

Aussie-India A match drawn

JAMSHEDPUR, Mar 15: Test hopeful Amay Khurasia plundered an unbeaten 117 for India...

Row over racial policy

South African cricket is about to break new ground with the expected selection of Makhaya Ntini for the first Test against Sri Lanka in Cape Town next week.



Five years ago, Makhaya Ntini had never even seen, let alone handled, a cricket ball. Like other boys in his little Xhosa village...

tee took disciplinary action for racist verbal abuse towards young Indian spectators against Pat Symcox and Fanie de Villiers...



The pressure led Hansie Cronje to issue a statement in the middle of the game pledging the support of himself and his players to a South African side truly representative of all people.

go the road of affirmative action. There was no other way. Bacher said that where there were two players of equal merit...

They resent too the idea that cricket should be used as a ball to be batted around by politicians, fearing that the Test selectors will come under pressure to consider affirmative action.

Caught in the crossfire are men such as Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board, who said emphatically: "In 1998 an all-white South African cricket team has got to be counter-productive and could wipe out all the good work that has been done."

He added that, while the issue of selection on merit was "a difficult dilemma", they had to

Pakistan A win one-day series

Pakistan A beat their Indian counterparts by six wickets in the second match on day of the three-match series yesterday.

Earlier, winning toss in the morning, Pakistan A captain Maqsood Mahmood put the Indians into bat, who scored 195 in 46.4 overs.

In reply, Pakistan A raced on to score 197 for four in only 38.5 overs. Opener Salim Elahi hit a fine unbeaten 89 and Mohammad Hossain blasted a 48-ball 54 not out to help their team to an impressive win.

AB Agarkar, who took two wickets for 27, was the most impressive among the Indian bowlers.

FIFA sitting on the fence

The executive committee of world football's ruling body will hold another extraordinary meeting in Zurich on 8 April to discuss the question of the FIFA presidency and a possible candidature by the general secretary, Joseph Sepp Blatter, according to a release on the Internet.

At an extraordinary meeting of the executives at FIFA house — the first since Dr. Joao Havelange was elected president in 1974 — the outgoing Brazilian presented a legal advice on the compatibility of Blatter standing for the presidency at the same time as continuing in the office as general secretary.

The committee then tried to reconcile these two positions but could not reach an agreement concerning the position of the general secretary in the event that he stood as a candidate. President Havelange asked the chairman of the FIFA legal affairs committee, David Will (Scotland), to prepare a proposal on the extent to which the general secretary's function may be restricted if he were to be a candidate.

When Will declined to do so, because he had been involved in the preparation of the UEFA/CAR/ROMANIA paper, Havelange closed the meeting stating that he would prepare the necessary proposals himself by the time of the next meeting on April 8.

Magnus moves into final

COPENHAGEN, Mar 15: Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson snuffed out home hopes here Saturday when he swept into the final of the ATP event by beating Denmark's top player Kenneth Carlsen, reports AFP.

Second-seeded Gustafsson, who scored a 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 victory, now plays David Prinosil of Germany for the title.

Prinosil put out fourth-seeded Jan Sieremij of the Netherlands 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).



NINE DECADES OF INTER: A giant jersey is on show at the San Siro Stadium in Milan to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Inter Milan on Mar 14.

FRANCE '98 SIDELINES

UNDATED, Mar 15 (AP): Austria are leaving no stone unturned as they head into the World Cup.

Carrying the red-and-white striped Austrian flag, Beppo Maubart, the president of the Austrian Soccer Federation — and coach Herbert Prohaska went over the hills and through the woods to pray at the shrine at Maria Loretto.

At the end of the pilgrimage to the Black Madonna of Maria Loretto, the men gave thanks for Austria's World Cup qualification and asked the Black Madonna to bring the team luck in France this summer.

Maria Loretto is located in the woods about 30 kilometres south of Vienna near the Hungarian border. The Black Madonna is a small, black stone statue of the Virgin Mary. Some believe the shrine has special powers to bring good luck.

KANU COMES GOOD

Nigerian soccer fans take heart. Nwankwo Kanu, whose full recovery from heart surgery is key to Nigeria's World Cup hopes, scored his first Italian league goal for Inter Milan Saturday.

The forward scored in the 73rd minute with a close-in shot as Inter won 4-0 against Atalanta. He entered as a substitute six minutes into the second half.

