

India-Zimbabwe tie today

Sports Reporter
Title-chasers India takes on unfancied Zimbabwe in a crucial Singer World Series match at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club ground today.



The Sachin Tendulkar led Indian outfit need victories in both of their remaining matches against the Africans and strong Australians to qualify for the final of the four-team tourney.

Zimbabwe, who lost their opening match to Australia will be led by Alistair Campbell.

World champions Sri Lanka, with two thumping wins under their belt, have already ensured their place in the September 7 final.

Star Sports will air the match live, beginning at 10 am (BST).

Giddins won't appeal ban

HOVE, England, Aug 31: England fast bowler Ed Giddins said on Friday that he would not be appealing against his 20-month ban from first-class cricket, reports Reuter.

Giddins was suspended by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) after he was found guilty of using cocaine before a county championship match in May. He was then sacked by his county Sussex.

"While I still protest my innocence I will not be appealing," he said. "Instead, I intend to carry out the suspension with dignity and use the 20 months to improve my game."

"I trust and hope the TCCB will not bear a grudge against me and treat me fairly because I want to play cricket again at the highest level in 1998."

"I hope to be fitter and better than before and to force my way into the England team."

The 25-year-old, who toured Pakistan with England A last year, is now considering offers to play in South Africa, the West Indies and Australia during the English close season.

The TCCB has cancelled his registration with Sussex but he will still be able to play club cricket and benefit matches.

Morceli to run in IAAF GP II

RIETI, Italy, Aug 31: Nouredine Morceli likes the track in this little mountain town in central Italy.

The Algerian widely recognised as the world's top middle-distance runner has set two of his four outdoor world records at Rieti, and will take a crack at his own mark in the 1,500 metres race at the IAAF Grand Prix II met here Sunday, reports AP.

Morceli, Olympic gold medalist in the event, will be pushed by Venuste Niyongabo, the 5,000 champion at Atlanta.

Morceli, 26, beat the Burundian in the mile at Berlin on Friday.

He set the 1,500 standard of 3:28.86 minutes in 1992 and the mile record of 3:44.39 the following year in Rieti, 55 kilometres (35 miles) northeast of Rome.

Perhaps with Morceli as inspiration, two other top middle-distance runners have asked Rieti organisers for pacemakers to facilitate record attempts.

Daniel Komen of Kenya, who looked sluggish in running the 5,000 at Berlin, will shoot for Morceli's mark of 7.25.11 in the 3,000 here.

Wilson Kipketer has requested runners put him through 400 metres in 49 seconds and 600 in 1.15 when he takes aim at Sebastian Coe's 800 record of 1:41.73, which has stood for 15 years.

Several of the top names in track and field are skipping the Rieti meet, opting to rest ahead of the IAAF finals in Milan, Sept 7.

Among world record holders and Olympic medalists who withdrew Saturday were long jumper Jonathan Edwards of Britain and Svetlana Masterkova of Russia.

All three medal winners in the men's shot put — Randy Barnes and John Godina of the United States and Aleksandr Bagach of Ukraine — will be present.

FBI keeps on searching

WASHINGTON, Aug 31: The FBI has nearly completed lab tests on materials collected in the Atlanta Olympic bombing and is shifting its focus to video and photos taken at Centennial Olympic Park by ordinary citizens, says a senior federal law enforcement official, reports AP.

Federal investigators are studying more than 200 rolls of video tape and still photographs taken at the park near the time of the July 27 bombing, the law enforcement official said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"There were a lot of people taking pictures — video tapes and still photos — in the park during the concert when the bomb went off," the official said. "We have more than 200 of them, and we've set up a group to analyse them in detail."

The official did not estimate how long this and other investigative steps still under way might be expected to take.

Texaco Trophy England's

BIRMINGHAM, England, Aug 31: England wrapped up the Texaco Trophy one-day series against Pakistan with an emphatic victory by 107 runs in their second of three encounters here at Edgbaston today, report agencies.

Nick Knight was England's hero, scoring a magnificent 113 in an explosive opening stand of 103 with Alec Stewart (46) to lay the foundations of England's imposing total of 292 for eight.

Pakistan suffered an early setback by losing two wickets with only six runs on the board and never looked like getting back into the game as they slumped to 185 all out.

England, who lost the Test series 2-0, won the first of the one-dayers by five wickets at The Oval on Thursday and are now aiming for a clean sweep in the final match of the series at Trent Bridge on Sunday.

Earlier, opening batsman Nick Knight scored his first one-day century for England and steered the home side to a commanding total.

Knight, playing before his home Warwickshire crowd at Edgbaston in only his second one-day international, scored 113 and partnered Alec Stewart in an opening onslaught of 103 runs in 13.2 overs.

Stewart, who opened the batting with Knight in the first-match victory at Old Trafford last Thursday, scored 46 from only 32 balls after the home side was put into bat by Pakistani captain Wasim Akram.

Wasim and fellow opening bowler Waqar Younis were smashed around in the early overs, with Knight cracking the first of two boundaries to square leg, mid-on and cover off Wasim in the ninth over to bring up England's 50.

