

Parore remains in Test side

AUCKLAND, Jan 28: New Zealand Test cricketer Adam Parore was Tuesday suspended for the rest of the season by the Auckland provincial team, but may still retain his place on the national squad, reports AP.

Parore still will be considered for New Zealand's team to play England in the second Test in Wellington from Feb 6, said national chairman of selectors Ross Dykes.

The Auckland Cricket Association (ACA) confirmed that Parore has been suspended for the remainder of the 1996-97 season.

The selection panel has indicated to the fact that aspects of Adam's performance during the course of the present season have caused it concern," said ACA chief executive Lindsay Crocker.

The statement added that the selection panel — if it remains the same — will consider Parore for selection next season.

Media reports in New Zealand have suggested friction between Parore and his Auckland teammates over Parore's attitude to training.

But Dykes said Parore's suspension won't be taken into account when the national selectors met to select their 12 for the second Test. He said Parore would be assessed purely on his cricket form.

News of the suspension ended a bad day for Parore.

He was responsible for the run out of New Zealand captain Lee Germon on the final morning of the first Test at Eden Park, then rashly got himself stumped.

W Australia atop alone

HOBART, Australian, Jan 28: Western Australia went to the top of Australia's Sheffield Shield cricket competition after clinching a seven-wicket victory over Tasmania here Monday, reports AFP.

Opener Mike Hussey was top scorer with 87, following his first innings 83 to steer Western Australia to 180 for three and outright victory over Tasmania after the home side had taken first innings points.

The win broke a three-way deadlock at the top of the standings with Western Australia now six points ahead of Queensland and New South Wales and facing an important clash with Queensland in Brisbane next week.

Quader for polls in sports feds by June

Sports Reporter

State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader vowed to hold elections in different sports federations by June this year.

The state minister informed sports journalists at an Iftar party held by the National Sports Council last evening. To pave the way for holding elections, necessary amendments to the constitution would be made by the first week of March, he added.

He also said that he sought Chinese assistance to help build a friendship stadium in Dhaka during his visit to Beijing early this month. Chinese government has shown their interest and assured all sorts of help in this regard, said Quader.

Besides, coaches from China, will also be brought to impart training in BKSP, he said.

ACME Div II cricket results

Sports Reporter

Indira Road Krira Chakra, Rupali Bank, Western Sporting Club and Lancashire Cricket Club won their respective Acme Second Division cricket league matches held at different city venues yesterday.

At the Mirpur Outer Stadium Indira Road handed Mill Barrack Cricket Club a crushing eight-wicket defeat. Chakra a pair of Mill Barrack total of 118 in 40 overs. Indira Road lost two wickets before reaching the winning mark in 24.1 overs.

For Indira Road openers Shahriar and Rahman top-scored with 38 runs each. Earlier, put into bat, Mill Barrack were bundled out for 118 in 32.5 overs.

Rupali Bank recorded a convincing seven-wicket win over Uday Club at the T&T ground in Mahakhali.

Sent into bat in the morning, Uday mustered 188 for eight in the stipulated 40 overs with middle-order Shohan contributing highest 30. In reply, the bankers overhauled the target in the 35th over with seven wickets in hand. Opener Shantanu Roy scored an unconquered 88 of 98 balls while middle-order bat Alam remained unbeaten on 43.

At the Diamond Club Ground, Western Sporting Club registered a 68-run victory over Lalbagh Union Sporting Club.

Electing to use the wicket first, Western boys piled up an imposing total of 217 for eight in 40 overs with lower middle-order Nasim contributing maximum 55 followed by Mamun who scored 38. In reply, Lalbagh were all out in 39.2 overs scoring 149 runs.

In the other match of the day on the western strip of Diamond Cricket Stadium, Lancashire Cricket Club posted an eight-wicket victory over Amarjoty Club.

In a low-scoring affair, Amarjoty scored only 146 in 36.2 overs before being all out. In reply, Lancashire took only 27.2 overs to reach home losing only two wickets.



COMRADES IN ARMS: New Zealanders Danny Morrison (L) and Nathan Astle celebrate after fashioning an incredible draw against England in the Auckland Test yesterday. The pair put on a record unbroken stand for the tenth wicket.

