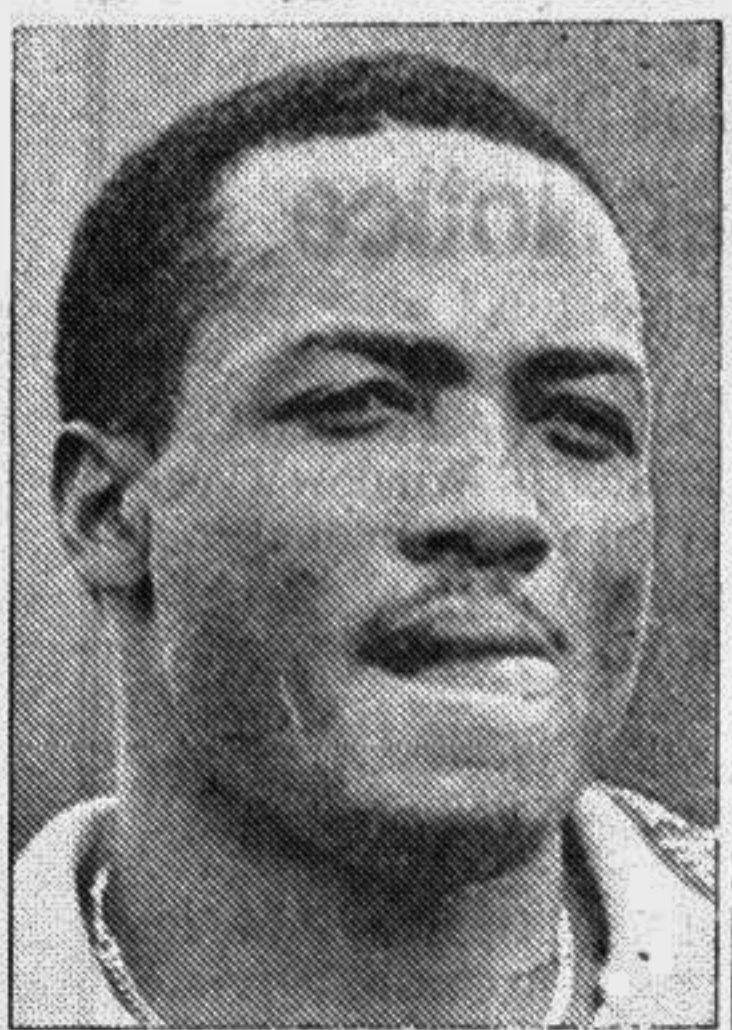


Column One SPORTS TALK



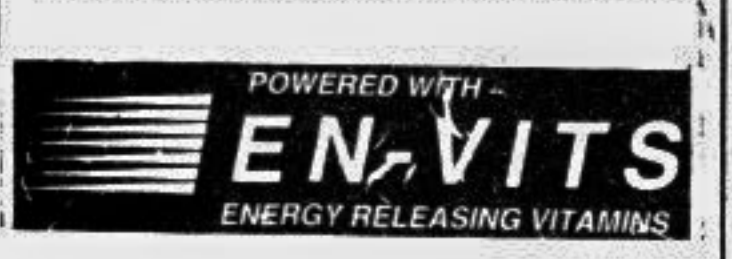
Brian Lara (West Indies captain) ... Curtly and Courtney have done the job so often that you rely on them so much that it becomes automatic.

Roost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-89 Tick the Correct Answers Competition closes at 8 pm on March 6, 1998

Table with 5 questions and multiple choice answers for the Whizz Kid competition.

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



Yevgeny, Goran bite the dust

ROTTERDAM, Mar 4: Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Goran Ivanisevic followed Sweden Jonas Bjorkman out of the 75,000 dollars Rotterdam World Indoor tournament as the seeds tumbled in the first round on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Army basketball

COMILLA, Mar 4: The annual basketball championship of the Bangladesh Army will begin at the Comilla Cantonment tomorrow, reports UNB.