England's second 50 took only 25 balls as Knight reached his half-century in 47 balls after striking off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq for his eighth and ninth boundaries in the 13th over.

Stewart's last two scoring shots were sixes — his first an astonishing drive over extra cover off seamer Aftab Rehan — and the next a sweetly-timed straight hit off suffering Saqlain.

But leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed made a double breakthrough when he bowled Stewart with his second delivery, and four balls later trapped England skipper Mike Atherton leg before wicket for one making it 105 for two.

Knight and Graham Thorpe consolidated and ran well between the wickets against Pakistan's spin-twin combination, taking England to 150 by the halfway point.

The left-handed pair added 58 for the third wicket before Aftab returned and dismissed Thorpe for 21 in the 27th over.

Matthew Maynard added just one run before he wandered out of his crease and failed to beat Salim Malik's throw from short third man which ran him out making the score 168 for four.

Knight, whose hundred came off 120 balls and included 11 boundaries, added 53 in 10 overs with Ronnie Irani before his superb innings ended when he was stumped by Moin Khan off Saqlain in the 38th over at 221 for five.

Irani and fellow all-rounder Adam Hloolake — making his debut — took the score past 250 before Hloolake and new



NICK KNIGHT ... 113

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Irani and fellow all-rounder Adam Hloolake — making his debut — took the score past 250 before Hloolake and new

batsman Darren Gough were run out in successive deliveries in the 46th over making it 257 for seven.

Off-spinner Robert Croft added 15 before being bowled by Waqar in the penultimate over, and Irani finished unbeaten on 45.

Mushtaq was the pick of the bowlers finishing with two for 33 off his ten overs. Saqlain and Waqar ended with one for 59 off 10 and one for 54 off nine respectively.

Wasim, playing in his 200th one-day international, had nothing to celebrate with and finished wicketless, conceding 50 runs from 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the second one-day cricket match between England and Pakistan on Saturday:

ENGLAND	
N Knight	113
A Stewart	46
M Atherton	21
G Thorpe	1
M Maynard	1
R Irani	45
A Hloolake	15
D Gough	0
R Croft	15
H Headley	0
Extras (lb-25, w-4, nb-3)	32
Total (for 8 wickets, innings closed)	292
Fall of wickets: 1-103; 2-105; 3-163; 4-168; 5-221; 6-257; 7-257; 8-286.	
Did not bat: A Mullanly.	
Bowling: O M R W	
Wasim Akram	10 0 50 0
Waqar Younis	9 0 54 1
Aftab Rehan	6 0 40 1
Saqlain Mushtaq	10 0 59 1
Mushtaq Ahmed	10 0 33 2
Aamir Sohail	5 0 31 0

By the close Yorkshire had turned that into a 37-run advantage but off-spinner Saqlain had scuttled their hopes, taking four for 24 in 48 balls and leaving them hanging on 119 for five and praying for rain.

Hussain, considered surplus to England's one-day requirements, struck 158, his first championship century of the season, as Essex reached 372 and took a first innings lead of 82.

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Phil scuttles Somerset

LONDON, Aug 31: West Indian all-rounder Phil Simmons took four for 38 on Friday as Leicestershire beat Somerset by an innings and 39 runs in two days to take over at the head of the county championship, reports Reuter.

There stay on top, though, may be short-lived as title rivals Essex, Derbyshire and Surrey all closed in on victory while Kent made up for lost time in their rain-affected match against Nottinghamshire.

After bowling Somerset out for 83 on the opening morning at Grace Road, Leicestershire extended their first innings by 94 runs before being bowled out for 296 with England discard Andy Caddick taking three for 83.

Trailing by 213, Somerset got a solid start to their second innings before Simmons stepped in to bundle them out for 174.

Essex, however, look certain to regain their top spot after Nasser Hussain and Peter Such gave them a firm grip on their match against Yorkshire at Headingley.

