

BEXIMCO tennis results

All four events of the BEXIMCO eleventh international junior tennis championship reached the semi-final stage on the third day at the Rannu Tennis Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

A local pair Sathi Sarkar and Yassim Ahmed, somehow managed a berth in last four in the girls doubles beating compatriots R Hayat and S Yassim 6-0, 6-2 in the quarter finals after the elimination of all the local boys in the round of eight.

In the boys singles quarterfinals, Atabut Phoemohn of Thailand defeated Tofazzal Hossain of Bangladesh 6-4, 6-0 while Thai W Pirada beat Sathi Sarkar of Bangladesh 6-0, 6-0 in the girls' singles quarterfinals.

Local pair M Salauddin and Rahat Kamal were eliminated from the race, also in the quarterfinal, after suffering a 2-6, 1-6 defeat against Indian duo M Mahadevan and M Ghose.

Romario earns recall

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 19: Striker Romario was included on Tuesday on the Brazil squad for next week's friendly international against Poland, the first time he has been picked by the national team for more than two years, reports Reuter.

The tempestuous striker last played for his country in the World Cup final against Italy in July 1994. Since then he has been involved in a host of scandals and controversies on and off the field.

Coach Mario Zagallo, who took over after the World Cup, picked him for a friendly in late 1994 only to hear Romario say that he did not want to play international soccer until the Olympic Games in 1996.

A furious Zagallo had refused to pick Romario since, a punishment which shattered the striker's dream of playing in the Olympics.

In announcing his decision to give Romario another chance, Zagallo said: "Obviously, his behaviour has changed."

Romario, who has 19 goals in 38 full international appearances, said: "I feel like an 18-year-old player waiting to hear that he had been picked for the first time."

Diego on the move again

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 19: Argentine veteran Diego Maradona may be headed for Uruguayan club Penarol, who are close to agreeing terms with the 36-year-old, club vice-president Juan Damiani said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Maradona and his agent Guillermo Coppola were expected to arrive in Montevideo within hours to draw up a contract, sources close of Maradona said.

Speaking on Argentine radio, Damiani invited Maradona to join Penarol to play a series of friendlies and also the prestigious Copa Libertadores tournament.

Maradona, who has not played at all since August, said he had "practically decided" to take up the offer but only on condition that he be given free rein to train and play virtually as he himself saw fit.

"I fear leaving my family behind, but I have virtually made up my mind to go and play for Penarol," he told Buenos Aires radio.

But he added, "I am 36-year-old and I'm done with making sacrifices. I don't want the coach to pull long faces and say 'What are you up to them?' and I don't want people to bug me and tell me what I have to do."

Always a controversial figure, Maradona, who inspired Argentina to the 1986 World Cup, has admitted to being a cocaine addict and last year underwent psychiatric treatment in Spain in an attempt to kick the habit. His drug problems also led to two lengthy bans from football.

Bell gets his due finally

ZURICH, Feb 19: Former Cameroon goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell will finally be paid for taking part in the World Cup Finals in Italy — seven years after the event, reports Reuter.

Bell sought the help of FIFA in his battle for payment of 37,000 French francs (6,430 dollars) and a spokesman for the game's governing body said on Tuesday the Cameroon Football Federation had finally agreed to pay.

"He (Bell) asked FIFA for support and based on the documents we received he was entitled to it," FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said. "The Cameroonian federation said they would comply and pay him."

Bell is the only member of the 1990 squad to have persisted with trying to get his money.

The former France-based goalkeeper, who played for Marseille and St Etienne, was a controversial figure at the World Cup final in Italy in 1990 where Cameroon reached the quarterfinals.

Bell sat on the bench throughout the tournament after being dropped on the eve of the opening game against Argentina in Milan because of a dispute with team officials over payment.

He was also dropped after two games at the last World Cup finals in the US after leading a threatened strike by the Cameroonian team.

