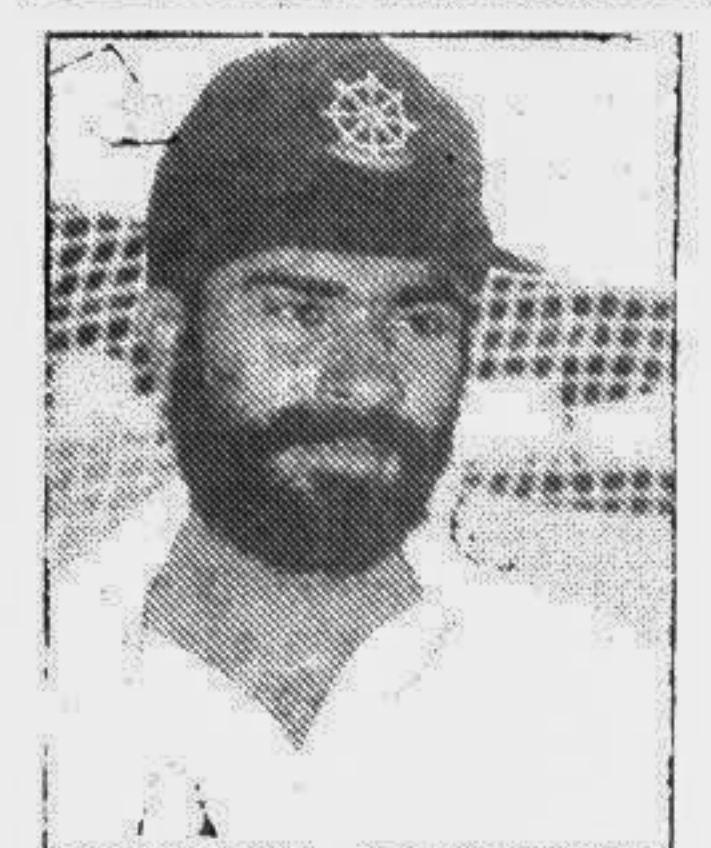


Column One SPORTS TALK



Navjot Sidhu

(Indian opener) "A man's true character is reflected when he fights the odds, when the chips are down. It takes great determination to rise from the bottom."

BOOST sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN Competition-90

Tick the Correct Answers

Competition closes at 8 pm on March 20, 1998

1 Who won the fourth United Insurance International Masters' chess title? Rajib Nguyen Raktim

2 How many ODI centuries have been scored by Pakistan opener Saied Anwar? 13 14 15

3 Who keeps wicket for South Africa? Symcox Kallis Boucher

4 Emerging tennis star Anna Kournikova is American Russian Swedish

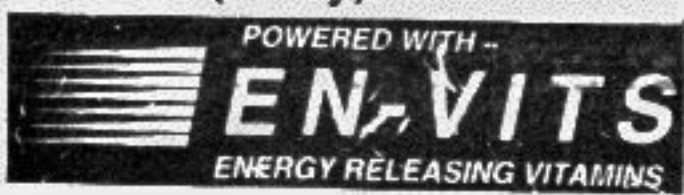
5 Who lifted the girls' singles title of the 12th Bangladesh International junior tennis championships? Uzma Radhika Struti

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (If any)



Diego fined for his old sin

BUENOS AIRES, Mar 11: An Argentine judge fined Diego Maradona 30,000 dollars on Tuesday for yelling insults at a referee in 1994, reports Reuters.

In a post-match news conference, a furious Maradona referred to Sanchez as "the mafioso."

Judge Carlos Frontera told the state-run Team news agency: "The defendant used injurious terms, not only immediately after the end of the match, but also in his declarations to the press afterwards."

Sanchez had sued for 120,000 dollars but the judge ruled the referee had suffered only emotional and not professional damage from Maradona's attacks.

The former midfielder's disastrous stint at unfashionable — and since dissolved — Mandiyu came soon after a temporary ban from international soccer.

This was imposed after he tested positive for a banned stimulant following Argentina's first-round victory over Nigeria in the 1994 World Cup finals.

