



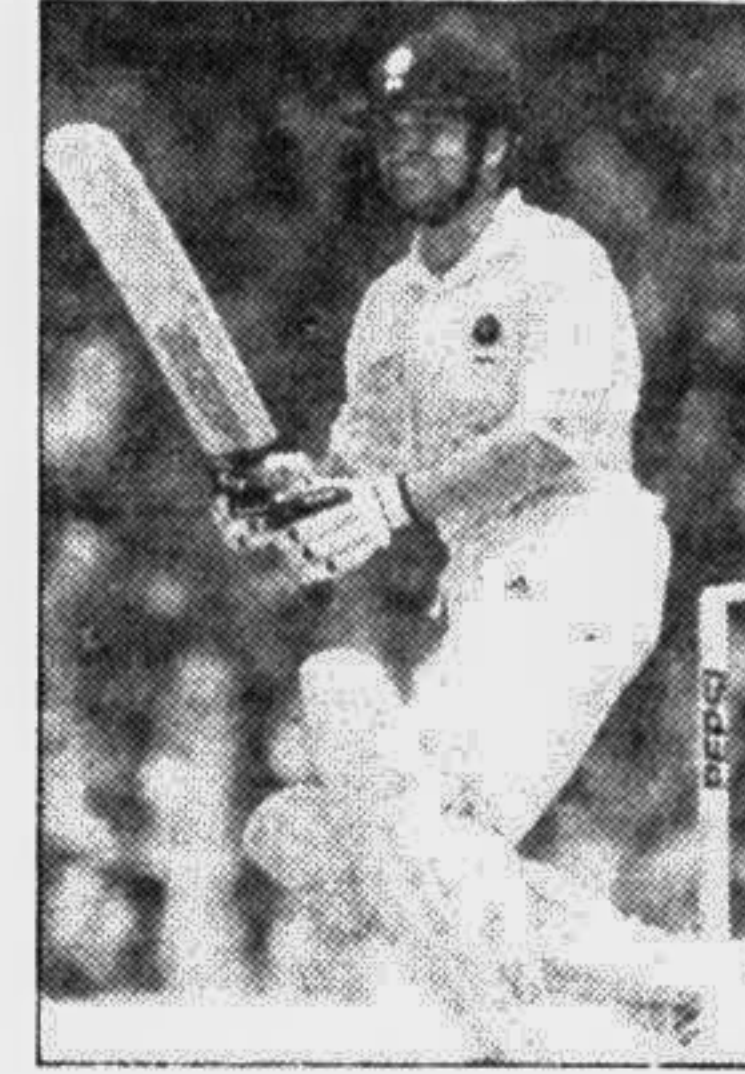
Aussies extend winning streak

Sachin bats India to final

SHARJAH, Apr 23 (Reuters, AP & PTI). Australia beat India in a three-nation tournament on Wednesday but India did enough to qualify for the final against the Australians.

total. Bevan, rated as one of the top one-day specialists in the game by skipper Steve Waugh, cracked nine boundaries in his unbeaten 101 from 103 balls to add to the worries of the Indian team.

Waugh called Tendulkar's knock as a pretty good innings under pressure. But promised the final will be a different story.



TENDULKAR ... p-o-m

day, put on 90 runs for the fourth wicket from 16 overs to lift Australia from 87 for three to 177 for 4 when Waugh was dismissed for 81.

India and New Zealand finished their league matches with one victory each in four games.

Result: Australia won by 26 runs (India's revised target: 276 in 46 overs)

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the match between Australia and India at Sharjah Cricket Stadium Wednesday.

AUSTRALIA: 284 for seven (M Bevan 101, M Waugh 81; V Prasad 2/41, Tendulkar 1/27)

INDIA Ganguly lbw b Fleming 17 Tendulkar c Gilchrist b Fleming 142 Mongia c M Waugh b Moody 35 Azharuddin b Moody 24

Jadeja (1) - fell just in the space of three runs, making India's score 138 for four.

He kept India in the game at a time when two important wickets of skipper Mohammad Azharuddin (14) and Ajay Jadede (1) - fell just in the space of three runs, making India's score 138 for four.

Tendulkar was caught behind by wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist off Damien Fleming in 43rd over. By then India's score was 242, five runs more than needed to qualify for the finals.

Earlier when India fielded, Michael Bevan smashed his third one-day century to help Australia put on a threatening

Kiwi concern over security in Colombo

Star Sport Monitor

The schedule of New Zealand's cricket tour of Sri Lanka is likely to be revised due to their reservations on security in Colombo, according to a report of The Daily News.

