

Column One SPORTS TALK



Mike Atherton (England cricket captain) "I have played in a few extraordinary Test matches. But nothing can surpass the remarkable scenes at Sabina Park."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-89 Tick the Correct Answers

- 1 Who clinched the Div I cricket title? 2 Which country became Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group 4 champions? 3 What is Pat Symcox's highest score in Test cricket? 4 Who won the Paris Open tennis tournament? 5 Who is the manager of Chelsea FC?

Name Class Roll No. School Address Phone: (if any)

Novotna stoops to Schnyder

HANOVER, Germany, Feb 23: Unseeded Swiss starlet Patty Schnyder saved two match points on her way to her second WTA title here on Sunday, beating top seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic 6-0, 2-6, 7-5, reports AFP.

Aussies kick off India tour today Premiere of a premium war

BOMBAY, Feb 23: Leg-spin wizard Shane Warne gets an early chance to test his skills against India's premier batsman Sachin Tendulkar when Australia's seven-week tour starts here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Warne was included in the team for the tourists' tough three-day opening fixture against Tendulkar-led Bombay, the current national champions, at the Brabourne Stadium here.

Both players said they were looking forward to the contest ahead of next month's three-Test series, being billed as the Shane-versus-Sachin show.

Tendulkar is the batsman to keep an eye on," said Warne. "I am quite geared up to bowling at him." Tendulkar, however, was more guarded: "I am not playing against Warne. I am playing against Australia."

The Indian tour could be the ultimate challenge for Warne, who has a staggering haul of 303 wickets in 64 Tests.

It was against India that Warne made a forgettable Test debut at Sydney in 1991, returning unflattering figures of 1-150. He played one more Test in that series, but failed to take a wicket.

Warne never got a chance to play against India after that, but has since taken bags of wickets against all the other Test nations.

"This is obviously a very important tour for me," Warne said. "I've heard they make spin-friendly wickets here, so that should be a big help."

Warne said he was recovering fast from the shoulder injury that forced him to miss a four-match one-day series against New Zealand earlier this month.

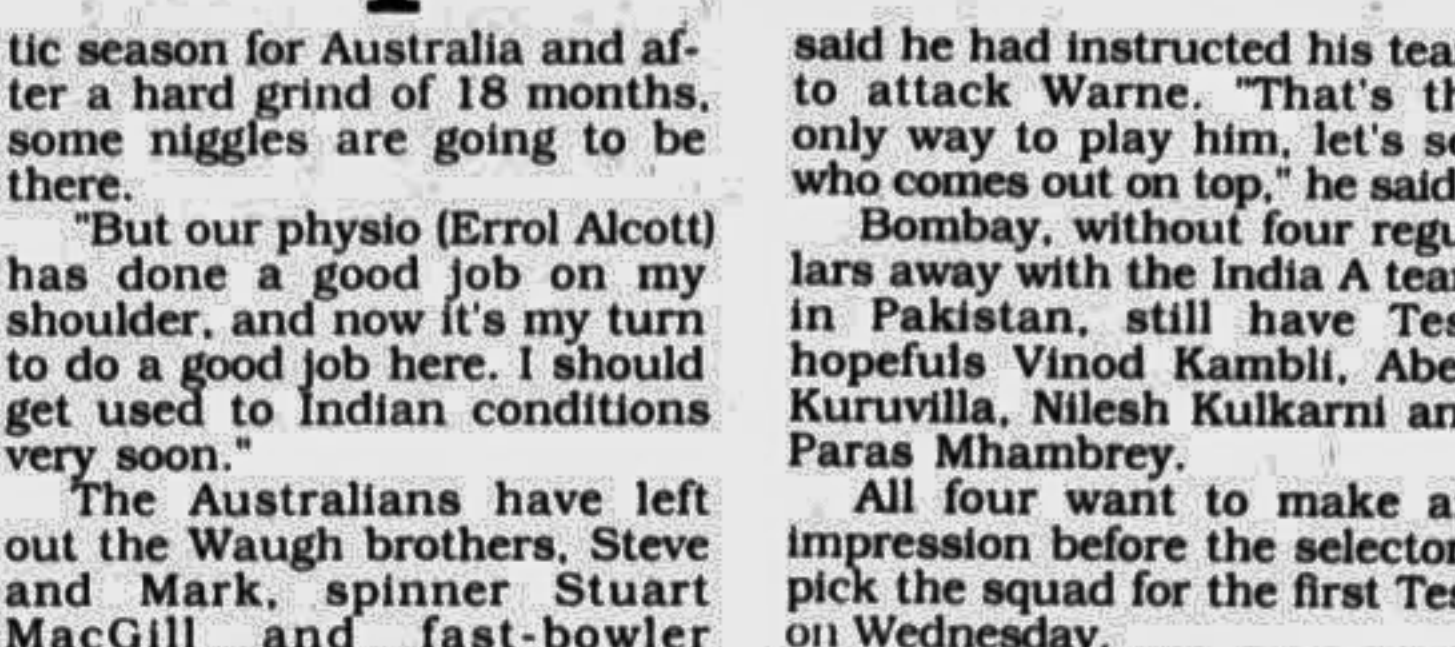
"I am coming off a very hectic season for Australia and after a hard grind of 18 months, some niggles are going to be there. "But our physio (Erol Alcott) has done a good job on my shoulder, and now it's my turn to do a good job here. I should get used to Indian conditions very soon."

