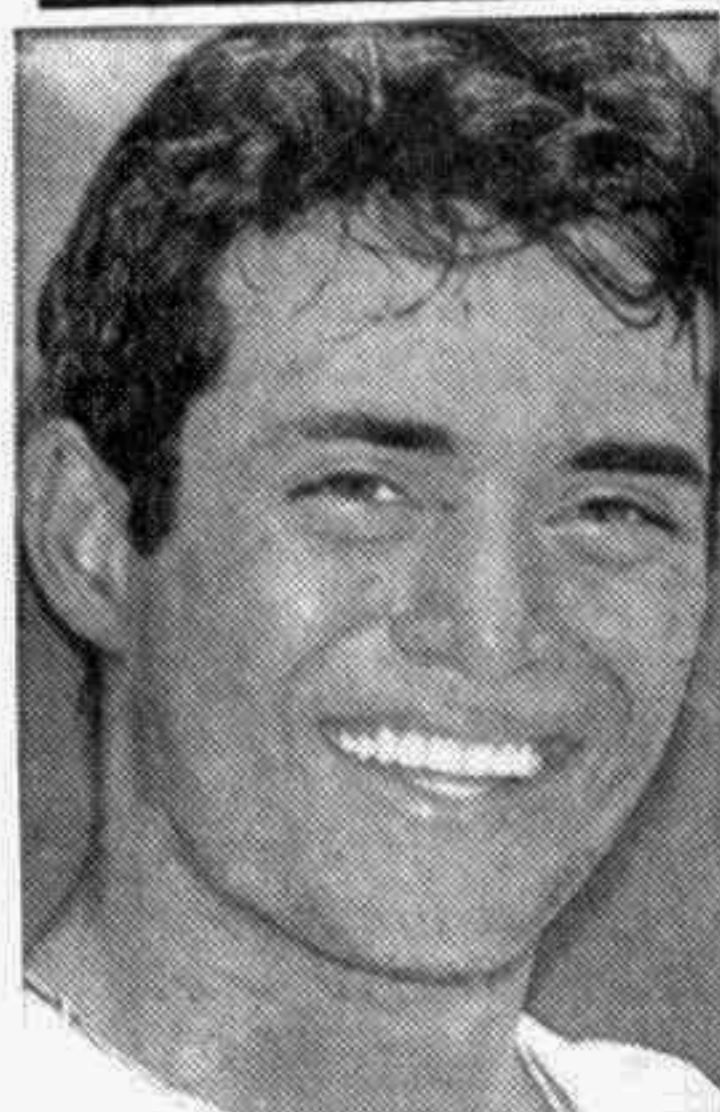


Sport

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Leander Paes

(Indian tennis player) "First of all, I am itching to get back to the gym. I have lost seven kilograms and am weak. My main priority would be to get back in shape for the ATP Tour event in Doha in the first week of January. I hope to get a wildcard for the Australian Open, which will give me one more week to prepare. Otherwise, I have to try and qualify. I have ruled out my trip to the US for the present. I have to work in Calcutta only.

But I am not rushing out of bed to train, because I don't want to have a relapse. I hear it is bad in the case of typhoid. I am just looking forward to getting rid of this ailment, and getting back to the challenges of the tennis circuit."

About his intention how to begin the new year, 1997.

Sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-61

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes : 8 pm Jan 17, '97

Table with 5 questions about Bangladesh football and tennis records.

Registration form fields: Name, Class, Roll No., School Address, Phone.

2 Swede booters join Sino side

STOCKHOLM, Jan 15: Two Swedish soccer players, Krister Lundgren and Magnus Skoldmark, have signed for Chinese league champions Vanda FC, reports Reuter.

দাকা সিটি করপোরেশন প্রকৌশল শাখা, পুর অঞ্চল-১

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন আপনার শিক্কে টিকা দিন

Advertisement for DCC/PRD/346/96-97 including vaccination schedule and contact info.

Pakistan vow to stick the course Aussies for last-ditch act



WASIM AKRAM

MELBOURNE, Jan 15: For a meaningless match, Thursday's last preliminary round limited-over cricket encounter between Australia and Pakistan is taking on championship dimensions, reports AP.