If a player is entitled to money then he should get it," said Herren. "For FIFA it was important the principle was upheld, not the amount."

Niaz in action on Day One

Sports Reporter

Niaz Murshed, the country's lone Grand Master, wages a cerebral warfare with his British counterpart James Plaskett as the third edition of the United Insurance Grand Masters chess tournament proper gets underway at the Na-



NIAZ MURSHED

eration forgot to drive him down to the venue of the opening ceremony. The British GM, with rating of 2445, was visibly irritated at the federation's callousness.

Despite the presence of Sergei Tiviakov, the highest rated player in the meet with a rating of 2600, it was the game's highest governing body of the country who stole the show with its somewhat habitual mismanagement. The guest of honour at the function, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader, had also had the taste of it as the ruling party legislator had waited a good half hour before the ceremonial finally began more than a hour later than scheduled. Delayed arrival of the participants and sudden disappearance of

ferred to stay away from the opening ceremony at the Dilksa hall of Hotel Purbani, although the invitation card had Jalsha Ghar designated as the venue, yesterday. Incidentally, his opponent today also missed the number draw part of the ceremonial, thanks to the Bangladesh Chess Federation's momentary amnesia. The fed-

Bangladesh Television crew were, what Mujibur Rahman, general secretary of the federation termed, compelling reasons for the unforeseen delay. Many chess lovers felt the way the federation, with experience of organising the two previous editions of the meet, handled the whole affair left a lot to be desired.

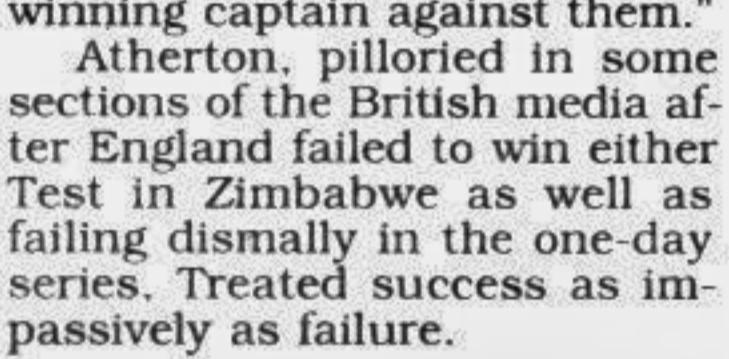
Fourteen players from nine countries are taking part in the round robin tournament including five grand masters. Niaz, Tiviakov and Plaskett apart, other two GMs are Vidmantas Matasauskas (2555) of Lithuania and Peter Szekely (2455). The other participants are: International Master (IM) Saidali Lulachev (2555) and IM Sergei Zagrebelsky of Uzbekistan, IM Praveen Thipsay (2460) and IM Devaky Prasad (2450) of India, IM Anh Dung Nguyen (2465) of Vietnam, and IM Ziaur Rahman (2480), IM Reafat bin Sattar (2410), Sarduddin Lalvi (2280) and Khondaker Kayes Hassan (2255) of the host country.

M. Moyeedul Islam, chairman of the sponsors, was present a special guest at the ceremony presided over by Dr. A. R. Khan, a vice-president of the Bangladesh Chess Federation. Mujibur Rahman, federation general secretary, also spoke on the occasion.

United Insurance Company Limited is sponsoring the tournament, which offers US 4,000 dollar as prize money, for the third time.

Mike's new lease of life

MIKE ATHERTON



MIKE ATHERTON

winning captain against them." Atherton, pilloried in some sections of the British media after England failed to win either Test in Zimbabwe as well as failing dismally in the one-day series. Treated success as impasse as failure.

Atherton has his critics as captain, although his modest record since taking over from Graham Gooch in 1993 has more to do with a shortage of Test class strike bowlers than any inherent tactical weaknesses.

There can be no doubt, though, about his calibre as an opening batsman.

Despite coping with the pressures of captaincy and the knowledge that he is the prime target for opposing bowlers, Atherton has increased his Test average from the late 30s to just over 40 and played a series of memorable rear-guard actions.

