

Barry to lend Lankans a helping hand

COLOMBO, Feb 20: Barry Richards has been called up to fine tune Sri Lanka's batting techniques ahead of their forthcoming tour of South Africa, reports Reuters.

Former South Africa Test opener Richards is carrying out a 10-day programme which began last Friday, Sri Lanka cricket board officials said Thursday.

"I will be a consultant on the batting side, playing a supportive role to enhance and prepare the Sri Lankan batsman for their tour," Richards said at a news conference.

"We will try to simulate wicket conditions in South Africa, where the pitches are pacy and bouncy."

Sri Lanka's tour starts on March 7 and includes two Tests against South Africa and a triangular limited-over tournament with the host country and Pakistan from April 3-22.

Sri Lanka will name their squad of 16 later this month for the series against South Africa and another team for the one-day tournament, officials said.

Onus on Shane

SYDNEY, Feb 20: Shane Warne left with the Australian team for the tour of India Friday admitting he was not completely over a troubling shoulder injury, reports AP.

With strike bowlers Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie missing through injury, Warne will have to carry Australia's inexperienced attacks.

Warne, who has taken 303 Test wickets, missed the four recent limited-over games in New Zealand to have treatment on the shoulder following a heavy domestic season culminating in the third Test against South Africa in Adelaide.

"My shoulder pulled up sore from Adelaide and I had two weeks of physio," Warne said Friday. "It pulled up okay. Obviously I'd like to be a little bit better but it's as good as it could possibly be."

Australia have not won a Test in India since Bill Lawry's side triumphed 3-1 in the 1969-70 series.

Then again, Australia have only played one Test in India in the last 12 years — losing the one-off match at Delhi by seven wickets in October 1996.

Warne, who started his Test career with 1-228 in two Test against India in 1991-92, missed that tour while recovering from surgery to his spinning finger.

Vice-captain Steve Waugh, the only survivor from the 1986 tour which included a tie at Madras, said India "would be Warne's biggest challenge yet in a glittering career."

"I think I've had a lot of challenges along the way," Warne said. "I don't know if it's the biggest."

Anytime you go to the sub-continent it's a challenge. For the one-off Test the pitch was an absolute raging turner so it would be nice if we got a few of them."

Argentina pip Romania

MENDOZA, Argentina, Feb 20: With goals by Nelson Vivas and Roberto Ayala, the Argentine national soccer team defeated Romania 2-1 Thursday, in a Warm-up match for the France '98 World Cup, reports AP.

Both goals were identical headers by Vivas in the 9th minute and by Ayala in the 49th from free kicks by Marcelo Gallardo.

Radu Nicolescu narrowed the breach to 2-1 in the 80th. Romania fielded mostly substitute players, few of whom are expected to be on the starting lineup in France, and did not pose a serious challenge to the locals.

Their footwork was clumsy and they had few shots at Argentine keeper German Burgos' goal until the last 15 minutes of the game.

Argentina featured most of their stars, including Diego Simeone, Jose Chamot and Ariel Ortega.



Indian PDS Girinath (L), makes a move against Mohammad Javed of Bangladesh during the opening round of the fourth United Insurance International Masters' tournament at the NSC chess room yesterday.

— Star photo

Easy win for Reefat

Sports Reporter



International Master Reefat-bin-Sattar got off to a flying start in the fourth United Insurance International Masters' chess tournament with a comfortable first round victory over former national women's champion Tanima Parveen at the NSC chess room yesterday evening.

On the opening day of the 11-round Swiss league meet, Reefat, playing with white pieces, used the Scotch opening after to tame his counterpart after 39 moves.

IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam and Indian IM RB Ramesh, the other two International Masters participating in the tournament, also won their opening round clashes against Nazmul Haque and Enayet Hossain respectively.

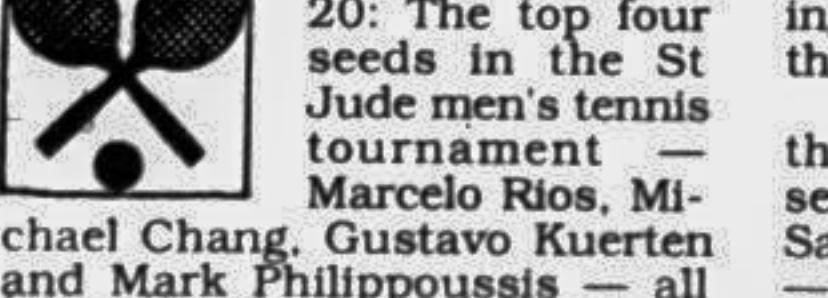
Nguyen, who adopted Benoni defence with his black pieces, edged past Nazmul after 29 moves while Ramesh, who also had black pieces, outplayed Enayet after 37 moves. Besides, national champion Enamul Hossain Rajib, junior cham-

ber in the afternoon, Dr M Mustafa Chowdhury, the president of Bangladesh Chess Federation, opened the meet making a move against IM Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam.

A total of 50 players including five foreigners — four from India and one from Vietnam, are taking part in the tournament.

The second round will begin tomorrow.

Top guns going great guns



Memphis, Feb 20: The top four seeds in the St Jude men's tennis tournament — Marcelo Rios, Michael Chang, Gustavo Kuerten and Mark Philippoussis — all moved into the quarterfinals Thursday with little resistance, reports Reuters.

The top-seeded Rios of Chile beat American Vincent Spadea 6-2, 6-3; second seed Chang eliminated Italian Andrea Gaudenzi 6-3, 6-3; third-seeded Kuerten of Brazil beat American Jan-Michael Gambill 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) and fourth seed Philippoussis ousted Dutchman Sjeng Schalken 6-4, 6-4.

Philippoussis was one of three Australians to reach the quarters, joining Richard Fromberg and Mark Woodforde. Fromberg, the ninth seed, beat US qualifier Brian Macphie 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and 12th-seed Woodforde beat two-time Memphis champion Todd Martin 7-5, 6-3.

Also reaching the quarters was fifth seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and unseeded South African Grant Stafford. Enqvist beat 11th-seeded Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 6-1, while Stafford upset eighth seed Julian Alonso of Spain 6-1, 7-5.

Rios, the runner-up at last month's Australian Open, said he is riding the confidence he gained in Melbourne, where he lost in the championship match to Petr Korda.

"It gave me more confidence," Rios said. "I realised I could win tough matches and beat anybody in the world."

Rios didn't give Spadea much of a chance in their third-round match. The athletic Rios moved Spadea from side to side and kept him pinned to the baseline with deep groundstrokes.

"I think he can play good tennis from the baseline," Rios said.

said. "But when you start moving him around he doesn't move that good."

Rios has had his quarter of the draw open nicely as two seeds — number 15 Javier Sanchez and eighth seed Alonso — have been beaten. Rios will be

the only quarterfinalist playing an unseeded opponent.

"I haven't had a tough match, but I think I've been playing good tennis," Rios said. "In the quarters, it doesn't matter who you play. Everyone is going to be tough."

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favorably at an ACB offer to increase the players' share of total cricket income by US \$2.7 million dollars about six per cent greater than the current share.

One of the remaining arguing points is the ACA's demand that the ACB deal with the players' body under Australia's Workplace Relations Act.

Both sides have refused to comment on the latest round of talks and will comply with a confidentiality clause agreed upon after the public skirmishes last year which threatened to disrupt the season.

The ACA is believed to be looking favor