— Reuter/UNB photo

Reesty Kiwis irk limeys



AUCKLAND, Jan 28: All-rounder Nathan Astle hit his third Test century and veteran bowler Danny Morrison proved an unlikely batting hero as New Zealand defied England to snatch a draw in the first cricket Test today, report agencies.

The last-wicket pair staged one of New Zealand's greatest escapes in Test matches, tormenting the English attack for 165 minutes with an unbroken partnership of 106 to see the home side finish at 248 for nine denying the visitors' first away Test victory for two years.

Astle finished 102 not out and Morrison's brave resistance earned him 14 not out from 133 balls in two hours and 45 minutes at the crease.

Astle scored his 102 in 279 minutes, off 214 balls, hitting 13 fours. England were left dejected after yet another disaster in a season where little has gone right.

England looked certain winners when they reduced the Kiwis to 105 for eight at lunch, still needing 26 to make the tourists bat again.

The New Zealanders were only 11 runs ahead when they lost Simon Doull for an aggressive 26 before he was yorked by Darren Gough just after the lunch interval.

By tea, which was delayed by 30 minutes, New Zealand led by 76 and, after an extra 30 minutes, England's chance of victory had been snatched away by the defiance of Astle and Morrison.

Morrison, describing himself as a bit of an underachiever with the bat, told reporters: "I had nothing to lose and everything to gain. I just wanted to play on for Nathan."

Astle said his third Test century, and his first on home soil, was the most satisfying to date.

England captain Mike Atherton flung all five bowlers into the attack by turn. But failed to achieve a breakthrough.

"It proved difficult to dislodge them because the wicket was so dead", Atherton said. "We'll go into the next Test match knowing that we've got what it takes. I'm slightly disappointed not to have won, but life goes on."

The Morrison and Astle stand smashed the previous record of 57 for the 10th wickets against England, set by Frank Mooney and Jack Cowie at Leeds in 1949.

It was the third stand of more than 100 for the 10th wicket by New Zealand in Tests. England have won only five of the 42 overseas Tests they have played dating back to 1986-87. The English last won away two years ago against Australia in Adelaide.

Since beating New Zealand 2-0 in 1992, England have recorded just two victories in 22 overseas Tests, losing 11.

England desperately needed a victory to banish the embarrassing memories of a limited-overs series defeat in Zimbabwe earlier this year as they prepare for the upcoming Ashes series against Australia.

New Zealand resumed at 56 for three needing a total of 131 to avoid an innings defeat. They Kiwis almost didn't make it that far, losing wickets at regular intervals after making a bright start.

After Adam Parore and captain Lee Germon had put on 32 in "positive fashion", Parore opened the door for England.

He pushed a delivery from left-arm bowler Mullally towards cover and called for a sharp run. Nasser Hussain, England's best fielder, sprinted in and threw the stumps down with Germon well short of his crease.

To compound the problems, Parore then moved down the pitch to a delivery from left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell and tried to heave the ball towards the on-side. He missed and was stumped by Alec Stewart.

Parore made 33 in 139, grafting minutes.

New Zealand's hopes soon slumped even further when left-hander Justin Vaughan fell to

Tufnell for just two when the ball spun in sharply and he was given out leg before wicket.

Vaughan's dismissal meant England had taken three wickets for just four runs in 39 balls. Tufnell finished the session with three for 18 from 17 overs.

Mullally then struck twice before the break to put England in a powerful position.

He first bowled Chris Cairns for seven after Cairns chopped the ball back onto his own stumps, and then trapped Dipak Patel lbw without score — the all rounder's second duck of the match.