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Thursday 5th March (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.) BTB 3:00 Opening announcement, Al Curran, Programme summary 3:10 Reaction from the Geeta 3:15 Patriotic Songs 3:20 Cartoon Film 3:50 TV Coaching 4:00 The News 4:25 Open Debate 5:50 School Debate Competition 6:00 The News 6:50 Programme on Health 7:25 Shandha Malati 8:00 News in Bangla 8:40 Bangla Film 10:00 The News 10:30 Bangla Film (continued) 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Tomorrow's Programme Summary 11:40pm Close down

UEFA Cup quarterfinals Spartak's stunning show

LONDON, Mar 4: Brazilian star Ronaldo fired Inter Milan to a 1-0 first leg victory over Germany's Schalke in the quarterfinal of the UEFA Cup Tuesday while Spartak Moscow produced the big upset of the night, a 3-1 win at Ajax Amsterdam, reports AP.



WIZARD: Inter's Brazilian ace Ronaldo (C), who scored a fantastic match-winning goal, tries to outwit two Schalke defenders during their UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg clash in Milan on Mar 3. Milan won by a lone goal.

cross before Shota Arveladze replied for the Dutch league leader. Austrian referee Guenter Benkoe turned down Ajax appeals for a penalty after Arveladze went down and it got worse for the Dutch team when Ketchinov beat Van der Sar to make it 3-1 with an angled shot late in the game.

But Spartak, who have never won a European soccer title, looks almost certain to be in the final four.

Against the runaway Dutch leaders, two goals from Alexandr Schirko and another by Valeri Ketchinov gave Spartak a stunning victory.

In other quarterfinal first legs, Lazio edged Auxerre 1-0 while Atletico Madrid scored a 1-0 victory over Aston Villa.

Ronaldo, who moved to Inter from Barcelona last year, out-dribbled two defenders and scored with a powerful left drive from 12 yards (metres). The goal came a few minutes after the 21-year-old Brazilian star had hit the post.

Schalke, who downed Inter on penalties in last season's final, had chances to level and Martin Max hit the inter post in the 36th minute.

"We scored one goal and did not allow any. This was our goal for tonight," said Inter's French forward, Youri Djorkaeff. "Schalke proved stronger than last year. We can expect a tough second leg."

In Amsterdam, Schirko fired under the despairing dive of goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar in the 26th minute after a slick buildup by Ketchinov and Maxim Bouzinnik.

He made it 2-0 in the 52nd from Egon Titov's left wing

advantage. Charbonnier failed to get hold of a cross and the ball dropped to Pierluigi Casiraghi who fired home from a difficult angle.

The victory before some 30,000 fans at Rome's Olympic stadium extended Lazio's unbeaten streak to 17 games since November.

But Lazio had to spend the last 24 minutes without Yu-

glish internationals led by David Beckham, Gary Neville, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes.

Manchester United's Andy Cole has five goals in the competition.

Italy's lone representative is Juventus, who slipped into the final eight as one of the two best second place teams in group play.

Manchester United were just as happy to draw Monaco as Real Madrid was to get Leverkusen. And United, who won their one and only cup in 1968, also play the first leg away.

United have all but clinched their fifth Premier League title in six seasons, but manager Alex Ferguson's only goal is Europe. Monaco's ambitious coach Jean Tigana has similar ideas.

United are loaded with young, already established En-

glish internationals led by David Beckham, Gary Neville, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes.

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A helping hand for Zagallo

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 4: The president of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation announced Monday that he would appoint a team supervisor to help national team coach Mario Zagallo prepare for next summer's World Cup in France, reports AP.

Ricardo Teixeira's decision comes in the wake of Brazil's disappointing showing at the Gold Cup. Teixeira said only name the new team supervisor on Wednesday.

Speculation in the Brazilian media has centered on Flamengo Coach Paulo Autori to fill the position. Autori is known as a master tactician and has won the national championship with Botafogo and the Copa Libertadores with Cruzeiro.