The Australians have left out the Waugh brothers, Steve and Mark, spinner Stuart MacGill and fast-bowler said he had instructed his team to attack Warne. "That's the only way to play him, let's see who comes out on top," he said.

Bombay, without four regulars away with the India A team in Pakistan, still have Test hopefuls Vinod Kambli, Abey Kuruvilla, Nilesh Kulkarni and Paras Mhambrey.

All four want to make an impression before the selectors pick the squad for the first Test on Wednesday.

Yellow card: Nayan and Monir (Rahmatganj).



SACHIN TENDULKAR



SHANE WARNE

Michael Kasprovicz for the opening match, which skipper Mark Taylor said was a "tough one."

All four are likely to play in the next three-day game against the Indian Board President's team at Viskhatnam, preceding the first Test at Madras from March 6.

Tendulkar said he had watched the Australians on television during their recent home series against New Zealand and South Africa.

"They are obviously a very good team, but I think we can hold our own," he said. "I am quite motivated about this series."

Bombay coach Balwinder Sandhu, a former Test seamer, said he had instructed his team to attack Warne. "That's the only way to play him, let's see who comes out on top," he said.

Soft drinks giant Pepsi, sponsors of Test cricket in India, then took the board to court for denying them the sponsorship of the upcoming one-day triangular contest between India, Australia and Zimbabwe.

Azharuddin, meanwhile, was taken to court in the eastern state of Bihar for calling its residents thieves after his cap was stolen there.

The cap was subsequently retrieved, Azharuddin apologised but the lawyer refused to withdraw the case until the Indian captain appeared in court.

Then rivals Delhi and Tamil Nadu were barred from the national championship when their Ranji Trophy match in Madras was abandoned after a pitch-tampering row.

"What's cricket coming to?" a BCCI official lamented. "Don't be surprised if another court case comes along even when the Australians are here."



Begum Rashida Mustafiz wife of the Chief of Army Staff distributing prizes among the winners. — Star photo

R'ganj defeat Wanderers

Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Club defeated Victoria Sporting Club by a solitary goal in a relegation league match of the Metropolitan Premier Division football at Mirpur Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With the day's win, Rahmatganj are leading the points table securing 21 points from 20 outings while Victoria remained at 17 points, also from 20 matches.

Asif netted the match-winning goal for the old Dhaka outfit in the 35th minute from a penalty.

Yellow card: Nayan and Monir (Rahmatganj).

Chalantika Win

In the First Division Super League match, Mirpur Chalantika Krishna Chakra maintained their lead beating Dhaka Wanderers Club by 3-1 goals at the Army Stadium.