BTW

3:00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary 3:15 Patriotic Songs 3:20 Cartoon Film 3:50 TV Coaching 4:00 The News 4:25 Open University 5:50 School Debate Competition 6:00 The News 6:25 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

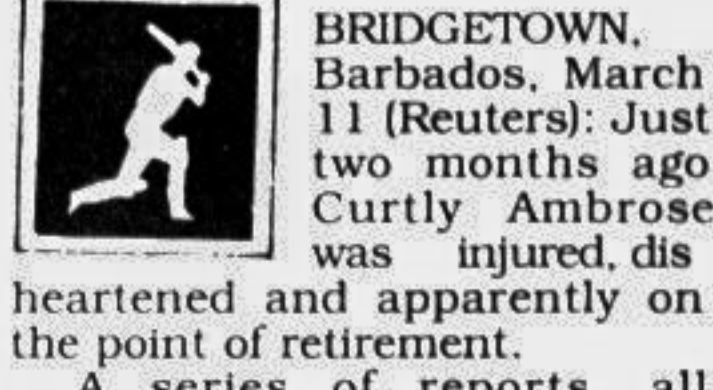
BBC

7:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:00 World Focus: The Money Programme 8:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:00 Hardtalk 9:30 The World Today 11:00 World Living: Film '98 11:00 BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:00 World Focus: The Money Programme 12:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:00 HardTalk 1:30 BBC World News Followed by

CHANNEL V

6:30 V News VJ Reshma 6:45 Over the Edge 7:00 The Ride 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:30 Turn On T [V] 1:00 By Demand

Curtly the bird of prey



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 11 (Reuters): Just two months ago Curtly Ambrose was injured, disheartened and apparently on the point of retirement.

A series of reports, all stemming from close friends, just before the first Test against England suggested Ambrose had enough.

Never had the sporting bulletins been more premature. Four Tests and 23 wickets later, Ambrose is ready to supplant Australian Hugh Trumble in second place on the list of leading wicket takers against England.

On the eve of the fifth Test at Kensington Oval, one of the giant Antiguan's favourite hunting grounds, Ambrose has 140 wickets to Trumble's 142. Another Australian, the peerless Dennis Lillee, is in first place with 167.

Ambrose, now 34, still refuses to discuss his cricket life but the speed with which he walked back to his mark at the Bourda ground in Guyana in the second innings of the fourth Test suggests that he will go on at least as long as his partner Courtney Walsh.

So does his series record of 23 wickets at 9.73 and a strike rate of a wicket every 33 balls. "Curtly will play so long as his fitness holds up," said one teammate. "He feels Brian Lara, the new captain, has his best interests at heart and that means a lot to Ambrose if he is to put everything into his bowling."

His mother still runs into the middle of the tiny Antigua village of Swetes, ringing a bell whenever she captures another wicket, even if he is bowling in

Sydney, and it is the middle of the night in the Caribbean, and he still goes home to Swetes whenever he is not playing. "Among his friends he is considered a joker," a teammate said. "To see him sitting in the West Indies players' room, playing a make-believe guitar, using a long tooth pick as a pretend plectrum, is to partly understand the guy."



CURTLY AMBROSE

Aussies drink Ashes tonic

BRISBANE, Mar 11: The Australian cricket team faced one of their most formidable challenges to save the Test series in India, national chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said here today, reports AFP.

Australia, winners of their past nine Test series, nosedived to a 179-run defeat against India in Chennai on Tuesday in the first of a three-match series.

While some questionable umpiring decisions, particularly by Englishman George Sharp, against the tourists blighted the final day's play, the primary concern was Australia's inability to adapt to the dry,

turning pitch and the hot conditions. While Hohns admitted conditions on the subcontinent were "oppressive", he said the Australians were now in the same situation as last year's Ashes series in England and had to respond accordingly.

Australia lost the opening Test against England in Edgbaston last June but rebounded to win the Ashes comfortably. "Australia is a very, very good side and it's going to be a very good test for them from now on," said Hohns.

"It's the same situation as in England. Okay, the conditions are different, but the side has to adapt. The selection panel here has total faith in the players' ability to bounce back."

Australia take on Mohammad Azharuddin's Indians in the second Test in Calcutta, starting on March 18.

Hohns, who is expected to talk with the tour selection panel of captain Mark Taylor, vice-captain Steve Waugh and coach Geoff Marsh before the side is chosen for the second Test, would not comment about possible changes.

Hohns said the major positive to come out of the Chennai Test loss was the form of off-spinner Gavin Robertson, whose selection for the first Test was seen as a gamble.

"He did exactly what was required of him and we've got to be very happy with his performance, there's no doubt about that," he said. Robertson stuck at his task to take 4-72 in the first innings and notched 57, before wiling along with many of his teammates later in the match.



Pete Sampras the world No 1 stretches to play a forehand during his Champions' Cup match against compatriot Todd Martin at Indian Wells, California on Mar 10. Sampras won 6-1, 7-5.

