

The World Cup with Philips



Not just live. Alive.

Red Stripe Cup Trinidad take charge

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Feb 4: Eugene Antoine took four wickets to put Trinidad and Tobago on the brink of their second straight victory Saturday...

Antoine helped reduce Guayana to 93 for eight in their second innings... Earlier, Trinidad stretched their overnight 130 for three to 238...

In Bridgetown, Barbados, a maiden first-class century from left-hander Adrian Griffith put the hosts on top against the Windward Islands...

Griffith took his overnight 49 to 101, made in just under four hours with seven fours... The 24-year-old's innings were the foundation of the 339 total...

In Montego Bay, Jamaica, the home team's batsmen gave it the edge over the Leeward Islands...

Behind a century from first-time captain Robert Samuels (125) and half century from Tony Powell (51) and Nehemiah Perry (74), Jamaica declared at 424 for seven...

The Leeward Islands were 93 for three in reply... Stuart Williams, another discarded West Indian opener, hit an unbeaten 73 to lead the visitors' resistance...

Summarized scores (after second day of four): At Queen's Park Oval, Port-of-Spain: Guyana 173 and 93 for eight...

At Kensington Oval, Bridgetown: Windward Islands 233 and 86 for three... Barbados 339 (Adrian Griffith 101, Floyd Reifer 58, Ricky Hoyte 70; Nixon McClean three for 45)...

At Jarrett Park, Montego Bay: Jamaica 424 for seven declared (Robert Samuels 125, Tony Powell 51, Nehemiah Perry 74, Shane Ford 45; Hameesh Anthony four for 85)... Leeward Islands 93 for three (Stuart Williams 73 not out)...

Forget won't forget Goran

The 10th-ranked Croatian will face Cedric Pioline in Sunday's championship match, after the Frenchman crushed Marc Goellner of Germany, 6-4, 7-6 (8-6)...

It will be Ivanisevic's second final this year, having lost to American Todd Martin at the Peters International in Sydney, immediately before the Australian Open...

Forget started impressively and went on to lead 3-1 in the first set, and had a set point that Ivanisevic fought off with a volley winner... They matched each other on serve till 4-4 in the tiebreak...

"I think we both played good today, maybe it was my best match of the week," said Ivanisevic, who had 25 aces to reach his 30th career final... Besides competing, Ivanisevic is a co-promoter of this week's tournament...

"It wasn't easy for me to play at the tournament and be one of its owners at the same time," he said... "Sometimes I forget why I come here: to manage the tournament or to play tennis..."

Sunday will be Pioline's first final since the 1994 Hamlet Cup in suburban New York City just before the US Open...

It will be his eighth attempt at winning an ATP Tour singles title... Pioline, ranked 62nd, broke Goellner in the first set, the first time the 25-year-old German had lost on his serve this week...

Willing to lead India — Sachin



Sachin Tendulkar, vice captain of the Indian cricket team, spoke to Press Service Bureau about his cricketing plans, priorities, captaincy, World Cup, etc...

• About your lean patch... • Recently we played three Test matches against New Zealand... I scored 52 not out in one Test but in the other two I hardly got any chance to bat because of rain...

I watch videos of my batting at home with my brother, Ajit... He is a good student of the game... Both of us analyse what's wrong before we work out a solution... Then I give it a try at the nets... I think it's just a matter of time...

• Cricketers of other countries are also watching videos of your batting to spot your weaknesses... • I don't know if they are really doing that... But I watch my own innings to rectify mistakes... I am not bothered about what people are doing about my batting...

• There's talk that you have allowed the pressures of commercial contracts to affect your batting... • Cricket is my priority... I don't want to become a model... • What about opening the innings in one-dayers... • I used to bat at number four or five, sometimes at six... That would give me 15 or 20

Calcutta Chronicle

Atherton's men arrive in Lahore

ISLAMABAD, Feb 4: A rested and confident English side arrived Sunday in the central Pakistani city of Lahore to begin preparations for the upcoming World Cup...

It is the first time in eight years a full team from England has been in Pakistan... Despite their recent poor showing against South Africa, England skipper Mike Atherton said his squad was confident and ready to meet all challenges...

"I'd say this English team has a fairly good chance at winning," Atherton told reporters in Lahore... "We've had a short break back home and our batteries have recharged..."