The position of team supervisor was one held by Zagallo himself in 1994 when Brazil won an unprecedented fourth World Cup in the United States.

Carlos Alberto Parreira was Brazil's head coach, while Zagallo was supervisor, counselor and guru.

When the idea of adding a supervisor was raised last month Zagallo was against the idea.

"When I was invited to be coach, the question came up: Who will be Zagallo's Zagallo?" he told reporters at Rio's Galeao International Airport.

"Teixeira said no one had the preparation. If there's been a change, talk to him."

But on Monday, Zagallo did not appear at Teixeira's press conference and had no immediate comment on the decision.

Brazilians were agast at the team's play in the Gold Cup. The team struggled to tie modest Jamaica and Guatemala and lost for the first time ever to the United States, en route to a third-place finish.

Becker pulls out

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., Mar 4: Boris Becker, poised to play in his first singles match in the United States in nearly two years, withdrew from the 315,000 dollars Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic on Tuesday because of a back injury, reports Reuters.

Becker was scheduled to play current German number one Nicolas Pietrangeli, ranked 28th and seeded fourth, in Tuesday night's featured first-round match.

Former world number one Becker and Partner Thomas Messner lost their first-round doubles match to Americans Dave Randall and Jack Waite 6-2, 6-0 Monday night.

Becker, a six-time Grand Slam singles champion, was to undergo an MRI test by tournament doctor Angelino Mattalino to evaluate his condition.

Becker will be replaced by lucky loser Scott Draper of Australia, ranked 80th in the world.

The 30-year-old German suffered a pulled abdominal muscle in Dubai on February 11 while serving during a doubles match, causing him to withdraw. Mattalino thinks the stomach injury may be related.

Becker has played two ATP Tour events (Croatian Open and Dubai Open) this year but none on US soil since an opening-round loss to Spaniard Carlos Costa at the Champions Cup in Indian Wells in March of 1996.

Becker, who last year announced he would no longer compete in Grand Slam events, has captured 49 ATP singles titles, including three Wimbledon championships, two Australian crowns and one US Open. He is currently ranked 66th in the world.

JPC spade trump on

The Jatiya Press Club Independence Day spade trump competition began at the club yesterday, reports BSS.

Twenty-four members of the club took part.

Twelve players qualified for the second round, to be held today at 10 am.

The qualifiers are Badiul Alam, Quazi Akhtuzzaman Nabab, ABM Musa, Khondakar Monirul Alam, Quazi Rawnak Hossain, Enamul Hoque Chowdhury, Aminul Islam Shaheen, AKM Rouf Hasan, Kamalur Rahman, Abu Musa Hasan, Saiful Alam and Fazul Karim.

The largest money spinner

PARIS, Mar 4 (Reuters): With France gearing up for the biggest ever World Cup, French television executives say they expect to score well themselves with the tournament delivering top audiences and breaking records for the most expensive advertising spots.

French television stations today will begin to take reservations for advertising space for the World Cup period that begins in May and runs through to the final on July 12.

Advertising executives admit there are risks: If France is beaten in the early rounds, television audiences could plummet. But executives say they expect the event to draw advertisers, despite the high prices being charged.

"In terms of television, hosting the World Cup final is more than a football event, it is a national event," Arielle Renouf, TFI Publicite's commercial director said.

Advertising for 30 seconds during the final on July 12 on TFI France's biggest private station, will cost 1.5 million francs (246,000 dollars) if France is playing, and one million francs if the French team has already been knocked out, according to tariffs published by TFI's advertising space seller, TFI Publicite.

The tournament is likely to draw bigger French TV audiences than the last two World

Cups, held in the United States in 1994 and in Italy in 1990, because it will take place in France and the French national football team will be playing, Renouf said.

The Marseille-AC Milan final in 1993 holds the record for a football match television audience — with a viewing audience of 35.2 per cent of the French population, including 43.6 per cent of French men. It also claims the most expensive advertising spots recorded in France in the last five years, according to French advertising space buyer Carat. A 30 second TV spot cost 781,000 francs during half time.