The Kiwis lost five wickets for 17 runs in 20.2 overs in the 75 minutes before the break. Doull's departure seemed to signal the end of their hopes, but Astle and Morrison then defied the England attack to force one of the most unexpected draws in cricket history.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth day of the first cricket Test between England and New Zealand at Eden Park on Tuesday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 390

ENGLAND: First innings 521

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 56 for three)

Poock lbw b Gough	20
Young c Hussain b Cork	3
Parore st Stewart b Tufnell	33
Fleming c Crawley b Tufnell	9
Germon run out	13
Astle not out	102
Vaughan lbw b Tufnell	2
Cairns b Mullally	7
Patel lbw b Mullally	0
Doull b Gough	26
Morrison not out	14
Extras: (nb-8 lb-11)	19
Total: (for nine wickets)	248
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-28; 3-47; 4-88; 5-90; 6-92; 7-101; 8-105; 9-142	

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Cork	16	3	45	1
Mullally	26	11	47	2
White	10	2	26	0
Gough	22	3	66	2
Tufnell	40	18	53	3

Result: Match drawn
Second Test: Feb 6 (Wellington).

Spaniards on a warpath?



MADRID, Jan 28: Spanish soccer players, in a backlash against the rising number of foreigners playing in the country, are warning they might go on strike if things don't change, reports AP.

Spain has more foreigners in its top league than any other country in Europe. And Spanish players say it's threatening their future.

The so-called Bosman ruling almost 14 months ago, which forced Europe's top leagues to scrap quotas on players from the 15-member European Union, isn't the issue.

Spain's unique problem — and Portugal's too — is the huge increase in the number of non-EU players, many from Latin America and Eastern Europe who often command lower salaries than Spaniards or other EU players.

According to figures from the Spanish Footballers Association, Spain's First Division has 115 non-EU players compared with 43 in Italy, 29 in England and 16 in Germany. Portugal also has about 100 non-EU players.

Add in Spain's Second Division and the number rises to 200.

"What the players are saying is 'this can't go on,'" said players' association chief Gerardo Gonzalez Movilla. He hasn't called a strike yet, but he doesn't rule it out.

"We all want to see the likes of Ronaldo and Giovanni here," said Spanish international and Betis forward Alfonso Perez, referring to FC Barcelona's two Brazilian stars. "But 200 non-EU players is barbarous."

Perez's Nigerian teammate at Betis, Finidi George, had a different view.

(18.7), France (18.4) and England (12.6).

Movilla pointed out that the Bosman ruling was followed by a domestic agreement allowing teams to field four non-EU players. He said that opened the floodgates for clubs newly rich with lucrative television deals.

Spanish clubs spent more than 35 billion pesetas (260 million dollars) on new signings in 1996, more than triple that of the previous season, making it one of the world's biggest spending leagues.