Kanu was greeted with a two-minute standing ovation by the 40,000 at San Siro Stadium. He underwent surgery for a deformed heart valve at the Cleveland Clinic in November 1996, three months after leading Nigeria to the gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

The lanky 21-year-old, his comeback slowed by a series of leg injuries, made his Italian League debut Feb 11.

BLOOD LETTER!

A Romanian soccer fan has written a letter using his own blood, explaining why he wants to watch Romania compete in the World Cup.

"I wanted to speak for all inflamed soccer fans in my country," said Constantin Talpau, explaining his extreme measures in Saturday's daily National newspaper.

"I was thinking about sailors, sick people and military personnel who won't be able to attend," he told the paper.

"Soccer is my life. Come on Romania. We will die and be resurrected with soccer," wrote Talpau in a letter to a soft drink's company running a competition with tickets to France this summer as the prize.

Talpau is tipped as one of the likely winners. But results have not been announced, so he doesn't know if he spilled his blood in vain.

SCHMEICHEL SIDELINED

Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel suffers a torn hamstring in Arsenal's 1-0 win Saturday over Liverpool and could be out for a month.

The Denmark international suffered the injury in the final five minutes as he was raced back to defend his goal.

"It is a torn hamstring — he has done it in the past. Yes, he is

LOPES' CLOSE SHAVE

A little broken cheekbone can stop Japan's Brazilian-born forward Wagner Lopes. Lopes collided with a player during a practice game Saturday in a Tokyo suburb, but doctors said he should be able to play again in a week and be ready when Japan play Asian rival South Korea in Seoul April 1.

Lopes' Japanese citizenship was approved by the government last September — just in time for him to make key contributions to Japan winning their first ever World Cup berth.

Although obtaining citizenship is generally a complicated procedure, Tokyo has known to make exceptions to exceptional applicants, like Lopes.

Lopes, 29, who speaks fluent Japanese, came to Japan to play soccer when he was 18, following a couple years of professional play in Brazil.

THE WORLD CUP SONG

The World Cup will have more of an African flavour than ever. There are more African teams this time and Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour, a pop star in his West African homeland, has recorded the official World Cup anthem.

N'Dour, 38, told the Le Parisien daily that he had been crazy about soccer since he was a little boy growing up in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.

It's not the first time that N'Dour has composed a song with soccer in mind. Thirteen years ago, he wrote a song called "The Lion" for the Senegalese national team.

This year's World Cup song is entitled "La Cour des grands"

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Gopalgang Notice Inviting Tender No. 45/1997-98

- 1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited for Special Class-I (One), Class-I (One) approved Bldg. Contractor/Firm of PWD, Class-II (Two) approved Bldg. Contractor/Firm of PWD Khulna Zone, Khulna and Class-III (Three) approved Bldg. Contractor/Firm of PWD Circle, Barisal for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned and also offices of the Executive Engineers under Barisal PWD Circle, Barisal up to 12-00 Noon of 30-3-98 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it. The tender form will be sold up to 29-3-98.

Paraguay hold USA

SAN DIEGO, California, Mar 15: A 75th minute penalty from Francisco Arce earned Paraguay a 2-2 draw with the United States in Saturday's friendly here, reports AFP.

Both teams, who will be playing in the World Cup finals in France this summer, experimented and used their reserves in a bid to inspect younger talent.

The draw ended a three-game losing skid for the United States who have never lost to Paraguay in three matches.

Juergen Sommer, the 31-year-old Swiss, who played her semifinal against Venus Williams on Friday as well as a three-set doubles match, said she was pleased when she woke up and saw the rain.

"When I heard I had to play the finals at 11:00 am, I was like, 'No way I'm going to wake up so early,' she said.

"I was kind of happy it rained. Tennis players are pretty spoiled... they don't really like to wake up early in the morning."

Davenport didn't wake up until the sixth game of the opening set.

"Normally, I'm a very fast starter," said Davenport, who dropped her serve twice to find herself down 5-0.

"I started slowly, that's one thing you can't do against the No 1 player in the world, especially in a final. It's too big a hole to come back from."

Davenport dropped her serve for the first time with a double-fault and for the second with two forehand errors.

She finally held with two aces in the sixth game, and broke back in the seventh with a forehand cross-court winner off a Hingsis drop shot.

The 21-year-old American.

Number one defeats two

INDIAN WELLS, California, Mar 15: World No 1 Martina Hingsis captured her second title of the year here Saturday with a straight-sets victory over Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Evert Cup, reports AFP.