The only other England side to score more than 300 to win a Test match featured the most famous opening pair of them all in Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe, who laid the foundation for victory over Australia at Melbourne in 1929 with a century partnership on a treacherous pitch.

Whatever his rate against the old enemy this year, Atherton is a worthy successor to Hobbs, Sutcliffe, Len Hutton and Geoff Boycott as a skilled and obstinate technician who has never sold his wicket cheaply.

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joying captaincy and we agreed that our focus had to be on pretty good at home."

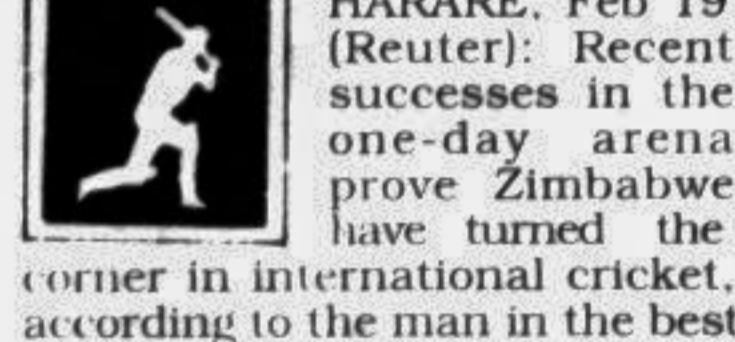
"Only then can you start talking about whether you can win away. So I'm delighted with our performances from that aspect."

Houghton, who also coaches English county Worcestershire, is quick to concede that India's cricketers were fatigued after their long tour of South Africa.

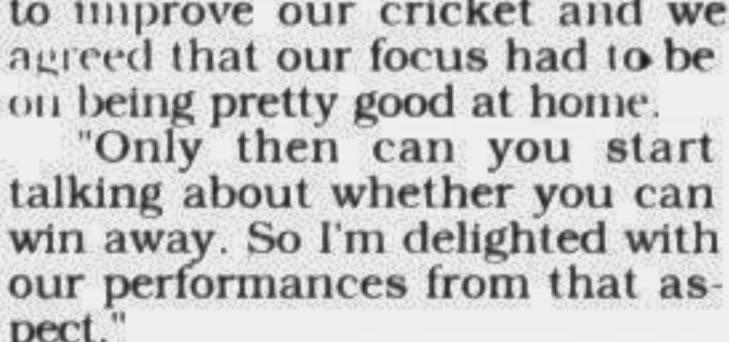
Zimbabwe, given Test status in 1992, had to wait nine years for their second one-day victory after an upset win over Australia in the 1983 World Cup. Their one-day record now, while hardly earth-shattering, is a little more respectable.

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Zimbabwe's record in the Test arena is unimpressive, their only victory in 22 Tests remaining a home win over Pakistan.

Zimbabweans rising up

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to improve our cricket and we agreed that our focus had to be on pretty good at home."

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For me, as a coach 90 per cent of my job this season has been mental. I've worked very hard on the motivational side, putting motivational placards up in the change-room, giving Winston Churchill-type speeches, and things like that, and it's worked.

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Houghton is quietly satisfied after a season during which Zimbabwe beat England 3-0 and India 1-0 in one-day series and held out for a draw in both Tests against England.

In an otherwise unmemorable match, Houghton scored a century and, although his best days are behind him, remained an essential member of the side against England and India this season.