Chalantika were leading the points table with 37 points from 20 matches while Wanderers lagged 24 points from 20.

Chalantika dominated the first half 2-0.

Al-Amin, Sohag and Ujjal scored one each for the winners while Mintu netted the consolation goal for the losers.

In the First Division relegation league match, Dhanmondi Club and Police AC shared points in a one-all draw at the Mirpur Stadium earlier.

Ramprakash keeps tourists afloat

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Feb 23: English Test discard Ramprakash staked a claim Sunday for selection in the fourth cricket Test against the West Indies starting here Friday by compiling 68 on the second day of the three-day against Guyana at the Everest Cricket Club Ground, reports AP.

Ramprakash saved England from an embarrassing collapse with his innings, which included five boundaries. He received strong support from off-spinner Robert Croft, who was also unbeaten at the close on 25.

Guyana scored 185 all out, while England totalled 209 for six. The match ends Monday.

England started the day on nine for no loss but slumped to 59 for 4 by lunch.

By tea they had reached 137 for five, thanks to the 52-run partnership between Ramprakash and Croft.

The English batsmen were troubled by excellent bowling from left arm spinner Neil Melville, who picked up 4 for 62 off 33 overs, bowling mainly from the same southern end where Croft picked up six wickets in the Guyana innings.

Other useful contributions came from Adam Holliake, who made 25.

BIS annual sports

The annual athletic competition of Bangladesh International School (BIS) was held at the school premises yesterday, says a press release.

The best athletes of the year were AZM Kamrul Islam of Standard IV from among the boys and Farhana Mahjabin Sumi of Standard IV from among the girls. The programme concluded with the chief guest's address in which he highly applauded the flawless efforts made by the students and teachers, including the Principal of BIS.

The Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Mustafiz Rahman, Bir Bikram, graced the occasion as chief guest and Begum Rashida Mustafiz, wife of the COAS, was present to give away the prizes among the winners.

Mutola sets world mark

LIEVIN, France, Feb 23: Mozambique's triple world indoor champion Maria Mutola broke the 10-year-old world indoor 800 metres record here on Sunday in a time of 1 minute 56.36 seconds, reports AFP.

The 25-year-old, who also took the outdoor world 800 metres title in 1993, broke the previous record set by Christine Wachtel of East Germany in 1988 of 1:56.40.

European soccer scene

UNDATED, Feb 23 (AFP/AP): Europe's top teams found that the pace was beginning to tell when they crashed to shock league defeats at the weekend.

Juventus and Inter Milan were beaten in Italy. Real Madrid dropped off the top of the Spanish First Division when they went down in a seven-goal thriller at Tenerife despite twice taking the lead.

Arch-rivals Barcelona on Sunday made the most of Real's slip-up 24 hours earlier by scoring a home victory over Com-

petela. And in France pacesetter Marseille, Metz and Monaco didn't earn a point between them.

ITALY: Champions Juventus suffered their second league loss of the season in a 3-0 drubbing at Fiorentina on Sunday. Inter went down by an identical margin to Lazio to leave the Serie A title race wide open with the top three clubs separated by just four points with 12 games to go.

Lazio's win pushed them ahead of Inter and into second place on goal differential.

Midfielder Diego Fuser and Croatian striker Alan Boksic each scored midway through the first half as Lazio boosted their unbeaten streak to 15 matches, including cup play.

Italy striker Pierluigi Casiraghi added Lazio's third point with nine minutes remaining.

Inter finished the game with 10 men, as defender Mauro Milanese was sent off in injury time.

The Roman Club bottled up two-time FIFA world-player-of-the-year Ronaldo, sending waves of defenders at the Brazilian.

Fiorentina used their lightning counterattacks to sink Juventus, who were coming off a 1-0 loss to Lazio Thursday in an Italian Cup first-leg semifinal.

Defender Aldo Fricano and Belgian international Luis Oliveira provided a 2-0 lead by the 34th minute, and Anselmo Robbati completed Fiorentina's scoring in the 78th.

Juventus are 14-6-2 for 48 points. Lazio and Inter have identical 13-5-4 records and 44 points.