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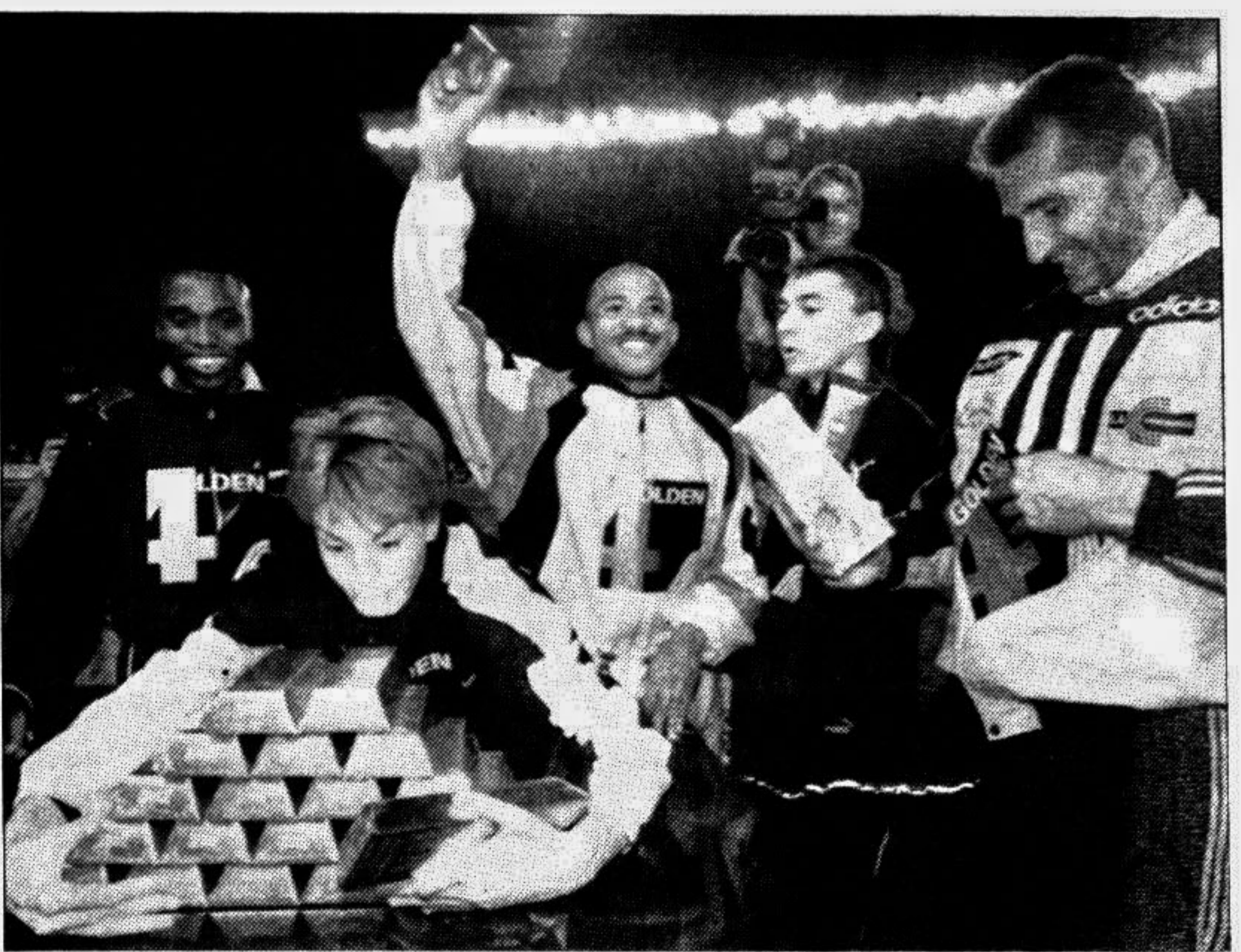
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The five 'Golden-Four-Jackpot' winner (L-R) Denmark's Wilson Kipketer, Bulgarian Stefka Kostadinova, Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, Britain's Jonathan Edwards and German Lars Riedel celebrate with their gold bars after winning their events in Berlin on Friday. — AFP/UNB photo

Five stars share jackpot

BERLIN, Aug 31: Olympic silver medalist Frankie Fredericks defeated double Olympic champion Michael Johnson to clinch one of the most lucrative and satisfying 200 metres victories of his career on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Namibian, who finished second behind Johnson when the American ran a remarkable world record of 19.32 seconds at the Atlanta Games, won an intense battle under the home straight to win in 19.97 seconds at the Berlin Grand Prix.

The victory ensured Fredericks, the gold medalist at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, a fifth of the most lucrative jackpot in the sport — 20 one-kilo gold bars worth 250,000 dollars.

Fredericks shared the prize with Denmark's Wilson Kipketer (men's 800 metres), Britain's Jonathan Edwards (triple jump), German Lars Riedel (men's discus) and Bulgarian female high jumper Stefka Kostadinova, each won 50,000 dollars.

The prize is shared between athletes who win specific events at the golden four series in Oslo, Zurich, Brussels and Berlin. All five athletes won the series for the first time.

Fredericks clinched the 200 victory, in front of a crowd which contained an array of former Olympic 100 metres champions going back to 1948, who came to the meeting to watch a special tribute to the American Jesse Owens who won four gold medals at the Berlin Olympics 60 years ago.

Against defending US Open champion Pete Sampras, "Try injuring yourself in a freak blender accident to avoid the confrontation," says McEnroe, a sportscaster and a senior circuit player.

Top seed Pete Sampras complained that he was given a practice court "right next to a dumpster, and you can smell it."

WHAT'S THAT SMELL? Every year players complain about the abrasive, quintessential New York ambience of the US Open, and this year it's been more of the same.

Edwards did not run in Zurich earlier this month because of injury and chose to compete in the 400 at last week's meeting in Brussels, leaving Fredericks to set up his jackpot bid with victories.

Johnson was not disappointed, however, after the best fifth-round jump of 17.69 metres to defeat Olympic champion Kenny Harrison (17.16) and Kostadinova won the high jump with 2.03 metres.

Edwards said he would invest the winnings for his young family while Kostadinova's thoughts went immediately to her father who has been taken ill in the last few days.

"It is great and nice but the health of my father and his quick recovery are more important to me at the moment," she said.

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