Hingsis, who successfully defended her Australian Open title in January, waited through a two-hour rain delay then needed just 65 minutes to beat Davenport 6-3, 6-4.

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second in the world behind Hingsis, saved a set point in the next game, but couldn't evade the inevitable.

Hingsis avenged a defeat by Davenport in the final of the Pan Pacific tournament in Tokyo in February, her only outdoor loss this year.

Hingsis got the only break of the second set in the fifth game and never once faced a break point.

Her confidence let her experiment a little — at one point in the ninth game Davenport moved her out wide and Hingsis simply switched her racquet to her left hand.

She even made it. Davenport completed a rally game. "She even made it," Davenport said of Hingsis' switch to a southpaw stance. "Of course today she would make that."

"She hit some great shots today on the run," Davenport said. "She has fun out there."

World No 1 Martina Hingsis in a playful mood with the Evert Cup trophy after winning the final against Lindsay Davenport at Indian Wells, California on Mar 14. Hingsis won 6-3, 6-4.



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The Daily Star TV Guide

Monday 16th March (All programmes are in local time but subject to last minute change.) BBC 7:30am BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:00 World Focus: Correspondent 8:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:00 Hard Talk 9:30 The World Today 11:00 World Living: A Golfer's Travels: South Africa 11:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:00 World Focus: Correspondent 12:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 1:00 Hard Talk 1:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 2:00 World Living: Tiger 2:30 The World Today 4:00 Wild World: Sea Trek 1/5 4:30 BBC World News 4:45 World Business Report Followed by Weather 5:00 The World Today 6:00 World Living: Film '98 6:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 7:00 Hard Talk 7:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 8:00 Stylz 8:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 9:00 World Living: Earth: Saving the Seas 9:30 The World Today 11:00 Hard Talk 11:30 BBC World News Followed by Weather 12:00 World Focus: Science World 12:30 BBC World News Inc World Business Report 12:40 World Business Report Followed by

Weather 1:00 World Living: Holiday 1:30 BBC World News 1:40 Europe Direct 2:30 BBC World News Inc World Business Report & 24 Hours 3:30 BBC World Headlines 3:55 US Direct 4:00 World Living: 6:00 World Focus: Saving the Seas 4:30 BBC World News Inc World Business Report & 24 Hours CHANNEL V 6:00am Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 6:30 V News Presenter Reshma 6:45 V Spot 7:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 8:30 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 1:30 By Demand VJ 7:30 Liberty First Day 7:30 Show 3:00 King Fisher: Mangla Hai Vj, Meghna Reddy 3:30 Close-Up Close Encounters VJ Laila 4:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 5:00 Eveready Red Alert: News Update 5:03 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 7:00 By Demand VJ 7:30 8:00 House Arrest VJ Ranvir (On Hindi Pops & Films) 9:00 BPL Oye # 29th Show VJ Rajjams 10:00 Liberty-First Day 11:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 11:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 1:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 1:00 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) 2:30 V News Presenter Rishma 2:45 Turn On T [V] (Back to Back Vids) / BPL Oye 3:00 Simply South VJ Suchitra

STAR PLUS 7:00 Nainad 7:30 Good Morning India Indian Election-Star News 10:30 Living On The Edge 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 British Comedy: Yes Minister 12:30 Series: L A Law 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold And The Beautiful 3:00 Mystery Movies Hallix F P Cardie And All 5:00 WWF Shotgun Challenge 6:00 Maal Hai To Tai Hai 6:30 Hindi Serial: Kohra 7:00 News Track #Ep-50 7:25 The Trail Show- Film Trailer 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Dress Circle 8:30 Hindi Serial: Tu Tu Main Main # Ep-105 9:00 Hindi Serial: Saans # Ep-19 9:30 Star News (English) 10:00 To The Manor Born 10:30 Series: Heart Beat Prime Instinct 11:30 News Track 12:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 12:30 Star News (Eng) 1:30 The X Files 2:30 Fire 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 Series: 21 Jump Street PTL 8:00 Sports Unlimited, 9:00 PGA Tour Golf-Dorlan Ryder Open, 10:30 Asian Football Show, 11:30 Volvo World Cup Showjumping, 12:30 Sports India, 1:00 Max Power, 2:00 NBA Basketball Poland Trailblazers

STAR MOVIES 7:30 Comedy: Penny Ante (15), 9:30 Thriller: Extreme Prejudice (15), 11:30 Comedy: The Big Bet (15), 1:30 Romance: Mixed Blessings (15), 3:30 Film Club: Rambing Rose (15), 5:30 Adventure: Ladyhawke (pg), 7:30 Film Club: Jasons Lycic (15), 9:30 This Week That Year, 10:00 Comedy: Bachelor Party (15), 12:00 Oscar Classic Showcase: The French Connection (best actor), 2:00 Romance: Moxed Blessings (15), 3:30 Star Movies Special: The Making of Titanic, 4:00 Horror: In the Mouth of Madness (18), 5:45 Family: Far from Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog (12).