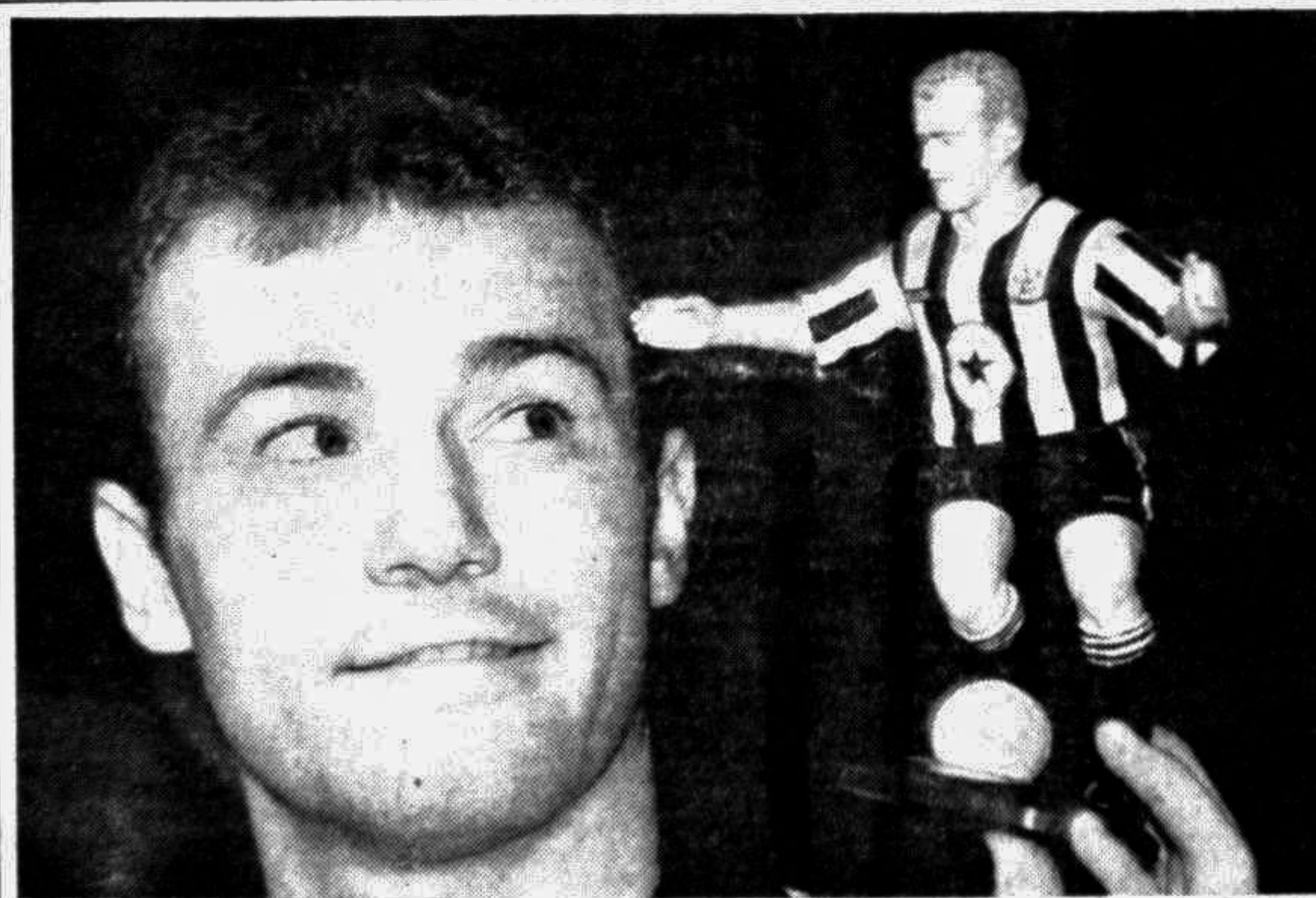
Despite the presence of stars like Ronaldo — FIFA's player-of-the-year — Movilla said many foreigners add nothing to the league. He said the association planned talks with the league, the Spanish Soccer Federation and the government's sports council. If all else fails, Movilla said a strike was possible.

"We had an agreement in principle with the Spanish Soccer Federation last year under which only three non-EU players would be allowed this year, two next year and one the following year," Movilla said. He said First Division clubs vetoed the plan.

The result is dozens of good Spanish players are not playing for their clubs, including several future international team stars such as Barcelona's Ivan de La Pena. Movilla said.

"That's going to ruin the players and consequently the national side," he said.

Matters are apparently made worse by a diplomatic deal under which Latin American players — which make up a large bulk of the non-EU players — can apply for dual nationality after two years in Spain. Once obtained, they count as EU players.



England and Newcastle striker Alan Shearer admires a miniature of him at the British Toy and Hobby Fair in London on Jan 27. The ten-inch high figure, launched at the fair as part of a new range of football superheroes, will be available in shops from March next. — AFP/UNB photo

Triangular tourney SA-Zimbabwe tie today

Sports Reporter

Zimbabwe tackle the mighty South Africans in a day-night fixture of the limited-overs triangular tournament in Cape Town today.

Star Sports will telecast the match from 6:30 PM (BST) onwards.

Walsh stands by Lara

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 28: West Indies cricket captain Courtney Walsh leapt to the defence of teammate Brian Lara Tuesday, calling on other squad members to help ease the pressure on the record-breaking batsman, reports AP.

Walsh said the West Indies inability to find a dominant batsman was the major reason for Australia grabbing an unsatisfactory 3-1 lead in the five-Test series between the teams. Lara finally found form too late. His 78 in the West Indies' second innings of the fourth Test here followed a run of 26, 44, 2, 1, 2, 2 and 9 in his previous Test innings this summer.

"We in the West Indies would believe it's going to be impossible for Brian to dominate every single Test series," Walsh said.

"It's probably a good thing for him for it to happen now."

"All great players go through these patches. I'm not going to pick on Brian because he hasn't got runs — great players do fall from time to time."

