 6-2. — AFP/UNB photo

Becker breaks Chang

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan



Boris Becker fairness that the champion broke his 5vear-old drought for a Grand Slam title at the Flinders Park Sunday. Before a fullhouse the 28-year-old German softened

up his young American opponent Michael Chang who had, until yesterday, not dropped a single set in six matches, and won his second Australian Open title. As he had told his interviewer about his plans for the match against Chang, it was

obvious that Becker held his opponent in high esteem and did not particularly like the idea of big serves only to win the match. Michael Chang appeared to be much subdued and none of his normal exuberance could be seen as he won important points. Perhaps he had played to much tennis against his opponents on way

to the final. The spirit of

fightback was conspicuously

absent in Chang and perhaps

that was one of the reasons

for his undoing. But it must be said in all rose to such heights which was only possibly for a real artiste like Boris Becker. The clever mixture of powerten nis with delicate drop volleys can only be done by Boris alone. Time and again he missed easy break points but never lost his cool. If the first game was any

indication of what was coming then it could safely be ar gued that Chang was up against bad times, as Becker broke his service game and finally took the set 6-2 in 30 minutes only. As Becker played some loose games and lowered his guard in the 3rd Chang broke Boris twice and won 6-2. In the 4th set also Boris played exceeding well to break Chang twice after long rallies which were most rewarding for the spectators and took the set 6-2 and with it his 6th Grand Slam title since turning professional in

It was a refreshing change to see the chair umpire act ing like a 'Daniel' - better late than never.

the ghost gum trees in Flinders Park after winning. as he did when captured the Australian championship the first time to become No 1 in the rankings in 1991.

That was the last major title Becker won, though he came close by reaching the Wimbledon final later that year and again last July.

Becker's victory, at 28, proved to himself and the world that he's not too old to win Grand Slam events, that he can keep up rallies even with indefatigable younger players like the 23-year-old Chang, and that there may be more of this to come.

"To tell the truth, I didn't think I had a Grand Slam left in me," Becker told the

Becker is so high on his game now he didn't rule out a run for sweep of the Grand Slam tournament this year something no man has accomplished since Rod Laver in 1969.

"It's a dream of mine," Becker said. "At the French. you need a good draw and good weather. I'm going to chess it. I'm going to give it a try. I do know I am able to play great in Grand Slams

Becker's path to this title was as hard as any he's ever had. After losing in the first round here in 1993, skipping '94, and losing in the first round again last year, Becker got off to a slow start.

He survived a five-setter in the first round, came back from two sets down to win another five-setter in the second round, and played close matches the rest of the way to win his 45th singles title-more than any other active player.

in the warm, still conditions. and his decision to let Chang serve first proved the right one as he broke the American twice to move to a 4-0 Becker then took the second set 6-4 in a closer tussle that the German eventually

won on his seventh break

point to put himself in a

Becker had won the toss

dominant position to take the match. But Becker's concentration faltered and Chang lifted his won game, playing nearflawless tennis to break Becker for the first time in the match to take a 2-0 lead, then breaking him again six games later to take the set 6-

2 in 33 minutes. Chang, who had lost three of his four previous encounters against Becker, employed superb defensive tactics, chasing down every ball and relying on Becker to make mistakes. But Becker pulled his

game together in the fourth

set, the first vital break

coming controversially at 1-1 when the chair umpire called a Chang backhand out to give Becker his first break point. The German took his chance immediately, hitting a powerful backhand to draw the error from Chang and take a 2-1 lead. He broke again in the seventh game to

take a seemingly unassailable

5-2 lead and then won the

next three points on his

serve to set up a trio of

match points. An overstretched Chang, run ragged around the court for much of the match, finally hit a backhand long to surrender the title to a jubilant

Becker.

Making life worth living



Jan 28: Borts Becker, who five years ago sprinted out of the Flinders Pa-

rk stadium in delight at winning his fifth Grand Slam title, showed an older, wiser head after wining his second Australian Open title today. reports Reuter.

Now 28 and in what he admits is the autumn of his career. Becker was a much more sober champion at Flinders Park this time. thrusting his arms in the air in a simple gesture of delight after beating American Michael Chang in four sets. in contrast to the 23-year-

old who in 1991 bolted out of

a packed stadium and ran a

solitary, adrenalin-fuelled vic-

tory lap around a nearby

park. Becker was in reflec-

SOUND WARRANT

The victorious Mitsubishi team celebrate aboard at Pajero T3.

SO & PIAA

tive mood after winning his first title since that crazy day. "Five years ago, I was fly-

ing away somewhere but to tell you the truth, it hasn't sunk in yet," Becker told reporters, adding that his 1991 victory over Ivan Lendl was a crowning moment in his ca-"It was obviously a very

special moment five years ago, not only because it was a Grand Slam but because I had reached my lifetime goal of being number one," he Becker was as calm after the match as he was during it, fielding questions at a

alise his first love is his family and that his second is just a game

post-match news conference

with the maturity of a great

player who has come to re-

For me. it's a different

(Barbara) who supported it very much ... when we met, was sort of dropping in the Grand Slam winner. to please his son, Noah, that goal today. exit here. Becker's desire not to disappoint Neah on his son's birthday helped lift his as one last goal. Becker, who today added another US 415,900 dollars

to his career earnings of 22.8 million US dollars, agreed the years had taught him to be calm, not to rush things.

"There's a good side and a bad side of getting old in this profession," he said.

position now than I was in five years ago. Now I am in the autumn of my career and Im not taking anything for granted," he added The three-times winner of Wimbledon, twice Australian Open champion, former US Open champion and father of

the summer of his career turned to autumn soon after that 1991 victory lap ended. "I think in a way it was a normal reaction to me afterwards that I didn't just have the fire any more to be a great tennis player." he said.

one said that, looking back,

"I was still a good tennis player but then, about two and a half years ago. changed, starting from my manager to my home. changed my life completely with one goal of trying to get back to that top level "Luckily, I found a wife

rankings a little bit. She always said. "Please do it one more time for me because I have never seen you as a It was also a father's wish

inspired Becker to reach his Last week, down two sets in the second round and facing his third straight early

Becker said the ambition to win yet more Grand Slams still burned inside him and that the French Open, the only major he has not won in his 12-year career, stood out

- Star photo