Pakistan, which have already qualified for the best-of-three finals against the West Indies that begin Saturday at Sydney, have won all three matches against the host team and are looking forward to making it four. "The boys are enjoying their success and I think they want to win against Australia," Pakistan captain Wasim Akram said Wednesday after giving his team the day-off following their eight-wicket win over a largely second-string West Indies team on Tuesday in Sydney.



MARK TAYLOR

"No Pakistan team that has toured here has convincingly won against Australia." Australian vice-captain Ian Healy and senior batsman Steve Waugh, meanwhile, have ruled out using the match as the first training session for next week's fourth Test against the West Indies.

Australia have lost five one-dayers in a row and will miss the finals of the triangular competition for the first time in 17 years. With the West Indies on fire after a slow start and star batsman Brian Lara finally clicking, it would be tempting to forget the result Thursday and think of the longer-term goal of retaining the Frank Worrell Trophy in Adelaide starting on Jan 25.

Although Australia lead the five-match series 2-1 and several players are in need of a good hit-out, the focus at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Thursday will be on regaining a winning feeling, says Waugh. "We're playing for Australia and we owe the public to put in the best performance possible," Waugh said Wednesday. "We can switch off one-day cricket after tomorrow. I'm going back to play grade cricket on Saturday and then we've got three days in Adelaide before the Test starts.

Kenny fills Kevin's shoes



KENNY DALGLISH

LONDON, Jan 15: Kenny Dalglish has taken over as manager at English Premiership side Newcastle United, the club officially confirmed on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Dalglish fills the vacancy left when Kevin Keegan resigned in sensational circumstances last Wednesday. The 45-year-old Dalglish quit his job as Blackburn's director of football in September.

Newcastle chairman Sir John Hall first gave his thanks to Kevin Keegan before welcoming Dalglish to St James' Park at the 6 pm (1800 GMT) news conference.

Hall said: "1997 has been another momentous year in the history of the club - not perhaps as we expected, but the club has to move forward. And Dalglish promised to work hard for the club in his own, unflashy style. I have never been one to shoot my mouth off," he said. "I just do my work and see what happens from there."

Only last month Dalglish agreed to join Rangers chairman David Murray's Carnegie Sports International in the role of new business development manager. Keegan left the club after spending 60 million pounds (about 95 million dollars) in the transfer market to try to win Newcastle's first league title in 70 years.

do it," he said then. "I am perfectly relaxed about whether I get a job. I want to be involved in football but whether it is in management or something else, who knows? I have not got an advertisement to a coaching role.

Keegan was said to have gone because Newcastle is about to be listed on the stock exchange whose rules demand any senior management changes be made public. Keegan's request to go at the end of the season would have created the sort of uncertainty the market hates.

Keegan took over the club in 1992 when it was one match away from dropping into the old Third Division. He briefly resigned back then saying that the problems at the club were far bigger than he had been led to believe — but he was persuaded to return soon after.

But even he finally snapped under the intense pressure from fans and the media to deliver the club's first title since 1927 and first trophy since 1975. When asked about Dalglish taking over, Newcastle striker Les Ferdinand enthused: "He has got a proven track record, which has made him the man the club want."

Newcastle utility man Steve Watson was delighted by Dalglish's arrival at St James' Park. "Kenny Dalglish had the players' respect even before it became clear he would be managing Newcastle because he has a superb pedigree," Watson told club officials.

"He has had success with other clubs and hopefully he can do the same for us. It was vital the managerial issue was sorted out quickly. "To replace Kevin Keegan we needed someone high profile and it was always going to take someone with a great standing in the game to replace him."

Boro fined

LONDON, Jan 15: English Premier league club Middlesbrough have been docked three points and fined 50,000 pounds (83,300 dollars) for pulling out of a scheduled fixture against Blackburn last month, a league spokesman said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Middlesbrough, who were already bottom of the league, dropped to 15 points, four points behind nearest club Southampton. Middlesbrough called off the fixture, scheduled for December 21, saying too many of their players were ill.

But a lengthy league disciplinary panel hearing which was attended by manager Brian Robson concluded they "did not have just cause for unilaterally calling off the match."