Most of the one-day team have never visited Pakistan, but Atherton said it would not affect the team's play... "This is the best possible side England could have brought to Pakistan," he said...

The English squad kick off their practice matches Wednesday against the Lahore City Cricket Association, in preparation for their first World Cup match in Ahmedabad, India, Feb 14...

Becker to duck Davis Cup

BONN, Feb 4: Boris Becker will miss Germany's Davis Cup clash with Switzerland in Geneva next week because of injury, reports AFP... Becker, ranked fourth in the world after winning the Australian Open, said he was suffering from inflamed ligaments in his left leg...

"My whole leg hurts and is all but useless," he said... Germany's chances had already been hit by Michael Stich's three-and-a-half month lay-off with an ankle injury... Stich is likely to play the singles with Marc Goellner while Bernd Karbacher, Hendrik Dreckmann and David Prinosil will fight it out for the other team places...

Olhovskiy beats the cold

SHANGHAI, Feb 4: Russia's Olhovskiy rushed to a two set win over Mark Knowles of the Bahamas to escape the freezing temperatures on court during the final of the Shanghai Open today, reports AFP...

Big-match experience also paid off for Olhovskiy as he beat Knowles 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 for his second career title... Olhovskiy, who won at Copenhagen in 1993 and has twice been a losing finalist on the ATP Tour, bit he was not used to the cold in the Hong Kong gymnasium packed for the first time all week with several hundred Chinese...

Temperatures on court never rose above 10 degrees Celsius and Olhovskiy commented: "I wanted to get points and the match over as quickly as possible..."

But he dominated Knowles a Davis Cup player for the Bahamas appearing in his first tournament final... The Russian got their key break he needed to ensure victory in the seventh game of the second set after having broken Knowles again at his second opportunity of the seventh game when the Bahamas player netted, a volley to drop to 2-5... Olhovskiy served out for victory in the next game...

WorldTel, which holds the overall broadcast rights for the World Cup, last year signed a broadcasting deal with Rupert Murdoch's Hong Kong-based Star Television after a disagreement with Doordarshan over payment for rights it had previously held... WorldTel has offered Doordarshan terrestrial rights for matches played in India -- 17 out of 37 -- in exchange for money WorldTel said Doordarshan owed it...

Doordarshan is still considering its position but it has insisted it has complete uplink rights, arguing that Indian law prohibits free private broadcasting... Indian solicitor-general Dipanker Gupta is to give Doordarshan's reply on Monday...

WC carnival on thin ice



NEW DELHI, Feb 4: A debate over the wisdom of staging matches in Sri Lanka and a dispute over broadcast rights have overshadowed final preparations for cricket's World Cup, report agencies...

The 12-team limited-overs tournament gets underway next Sunday with a spectacular opening ceremony at Calcutta's Eden Gardens stadium... Officials concede it is a "no win" situation following the refusal of some Australian players to go to bomb-scarred Colombo and the Sri Lankan government's determination to co-host the tournament with India and Pakistan...

"It's a most difficult situation we're faced with, admitted Jagmohan Dalmyia, convener of the joint Pakistan-India-Sri Lanka organising committee (PILCOM) today it would have far-reaching implications..."

If the organisers concede requests, made informally by Australia and West Indies, to shift matches out of Colombo, where 80 people were killed and 1,400 injured in bomb attacks on Wednesday, they risk alienating the Sri Lankans, a key ally in bringing the World Cup to the Indian sub-continent...

But if the original schedule is allowed to stand, the tournament could be ruined if Australia and the West Indies forfeit their matches, a move unprecedented in World Cup history... Sri Lanka are scheduled to play three matches in Colombo -- against Australia on February 17, Zimbabwe (Feb 21) and the West Indies (Feb 25) -- and one in the hill resort of Kandy against Kenya on March 6...

Sri Lankan cricket officials have said the government was keen to hold the matches in the island, and have promised adequate security for the teams and officials... Australia and West Indies remain unimpressed at the guarantee, although both Zimbabwe and Kenya have said they were willing to play in Sri Lanka...

Dalmyia, who had earlier said he would be dictated by the assurances from the Sri Lankan government, admitted for the first time today the possibility of a change in venues... "Some matches will have to be relocated in exceptional circumstances... if a city is on fire or an entire country is rocked by violence," Dalmyia said, but refused to elaborate...