Two points further back sit Udinese. The season's surprise outfit beat Sampdoria 3-0 as Danish midfielder Martin Jorgensen hit his first two Serie A goals.

Roma share fifth place with 38 points. Parma edged Italian Cup holders Vicenza 2-1 in the night match, while Roma beat last-place Napoli 2-0.

Elsewhere Sunday: Liberian striker George Weah scored three minutes into his first league match since undergoing back surgery in December as AC Milan beat Empoli 3-1; Sweden's Kennet Andersson scored twice and Roberto Baggio once to lead Bologna past Piacenza 3-0; Bari and Lecce drew 2-2 in a regional derby, and Brescia drew 2-2 with Atalanta.

SPAIN: Barca defeated Compostela 2-0 with goals by Portuguese international Luis Figo in the 15th minute and Spanish international Luis Enrique Martinez in the 31st.

Brazilian Rivaldo had a penalty shot puffed off the up-

per in the ninth minute while Luis Enrique had a volley fired from the edge of the area thunders off the crossbar in the 65th.

Luis Enrique is now the league's leading scorer with 15 goals, followed by Rivaldo with 14.

The match left Barcelona with 49 points, after 26 games from a total of 38 rounds to be played.

Real, who have 47 points, had gone into the weekend ahead of Barcelona by one point but stumbled badly on Satur-

day, losing 4-3 away to Tenerife. With five defeats, Real now have lost more games this season than they did in all of 1996-97.

The result is certain to lead to fresh calls for the removal of German coach Joop Heynckes.

Elsewhere, Real Sociedad missed a prime opportunity to move into second ahead of Real when they only managed to draw 2-2 against Oviedo.

Sociedad stay third with 44 points.

Mallorca, meanwhile, squeezed back into fourth in the 20-team division with 42 points after downing Racing Santander 2-1. The three goals came in a span of just four minutes.

Other 26th-round results were: Betis 1, Espanyol 3; Salamanca 3, Merida 1; Valencia 2, Celta 1; and Deportivo de La Coruna 3, Athletic Bilbao 0.

On Saturday struggling Valladolid defeated bottom-placed Sporting Gijon 2-1.

Fifth placed Atletico Madrid plays middle-ranking Zaragoza on Monday.

FRANCE: Despite the shock 1-0 loss to Rennes on Saturday, Marseille stay top alongside Metz on 50 points from 27 matches. Metz went down 2-1 to Le Havre.

Monaco were sunk 1-0 away at Bastia.

Paris St Germain came away with a goalless draw at Guingamp. And Lens moved into fourth thanks to 1-0 victory at Bordeaux.

Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department (East Zone) Tender Notice No. CE/E-6/98/W(V) Dated: 15.2.1998

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dhaka Water Supply & Sewerage Authority (DWASA) Letter of Invitation for Bids of civil works for the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant (Contract-4B) from prequalified contractors under 4th Dhaka Water Supply Project.

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank Head Office 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka Establishment & Common Service Department Tender Notice Supply of Shoe, Sandle, Socks and Ganjee

BANGLADESH BANK ADMINISTRATION & EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT Head Office Dhaka Tender for Purchase of Personal Computers, Printers, Voltage Stabilizers etc

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 1 Floats gently 2 Humility 3 Diamond club 12 Tote 13 Louis - 'The Sun King' 14 Exist 15 One of the Cassidy's 16 Vixen's yokemate 18 Got 19 A long, long time 21 Service-woman 23 Sergeant, to a private 24 'Divine Comedy' writer 25 Incessantly 27 Different 29 Rudiments 31 Puts into office 35 One of a tub-borne trio 37 Sitcom star Perلمان

CRYPTOQUIP BAYHR OQYFRT SRR FRRI RQH OWD LRB WIIQRARDTRT JDW SLL HBJDL YIRQWBJYD Yesterday's Cryptquip: ARE ALL PEOPLE SCRAPING GREEN STUFF FROM TREES CONSIDERED MOSS MURDERERS? Today's Cryptquip clue: L equals G