The coming year will see a potent and strategic attack from the 555 Subaru World Rally Team. This, the largest ever FIA World Rally Championship, Colin McRae will contest all fourteen rounds, with Kenneth Eriksson and Piero Liatti focusing their attention on events where their renowned expertise will be invaluable to the team's defence of the World Manufacturers' title. This season-long commitment from all three drivers will provide the 555 Subaru World Rally Team with an unrivalled opportunity for victory in both drivers' and Manufacturers' Championships.

England firmly in control

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand, Jan 15: Centuries from Alec Stewart and Nasser Hussain put England in command of their opening tour match against a New Zealand Selection XI today, reports Reuter.

Stewart hit 153 before retiring hurt and Hussain scored 139 as the tourists amassed a first innings total of 427 for eight declared, a lead of 289. England captured the wicket of Craig Spearman before the close, caught by captain Mike Atherton off the bowling of Dominic Cork, and looked poised to press for victory on Thursday's fourth and final day.

Stewart began the day on 75 and moved smoothly to his century. He brought up the hundred by first cutting fast-medium bowler Robert Kennedy to the backward point fence and then hooking the next ball for a single to fine leg.

Stewart shared in a 206-run stand from 336 balls with Hussain. John Crawley hit a lively 35 and the only specialist batsman to miss out was lefthander Graham Thorpe, who scored just six.

Fast-medium pacer Danny Morrison, recovering from a groin injury, picked up four for 81 in a useful build-up to the first Test starting in Auckland on January 24.

Scores: New Zealand Selection 138 and 25-1 (Blair Pocock 11 not out, Dominic Cork 1-17); England 427-8 declared (Alec Stewart 153, Nasser Hussain 139; Danny Morrison 4-81, Robert Kennedy 2-80).

Cairns cruises Canterbury

WELLINGTON, Jan 15: Canterbury cruised to a 123-run victory in the final of New Zealand's one-day Shell Cup competition today, skittling off Wellington for just 81 runs, reports Reuter.

Canterbury, who have dominated the competition in recent years, scored 204 for seven from their 50 overs, with Test all-rounder Chris Cairns top-scoring on 42. Wellington were never in the hunt, losing their first four wickets for just nine runs. Roger Twoose was the only batsman to offer resistance, scoring 24 before being caught behind off Cairns.

Cairns took two wickets in Wellington's innings, which ended in the 34th over, and Mark Priest captured three for 15 to follow up his innings of 35 not out. Canterbury have now won five of the last six finals.

All-Africa Games go to Nigeria

LAGOS, Jan 15: Nigeria said on Tuesday it had been chosen to host the 2003 All-Africa Games, reports Reuter.

The SCSA (Supreme Council for Sports in Africa) recently communicated to us that we have been granted the hosting rights of the African Games in 2003," Sports Minister Jim Nwobodo told a news conference.

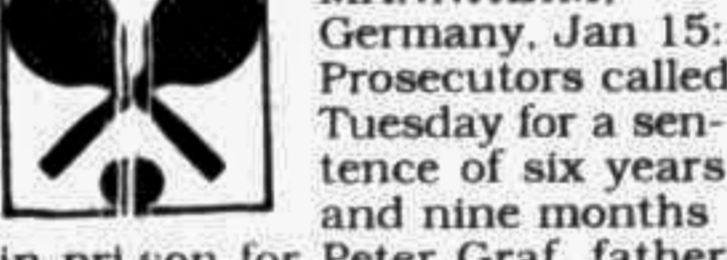
Zimbabwe is to host the seventh edition of the four-yearly Games in 1999. Nwobodo said "necessary positive measures" would be taken to ensure a successful Games in Nigeria.

Monte Carlo, the ultimate playground for the rich and famous, is a fitting setting for the dawn of a fresh and exciting era in World rallying — an era that sees the launch of stunning new World Rally Cars that will stand proudly alongside the glamorous super cars that line the streets of this charismatic principality on the Mediterranean. The 555 Subaru World Rally team's new Championship challenger — the Subaru Impreza 555 WRC97 — heralded as a breathtaking package of stunning good looks and technical mastery will, without doubt, be at the forefront of at-



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ... Mary Pierce of France celebrates her 22nd birthday with a cake at the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday. The French got through to the third round after she beat Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva 6-2, 6-2 on the day.