Three centres in India -- Hyderabad, Bangalore and Bombay -- have offered to host Sri Lanka's matches, while Pakistani officials also said they were willing to take an additional match... As discussion continued over whether to play in Sri Lanka, a major row over broadcast rights of the tournament remained unresolved... India's state television company Doordarshan is locked in a high-stake battle to wrest broadcast rights from the US marketing company WorldTel...

PILCOM convener secretary Jagmohan Dalmyia told the Sunday Times of India that the event would be broadcast to 110 countries, with an estimated worldwide audience of three billion people... WorldTel, which holds the overall broadcast rights for the World Cup, last year signed a broadcasting deal with Rupert Murdoch's Hong Kong-based Star Television after a disagreement with Doordarshan over payment for rights it had previously held...

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Majoli's fabulous feat



TOKYO, Feb 4: Iva Majoli completed her excellent giant-killing run by beating Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to win the \$26,250 Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament today, reports AFP... The injury-plagued 18-year-old from Croatia, who shocked world co-number one Monica Seles on her way to the final, proved it was no fluke scoring a 6-4, 6-1 victory over the Spanish former world number one...

Although both had several break points, Majoli appeared to be the winner and took the following six games in a row to lead 4-0 in the second set... Majoli permitted Sanchez-Vicario to hold only one more game and then tried another powerful forehand to force her opponent a backhand error on her second match point...

She said her injuries were still the same as in her previous matches and added that she would take a couple of days off before going to Paris and Essen... Majoli will move up to her career highest of fourth in the rankings next week with her third title, following her first two back-to-back victories in Zurich and Pilsenstadt in October...

SHE HAS ARRIVED: Croatia's Iva Majoli in absolute elation as she holds aloft the Toray Pan-Pacific Open Trophy after getting the better of Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-4, 6-1 in the final in Tokyo yesterday... AFP/UNB photo

World Cup '96 officiants



From Tapan Majumder

National Grid panel of Third Umpires for Wills World Cup 1996, the ICC Associate Member countries participating in the tournament have been represented... G Farid (Kenya) and Stephen Tovey (Holland) will perform the responsibilities of the third umpire besides S K Bansal, K Parthasarathy and R C Sharma of India...

PILCOM announced the posting of the on-field umpires, third umpires and match referees for Wills World Cup 1996... S Venkataraghavan and V K Ramaswamy are the two on-field umpires from India in the National Grid panel with Khizar Hayat and Mehbub Shah from Pakistan...

The National Grid Panel of Match Referees for Wills World Cup 1996 comprise a galaxy of former Test cricketers, Dalmyia said... Clive Lloyd (West Indies), Raman Subba Row (England), M A K Pataudi (India), Nasim-ul-Ghani (Pakistan), Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka) and John Reid (New Zealand) are in the panel...

GOODLUCK BAT PARADE

Superstars all over the world will be part of the World Cup captains' parade with the 'Good luck to India' bat, which will be one view throughout the city of Calcutta on February 10...

The list of captains who have confirmed participation are: Kapil Dev, S Venkataraghavan, Azharuddin (India) Ian Chappell, Kim Hughes (Australia), Asif Iqbal (Pakistan), M Gatting, M Dennis (England), C Lloyd, V Richards (W Indies), Anura Tenekoon, D Mendis, Aravinda D'Silva (S. Lanka), D Fletcher, J Traicos (Zimbabwe), Harilal Shah (E. Africa), B M Maurice (Canada), Glenn Turner, M Crowe, J Crowe, G Howarth and M Burgess (New Zealand)...

After a simple felicitation ceremony of the captains, the chief minister Jyoti Basu, will flag off the rally which will comprise 18 tableaux to be piloted by around 200 motorcycleists wearing official jersey of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB)...

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The ACB has called a press conference in Melbourne on Monday and the players will meet in Brisbane on Tuesday where they will be briefed by ACB chief executive Graham Habibish... Mark Waugh said the players had not come to terms with the Sri Lankan issue as a team... "Nothing's been decided, we haven't seen each other since the last day (of the third Test against Sri Lanka) in Adelaide (last month) and all of the rest of the stuff has happened since then," he said... He was adamant that he

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