Special cricket WC

Prasar Bharati get TV rights

NEW DELHI, Mar 11: In a major move to globalise its sports operations, Prasar Bharati today signed up with the International Cricket Council (ICC) for exclusive telecast rights of the special World Cup tournament to be held in Dhaka from October 24 to November 4, reports PTI.

The multi-crore agreement has been bagged after international bidding to produce and telecast the tournament involving all nine Test playing countries and Prasar Bharati had tied up with a consortium for providing full financial back-up for the mega deal, Prasar Bharati CEO S S Gill said here.

Announcing the agreement at a joint press conference with ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya, Gill said Doordarshan would get the bulk of profits 60 to 80 per cent with the remaining portion going to the consortium.

"In case of any losses the consortium — presently made up of Sitraco, Creative Eye and Nimbus — will bear it," Gill said adding that the deal for telecasting the tournament on the 'free to air' Doordarshan channel was also in keeping with the commitment to provide entertainment and sports to the section of society which was unable to view private channels beamed through the cable network.

Prasar Bharati, which has also clinched the radio rights, will be producing the event and will look for international buyers through marketing agencies, Gill added.

The tournament comprising eight matches — one quarter final tie between eighth and ninth ranked sides, four quarter-finals, two semifinals and the final — was a one-off event aimed at raising funds for ICC to step up the pace of its development activities, Dalmiya said.

Sampas sails

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 11: Top-ranked Pete Sampras advanced to the third round of the Newweek Champions' Cup with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Todd Martin on Tuesday night, reports AP.

In a match that lasted just 1 hour, 4 minutes, Sampas closed the 25-minute first set with four consecutive aces. He broke early in the second set, allowed Martin to break back, then broke again to go ahead 6-5 and served out.

"He hit a couple of good returns. I double-faulted. He's got the game to do that, Sampas said. "But even though he broke me back, I was controlling the points. Played a pretty solid game at 5-all. That was it."

Third seed Patrick Rafter of Australia defeated Wayne Ferreira 7-5, 5-7, 6-4. Czech Bodan Ulich, a finalist last year, upset No 4 Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-3, 6-3.

On the women's side in the Evert Cup tournament, former world No 1 Steffi Graf of Germany cruised into the last four with a 6-3, 6-0 victory of 15th-seeded Belarussian Natasha Zvereva.

Defending champion Lindsay Davenport advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Romanian Ruxandra Dragomir.

Joannette Kruger upset No 4 Amanda Coetzer 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in an all-South African match, and will play Venus Williams, who beat Belgium's Dominique Van Roost 6-4, 6-1.

Rangers letting Gazza go?

GLASGOW, Mar 11: Glasgow Rangers on Tuesday agreed to part with their wayward England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, reports Reuter.

Crystal Palace, bottom of the English premier league, also confirmed they were in negotiations to sign the 30-year-old international.

But Gascoigne's agent, Mel Stein, insisted talk of a transfer was "precipitous". Palace are believed to have agreed a three million pounds 4.9 million dollars fee with the Scottish champions.

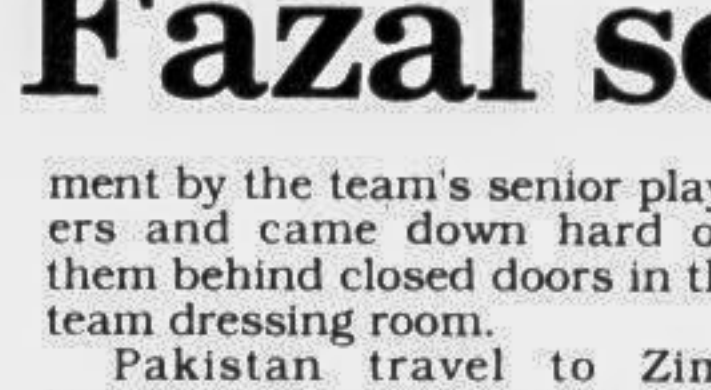
Rashid lays down the law Shoab, Fazal sent home



SHOAIB AKHTER

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Mar 11: Pakistan team management has decided to send home fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Fazal-e-Akbar for disciplinary reasons, it was announced here Wednesday, reports AP.

The decision came after Pakistan suffered an embarrassing loss by 259 runs on Tuesday to South Africa at St George's Park in the third and final cricket



FAZAL-E-AKBAR

replacing them either. "We have to set an example at some time, or else Pakistan cricket is never going to be the disciplined force it should be in world cricket," Latif added.