For the 1998 World Cup, extremely high ratings will be required to make the event profitable for broadcasters.

"We have calculated that a million franc spot for the final will only be profitable if at least 50 per cent of men in France are watching," said Luciano Bosio, radio and press director at Carat.

Because the Cup runs until July 12, television stations will rake in advertising for nearly two weeks more than usual before the slack summer holiday season starts and that advertising will cost more than usual, Carat noted in its February review.

However, the kind of risk that French broadcasters face is highlighted by the problems of US television network CBS in its recent broadcast of the Winter Olympics in Nagano. CBS

was forced to offer advertisers additional advertising time after failing to deliver the audience share it had promised.

Advertisers worried about overpaying for audiences that may not materialise are being offered some protection.

The pay television station Canal Plus will use an audience guarantee formula during the final phase of the tournament from June 27, a Canal Plus executive said.

Canal Plus will adapt its charges according to daily viewing ratings.

"Advertisers will receive a discount of up to 20 per cent on the stated tariff or pay a premium of up to 20 per cent, depending on the actual viewing audience, said Alain Touzet, marketing director for Canal Plus's advertising space selling subsidiary.

"For the final phase there is uncertainty linked to the teams that qualify ... to try and reduce this uncertainty we have brought in a guaranteed ratio of cost to gross rating point, which is the percentage of a target audience achieved," he said.

Canal Plus's weekday evening talk show, 'nulle part ailleurs' (Nowhere Else), which will be dedicated entirely to World Cup highlights, coverage and issues, will raise its ad rates for the 2000 local time break on the day of the World Cup final to 110,700 francs for 30 seconds, about 30 per cent higher than usual, Touzet said.

Lloyd's search for solace

GEORGETOWN, Mar 4 (AFP): England cricket coach David Lloyd believes his team is capable of coming back to win the final two Tests against the West Indies.

against Barbados at the weekend. I want us to have a positive attitude from right now."

England's biggest problem is their frail batting. Mike Atherton, vice-captain

on both sides have not yet scored the runs they would like," Lloyd said. "There have been some significant innings played, but batsmen have had to work extremely hard in the conditions we have had."

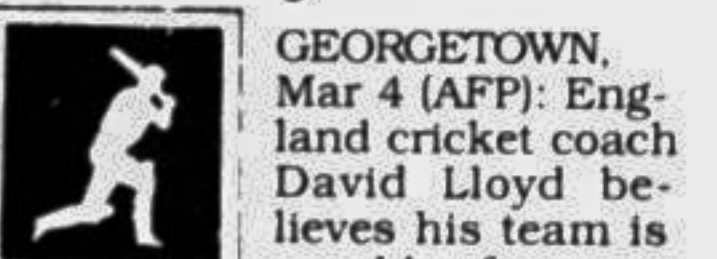
Atherton's comparative lack of success this winter has again become an issue, and he may be forced to drop down the order.

England's players had an unscheduled day off Tuesday because of the early finish of the fourth Test and will travel to Barbados today, where the three-day fixture against the island team starts on Saturday. The fifth Test begins on March 12.

Hide without a challenger

LONDON, Mar 4: American Orin Norris has pulled out of his WBO heavyweight title challenge against Britain's Herbie Hide in Reading on Saturday night after suffering a knee injury in training, reports AFP.

It was a second frustration for Hide, whose original opponent, American Dickie Ryan, was rejected by the British Boxing Board of Control.



DAVID LLOYD Nasser Hussain and top-rated batsman Graham Thorpe have made only one half-century between them in 21 innings. "Quite a number of batsmen

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key: K X H L V Q A A M F E F E N V N F M B X C K V C J L X A A A X J E H V X C Q E S X J X J S Q A A X B B X Q C

Today's Cryptoquip clue: B equals F The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

The Daily Star TV Guide

TV Guide listing for Thursday 5th March, including Channel V, Star Sports, Star Movies, PTV, Zee India TV, Music Asia, DD 7, Zee TV, and TNT Cartoon.