More worrying for Walsh was the failure of other top-order players with good records to step up to protect the team.

Lara, Jimmy Adams, Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Sherwin Campbell all saw their career averages fall during the series.

Lara's slipped from 60.32 to 55.10.

"If Brian's struggling, other guys should be good enough to give him the support to get his touch back," Walsh said.

Nigerian soccer coach fired

LAGOS, Jan 28: Shuaibu Amodu, chief coach of the Super Eagles, the Nigerian national team, has been sacked for what the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) calls "gross misconduct", reports AFP.

Amodu had last Friday been indefinitely suspended but on Monday the Nigerian F.A. confirmed he has been sacked when they said he had continued to grant press interviews in disregard of his contract.

Emeka Iyama, an official of the Nigerian F.A. technical committee, said Amodu's suspension might be connected with recent remarks about sports minister Jim Nwobodo and NFA officials.

Amodu's wife was also recently reported by the local press to have made statements which the minister and sports officials considered as either insulting or tantamount to insubordination.

Natore football

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Jan 28: Bogra moved into the final of the Sobhan-Shahjahan Smriti football tournament after defeating Rajshahi 2-1 in the semifinal held at the local Kanaikhal Stadium today.

Jewel and Alauddin struck one goal each for the winners, while Raj pulled one back for Rajshahi.

In Thursday's final, Bogra will take on the winners of tomorrow's second semifinal between hosts Natore and Sirajganj at the same venue.

Chess trials start

Sports Reporter

Sixty players won their opening matches as the qualifying round of Dhaka Metropolitan team for the forthcoming 23rd national chess championship began at the NSC chess room yesterday.

A total of 132 players have been participating in the nine-round Swiss league qualifying meet from which top 16 finishers will earn a berth in the final round.

Zvereva falls on Day One



TOKYO, Jan 28: Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport of the United States pounded out a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Taiwan's Wang Shi-tung Tuesday as five other seeds also advanced to the second round at the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament, report agencies.

Four of them, including Australian Open champion Martina Hingis of Switzerland, the world's top-ranked Steffi Graf of Germany, Spaniard Conchita Martinez and Anke Huber of Germany, received the first-round byes.

Fifth seed, Brenda Schultz-McCarthy of the Netherlands, came from behind to beat Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Two other seeds — defending champion Iva Majoli of Croatia and Irina Spiric of Romania — will have their respective first-round matches on Wednesday.

Six other first-round winners included Australian Open quarterfinalist Kimberly Po of the United States, wild-card entry Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand and qualifier Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

The 19-year-old Thai, who reached the Australian Open third round to boost her world ranking to 57, overpowered the Belarusian veteran Natasha Zvereva 6-2, 6-1.

"I like the surface. It's fast," said Tamarine, who won three ITF circuits titles last season, all on grass. "I played my best today to keep the ball in the court."

Zvereva, the Australian Open doubles champion with Swiss teenager Martina Hingis, netted her second serve on the first break point at 15-40 to go down 1-3 and surrender the initiative to her opponent.

She again hit two double faults in a row at 30-30 to go down 1-3 in the second set, and never recovered from the deficit as Tamarine stormed home to finish off the 54-minute match.

Tamarine said it was "great" to receive a wild card for the event, one of the biggest tournaments outside of the Grand Slams.

"Last year, it was my lucky year, and this year, too. I just try to keep my ranking in top 100 all the time. If possible, I'd like to get into top 50, if I have a good performance," said Tamarine.

The world's No. 29 Ai Sugiyama, currently Japan's highest-ranked, had a hard-fought, full-set victory of 7-6 (7-2), 6-7 (2-7), 6-4 over French qualifier Alexia Dechaume-Balleret.

The six-day, 926,250 dollars tournament at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium is one of the biggest women's Tennis Association events other than the Grand Slam series.

On Wednesday, top-seeded Graf takes on American Lisa Raymond, who eliminated qualifier Seda Noorlander of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-7 (3-7), 7-5.