PTV 08:00 TILAWAT AUR TARJUMA, HAMD/NAAT 08:20 CARTOON 08:30 KHABRAIN 08:45 Abb pata

MUSIC ASIA 7:30am Aalaap 8:00 B & W Gems 8:30 All Time Hits (Hit Songs Show) 9:00 All Time Tevern-Siazaars 9:30 Aalaap 10:00 All Time Hits 10:30 Bagger - Jharokha 11:00 Pehlu 11:30 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 12:00 Coca-Cola-World Premier 12:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 1:00 Bagger - Jharokha 1:30 Sham-E-Gajal 2:00 Music News 2:30 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 3:00 Old Tevern-Siazaars 3:30 Bagger - Jharokha 4:00 Pop Busters 4:30 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 5:00 All Time Hits 5:30 Bagger - Jharokha 6:00 B & W Gems 6:30 Music News 6:45 Coca-Cola-World Premier 7:00 Old Tevern-Siazaars 7:30 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 8:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 8:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 9:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 9:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 10:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 10:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 11:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 11:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 12:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 12:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 1:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 1:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 2:00 Bajar: Music Box (Trailer Show) 2:30 Old Tevern-Siazaars 3:00 Old Tevern-Siazaars

SONY ET 6:00 Gaane Jaane Manere 6:30 Parachute — Premiere (Trailer Show) 8:30 Gaane Jaane Manere 9:00 Cartoons-Real Ghost Busters (Hindi Dub) 9:30 Silver Spoon 10:00 Whos The Boss 10:30 Different Strok (Hindi Dub) 11:00 Bewitched 11:30 Parachute — Premiere (Trailer Show) 12:00 Faste 12:30 (eh Sadi Nahi Ho Sakti 1:00 Siddhi 1:30 Kahena Pe Kya Harz Hai 2:00 Aahat 2:30 Cine Matinee-Hindi Feature Film 5:30 Cartoons-Real Ghost Busters (Hindi Dub) 6:00 Silver Spoon 6:30 Whos The Boss 7:00 Different Strok (Hindi Dub) 7:30 Bewitched 8:00 Parachute — Premiere (Trailer Show) 8:30 Humse Barker Gong 9:00 Toofan Mail 09:30 Chamatkar 10:00 Thoda Hai Thoda Jarurat Hai (Neeta Sarad, Anand, Mahesh) 10:30 TBA/ Khoya Khoya Chand 11:00 Cine Hits 12:00 Hum Aap Ko Countdown 1:00 Challenge 01:30 Bhanwar 02:00 Indian Holiday — Travel Shows 02:30 Gaane Jaane Manere 03:00 Cine Matinee Show-Hindi Feature Film

ZEE TV 6:00am Yadoon Ki Pal 6:30 Zee News & Zee Business 7:00 Bhatti Songs 7:30 Jagran 8:00

ZEE CINEMA 7:15 Ikraar (\* Rakesh R. Rameshwari), 9:15 Music News, 9:30 Raja Aur Rank (\* Sanjeev K. Nazmi), 12:15 Moviefare, 12:30 Baiju Bawara (B/W) (\* Meena Kumari, Bharat B.), 3:15 Rurur, 3:45 Madhyantar, 4:00 Naram Garam (\* Amol P. Swaroop S.), 6:45 Cine Magic, 7:15 Chhal Chhal (\* Suny Deol, Rajnikant, Srividya), 10:00 Top Of The Tops, 10:30 Preetam (\* Shammi K. Leena Chandavarkar), 1:15 Zee Cine Awards, 1:45 Daku Biji (\* Krishna, Ramesh), 4:30 Tel Maalish Bot Polish (\* Shaikh M. Kum-

TNT CARTOON 7:30am The Popeye Show 8:00