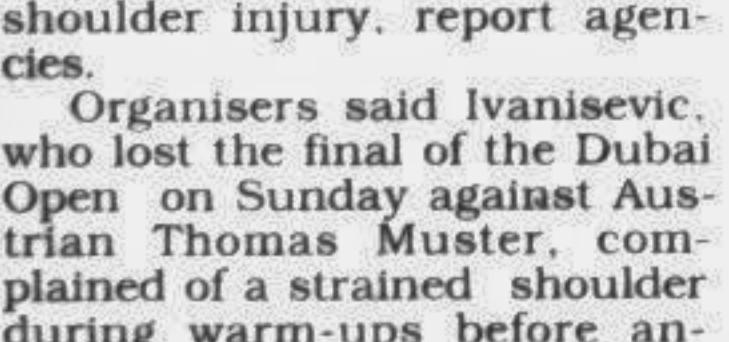
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Zimbabwe wrapped up their first one-day series victory against India after Monday's second and final match between the two sides was called off at Harare Sports Club because of a waterlogged ground.

This completes an incredibly good season for us," Houghton said in an interview.



DAVID HOUGHTON



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feat by fellow German Kevin Goellner in the first round.

Earlier world number 19 Tim Hermann came perilously close to a second consecutive first round defeat before beating Spanish wild card entry Sergi Bruguera 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Organisers said Ivanisevic, who lost the final of the Dubai Open on Sunday against Australian Thomas Muster, complained of a strained shoulder during warm-ups before announcing he would not compete.

It was another blow to the organisers.

Late Tuesday, Boris Becker pulled out, complaining about a sore wrist that already forced him to quit in Dubai last week.

On Wednesday, second seed Marcelo Rios of Chile opens his campaign against Romania's Adrian Voinea.

Boris too has recently been in trouble, forced to abandon Sunday's final in Marseilles Open against Sweden's Thomas Enqvist because of a thigh injury.

Earlier on Tuesday, defending champion Michael Stich, furious over some disputed line calls, crashed to a 7-6, 6-4 lead in the first set.

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Waugh whacks Boland

PAARL, South Africa, Feb 19: Some brutal hitting by Mark Waugh set up a comfortable 50-run victory for Australia in their day/night match against Boland on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Waugh, who retired after making 101, spent 68 deliveries completing his half century but then put the Boland bowlers to the sword with a second 50 off just 25 deliveries. Twice he hit three sixes in an over.

Captain Mark Taylor continued his return to form with a watchful 56 from 86 balls, Michael Bevan hit 80 not out from 66 deliveries and Justin Langer smashed 57 from 44 balls as Australia romped to 319 for three.

Evert Ferreira (38) clipped Paul Reiffel for six over square leg in the fourth over of the reply to show defiance and skipper Adrian Kuiper struck leg spinner Shane Warne for two sixes over midwicket but the game was never a real contest.

Reiffel claimed three for 40 and Greg Blewett took the last three Boland wickets in 20 balls at a cost of 15 runs but the margin of victory flattered the home side.

Australia now travel to Durban for a three-day game against Natal.

Shoot-out after 90 minutes

ZURICH, Feb 19: A revolutionary plan to hold the penalty shoot-out before playing extra time if a match is level after 90 minutes was approved by FIFA's referees' committee on Tuesday, report agencies.

After a two-day meeting in Zurich the committee approved the idea which does not need the assent of the game's law-making body, the international board.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said: "This decision comes under FIFA regulations for competitions. So if a national association wants to organise its cup competition using this method they are free to do so. Like UEFA, for example, could introduce this at the next European Championship."

The committee rejected any idea of experimenting with electronic officials and using two referees, but backed a range of other proposed rule changes.

The committee said resorting to an electronic "man in black" was not the way forward, although it did support having a fourth referee to intervene in exceptional cases."

The committee added it backed the guidelines laid down at the 1994 World Cup to give an automatic red card for violent tackles from behind as well as for "scoring" via a deliberate handball.

The committee further approved of allowing a goalkeeper to move across his line at a penalty. It also revealed it intended to introduce a system re-laying an audible signal via a linesman's flag to a referee at the 1998 World Cup in France.

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Chang playing this event for the 10th straight year posted a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Australian Patrick Rafter to earn a third round match with 15th seed Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, a 7-6, 6-3 winner over Dutchman Jacco Eltingh.

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