It will be the first match for the 27-year-old Graf since her



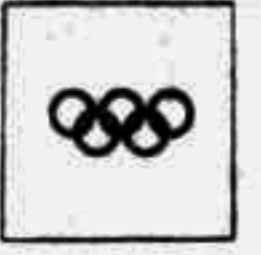
NATASHA ZVEREVA

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Frogs gum up the works



SYDNEY, Jan 28: A frog forced a change in plans for Australia's biggest construction project, the billion-dollar Olympic Games venue now rapidly emerging from reclaimed marshland here, reports AFP.

But it was not just any old frog. It was a littera aurea, otherwise known as the native green and golden bell frog, which is a large, brightly coloured, like Australia's sporting colours and high on the endangered species list.

A colony was discovered in the huge wetland which was the site of a former brickpit and dumping ground by the side of the Parramatta river at suburban Homebush Bay, the main venue for Sydney's 2000 Olympics.

The project was stalled for a few weeks in 1993 while planners worked out what to do about the colony, several hundred strong and thought to be Sydney's biggest surviving breeding population of a once numerous species threatened by creeping urbanisation.

They could not be destroyed because, even if officials considered that appropriate, killing them or adversely affecting their native habitat was punishable by two years jail or

a 78,000 US dollar fine under schedule 12 of Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Shifting them was considered but rejected in favour of preserving the site originally earmarked as an Olympic amphitheatre and blending it into an alternative scheme with which it would be more compatible.

Result — 400,000 dollars or 0.02 per cent of the total budget for what officials boast will be the world's most environmentally sensitive sporting venue, has been spent on protective measures such as fencing the brickpit with fine shade cloth to keep the frogs safe.

The 16-hectare brickpit will now be the storage reservoir for recycled water used mainly for toilet flushing and irrigation and a central feature of a 440-hectare recreation area known as Millennium Park.

The world's biggest Olympic Stadium accommodating 110,000 people and due for completion in 1999 will be at the other end of a vast complex.

The frog really is a strong symbol of what we stand for, said Olympic coordination authority's environment and planning executive director Colin Grant.

"We have over 140 species of birds and many other significant animals whose habitat has had to be protected as well as a

fourth-round defeat to South African Amanda Coetzer in the Australian Open last week.

Graf, recovering from an infected toe, also is under pressure after the conviction of her father, Peter Graf, for tax evasion last Friday.

After arriving in Tokyo last weekend, however, Graf has told reporters that she was in good condition and was ready to play.

Second seed Hingis, who has climbed up to the second-highest ranking, will play, also on Wednesday, against Italy's Gloria Pizzichini, who ousted wild-card player Rika Hiraki of Japan 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 7-6 (7-5).

On Thursday, fourth-ranked Martinez will meet Boogert, who defeated Naoko Kijimuta of Japan 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Also on Thursday, eighth-ranked Huber clashes with Po, who breezed past Katarina Stadenkova of Slovakia 6-4, 6-1.

"This is a good opportunity for me. My goal has been to try to play a lot of top players because the more you play them I think the better you will become," said the 25-year-old Po from Los Angeles.

"She has beaten me twice in Philadelphia and I beat her once at the Canadian Open. So I just want to make it even," said Po, the world's No. 19 player.

In another second-round action Thursday, Tamarine, ranked 57th, will challenge Davenport, ninth-ranked in the world.

"I'm in this tournament for the first time," said Tamarine. "I feel great that I advanced to the second round."

Davenport, who was eliminated by Po in the fourth round in Melbourne, said she found it easier to come to indoors from outdoors.

"Anytime when you come to indoors, it's a lot easier. In Australia, we had a lot of wind, bright sun," she said.

"But it's a very fast court. So I took three days of practice on it and I felt like I hit the ball pretty well today. So, hopefully, I'll keep it going well."

Tough 'nerd' who punches for the Lord

By Gavin Evans from Uncasville, Connecticut, US

WORLD lightweight boxing champion Philip Holiday was so quiet at school that he got into only one fight. His sister even called him a nerd.

Much has changed since then for the white, deeply religious bachelor. At 26, he has achieved an impeccable record of 30 wins in 30 fights — 16 by knockout.

Despite this, and the enthusiastic support of President Nelson Mandela, Holiday is underrated in his native South Africa and is largely unknown internationally.