Prosecutors press charges



PETER GRAF

January 24. The defence sums up its case Friday. Peter Graf, 58, who managed his daughter's lucrative professional tennis earnings, faces a possible sentence of six to 10 years imprisonment in prison if the accusations of serious tax evasion are sustained.

However, this could be lessened if the charges are reduced to simple tax evasion. The time he has spent in jail would also count against the sentence. He was arrested August 2, 1995.

In his defence, Graf has maintained that the income tax authorities misled him. Prosecutor Gabriele Schoepf said Tuesday that the contents of the 237-page indictment had been very largely borne out.

This accused Graf as the German star's financial manager and Eckardt as her tax and commercial advisor of "consciously and deliberately" failing to declare the 42 million marks.

They allegedly diverted her tennis game and advertising earnings via a front company named Sunpark with a postal address in the Netherlands to the Dutch West Indies and Liechtenstein.

Senior prosecutor Hubert Jobski said they had been motivated by "gross selfishness" and prosecutor Schoepf spoke of "a pronounced appetite for gain."

Steffi Graf, whose earnings since her professional debut in 1982 up to the end of 1995 are estimated at over 150 million marks (100 million dollars), has maintained that she left all her financial affairs up to her father and her advisers.

She has been interrogated but not prosecuted.

Of Grobbelaar & gaffe



BRUCE GROBBELAAR

WINCHESTER, England, Jan 15: Former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar accidentally made two stunning saves in a 3-3 tie with Manchester United and missed out on a 125,000-pound (208,000 dollars) payout from a betting syndicate, it was alleged Wednesday, reports AP.

Prosecutor David Calvert Smith said things were going according to plan for Grobbelaar when Manchester United led 3-1 at halftime at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium on Jan 4, 1994.

But the Zimbabwean goalkeeper told a business associate he accidentally made the two saves in the second half as Liverpool managed to salvage a draw, Calvert Smith said.

"If the ball doesn't play, it doesn't play," the prosecutor quoted Grobbelaar as telling Chris Vincent. "Do you know how much money I lost? One hundred and twenty-five thousand in cash. Manchester United 3-1 at Anfield and a 3-3 draw. I could have done something."

"What could you have done?" Vincent was quoted as saying. "In the second half, I made two blinding saves when I was diving the wrong way," Grobbelaar allegedly replied. "I dived the wrong way. I just went ... and it hit my hand."

Calvert Smith told the jury at Winchester Crown Court: "The ball did hit his hand twice and turned out to look like pretty good saves." "The prosecution say that this is a clear admission from Grobbelaar that he was on for a very large sum of money if the ball had played for the Manchester United game."

Calvert Smith continued outlining the prosecution case on the second day of the biggest match-fixing trial in English soccer in more than 30 years. Grobbelaar and two other top soccer names, former Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers and striker John Fashanu, are on trial along with Malaysian businessman Hang Suan Lim.

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Lim is alleged to be the British end of the syndicate and responsible for collecting the money from Indonesian contacts, while the prosecution alleges Fashanu was the "middle man" handling the money on to the goalkeepers.

The trial is expected to last at least eight weeks. The prosecution focused on a

1993 match between Liverpool and Newcastle, which Liverpool lost 3-0.

Fashanu is alleged to have given Grobbelaar 40,000 pounds (68,000 dollars) after the Liverpool goalkeeper let in three goals.

Calvert Smith said Thursday that Grobbelaar is captured on a secret videotape telling Vincent that he chose the away game at Newcastle because "I knew I could do business there."

The prosecution referred to another videotaped conversation in which Vincent asked Grobbelaar: "What's the biggest pay-out you've had?" Grobbelaar replied: "That one, 40."

"That must be a reference by Mr Grobbelaar to that payout in November, 1993, of 40,000 pounds," the prosecutor told the jury.

On Tuesday, the prosecution alleged that Grobbelaar agreed to fix matches because he was angry that he'd slipped to 13th in the list of top earners at Liverpool.

He was embittered by the fact that Liverpool were not paying him enough, especially compared with other newer players, and he wanted to make as much as he could over the next couple of years," Calvert Smith said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid and clues.