Latif took over as Pakistan captain after the national selectors dropped former skipper Wasim Akram amidst bribery allegations that had dogged the team since September 1994.

"I have made it clear to the senior players, enough is enough. I want total commitment and discipline during a match on the field, and if that is lacking, then there is no shortage of talent back home," Latif said.

Khalid Mahmood, the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board, said any decision made by the tour management would be accepted by his board.

"It's former example was set," timmer Test player and coach Haroon Rashid said. "Both Akhtar and Akbar were warned repeatedly throughout their six-week tour here. The two players also had bad reports when they toured with Pakistan junior teams in 1997. Akhtar was dropped from his maiden tour with the senior team to Canada after being reported for drunken behaviour on Pakistan's A team tour of England. Akbar toured South Africa with Pakistan's under 19 team last year."

Cesare to wait till last



FRANCESCO ZOLA

MILAN, Mar 11: Italy's national coach Cesare Maldini threw Gianfranco Zola a World Cup lifeline on Tuesday, wishing the Chelsea striker a speedy return to top form, reports AFP.

Maldini also revealed that he would not announce Italy's World Cup squad before the June 2 deadline and said that Juventus' Alessandro Del Piero was the big surprise in Italian football this season.

The 66-year-old coach made it clear he has not forgotten Zola, the man who brought England to their knees at Wembley last year, but who has subsequently failed to shine for Italy.

"Gianfranco tells me that he has been training hard, but in recent months he has also been finding it difficult at Chelsea,

and he's lost some of his sparkle. I hope that the true Zola returns," he said.

Maldini meanwhile paid tribute to 23-year-old Del Piero, a star-in-waiting who has finally exploded this season with 22 goals for Juventus and one for Italy against Slovakia.

Maldini said he had not overlooked Roberto Baggio, and was also keeping tabs on Fabrizio Ravanello, Christian Vieri and Pierluigi Casiraghi, who is struggling to win a first-team place at Lazio.

"Fabrizio is playing in a different position with Olympique Marseille than he did in Italy or in England, being further back on the right flank," he noted.

"Christian hasn't changed, but he's not happy with the physical training system at Atletico Madrid and is following a personalised programme."

As for Casiraghi, who came on to score a UEFA Cup winner last week, Maldini said: "When he does get to play, like he did against Auxerre, he's still just as lethal."

Turning to his squad for France '98, Maldini said he would organise a training camp for a pre-selection of World Cup hopefuls as soon as the Serie A season finishes in mid-May.

Maldini did not give figures, but he is expected to ask around 30 players to the camp, which will probably be held at the national training base at Coverciano, in the suburbs of Florence, before whittling them down to the final 22.

Italy's last friendly before the World Cup is clearly going to be a do-or-die event for some players.

Argentina beat Bulgaria

BUENOS AIRES, Mar 11: Striker Gabriel Batistuta's first-half goal opened the way for Argentina's 2-0 victory over Bulgaria on Tuesday in World Cup soccer tuneup match, reports AP.

"Batigol", star of Italy's Fiorentina, scored in the 34th minute after Bulgarian keeper Zdravko Zdravkov partially blocked a shot by Claudio Lopez.

Lopez raised it to 2-0 in the final minutes. Argentina showed good teamwork with deft passing down left field from midfielder Rodolfo Cardoso to Lopez and Batistuta.

DESA Tender Notice

Memo No PS-2/Pro-2/1742 Dated: 02.03.98

নিয়মিত বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন সন্ধ্যাবেলায় বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার হ্রাস করুন

DESA invites sealed bids for Supply of ACSR WOLF from bonafide manufacturer/their representative. Tender document containing terms & conditions and specifications may be had from the office of the undersigned (DESA Head Office, Biddu Bhaban, 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka) till 23.3.98. Cost of the Tender document, Taka Five hundred only (Non-refundable) is to be paid in the shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft favouring Director, Finance & Accounts, DESA. Bids will be received in the office of the undersigned on 25.3.98 till 11.30 AM and will be opened on the same day at 12:00 Noon in presence of tenders, if any.

DFP-4942-5/3 Director Procurement & Stores, DESA G-434

The Daily Star TV Guide

Table with columns for Time, Channel, and Program Name. Includes sections for ZEE INDIA TV, STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, STAR SPORTS, MUSIC ASIA, DD 7, SONY ET, ZEE TV, and ZEE CINEMA.