With the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) planning to run the three-nation Independence Cup to celebrate the golden jubilee of country's independence, New Zealand's tour to Sri Lanka will be extended by a further 14 days from what it was originally planned.

According to the new schedule, there will be nine qualifying round matches plus the final in the Independence Cup tournament which will be held from June 19 to July 7. India will be the third participating country.

It's now upto Bradman

ADELAIDE, Apr 23: Reclusive former cricket star Sir Donald Bradman will be honoured with a statue in his hometown - if he allows it, reports AP.

Bradman, Australia's greatest player and the nation's most famous sportsman, has disappeared from public life, even refusing to attend a dinner this month to mark 50 years since leading Australia's Invincibles to England in 1948.

Adelaide city councillor Roger Rowse said the council had approved a move to have a statue made, but they now needed to consult Bradman, 89, to ask his permission.

The council agreed to spend 67,000 dollars (100,000 Australian dollars) on the statue and planned to erect it in the parklands at the front of Adelaide Oval.

Rowse said the statue was also yet to be worked out, with the possibility of a competition to design it, although he favoured an action pose.

Tendulkar plans to turn twenty-five fittingly



SHARJAH, Apr 23: Sachin Tendulkar celebrates his 25th birthday on Friday hoping to do what he does best - plotting Australia's downfall in a potentially explosive Sharjah Coca-Cola Cup final here, reports AFP.

"Winning the title will be an ideal birthday gift," said the young dynamo, regarded by his legion of fans as the best cricketer of the modern age.

There is no greater thrill then doing well for your team and your country and seeing them win. It brings joy to so many people."

Tendulkar knows he will

Russia beat Turkey

MOSCOW, Apr 23: Russia defeated Turkey 1-0 on Wednesday in a lachlure, friendly soccer match in Moscow's Lokomotiv Stadium, reports AP.

Vladimir Beschastnykh, who plays for Racing Spain, scored the only goal for Russia in the 80th minute of the sluggish game. He overplayed several Turkish defenders, fired from the penalty line and sent the ball into the left corner of the Turkish goal.

During the first half, both teams stuck close to the middle of the field and had no scoring chances after the 10th minute, when Russian defender Yuri Nikiforov had to clear the ball from the goal line after Russian goalkeeper Alexander Filimonov fumbled the ball.

As both teams failed to book a place in the World Cup finals, they clearly regarded the game as a warmup before the European Championship qualifying games to begin in September this year.

have to fire to stop the resurgent Australians from ending their tour of India and the United Arab Emirates in a blaze of glory.

The Australians, beaten 2-1 in the Test series in India, bounced back to lift the tri-nation title in New Delhi last week and breezed through the preliminary league here with four successive wins.

"I want India to do to us in Delhi," said Tendulkar referring to his team's sudden slump in the one-day final after winning all four league matches.

On Wednesday, he ensured his teams' place in the final here with an astounding all-round performance: 142 off 131 balls, a wicket in his first over and a run out with a direct throw from the mid-wicket fence.

The Australians, however, furious that tournament sponsors Coca-Cola handed Tendulkar a special reward of 20,000 pounds for his effort.

"We received nothing for winning the tri-series in India," skipper Steve Waugh said. "Maybe this money was carried forward from there."

The Indians refused to comment on Waugh's outburst, but one official pointed out that the sponsors for the two series were different.

Also adding needle to the self-out final was the confrontation between Australian batsman Ricky Ponting and teenage Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh on Wednesday.

The incident occurred when Ponting, after slamming the 17-year-old for a six, was stumped by wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia later in the same over.

Harbhajan gave the batsman a verbal flogging and pointed the way to the pavilion. A visibly angry Ponting, in turn, side-batted the bowler before going off the field.

"The young boy got carried away," Indian skipper Mohammad Azharuddin said. "But I don't think this will ruin the good relations with the Australians over the last two months."

India are hoping promising all-rounder Ajit Agarkar, who missed the last two matches because of a groin strain, will be fit to play on Friday.

SQUADS

INDIA (from): Mohammad Azharuddin (capt), Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Venkat Laxman, Ajay Jadeja, Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Nayan Mongia, Anil Kumble, Ajit Agarkar, Harvinder Singh, Venkatesh Prasad, Harbhajan Singh.

AUSTRALIA (likely): Steve Waugh (capt), Adam Gilchrist, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Michael Bevan, Darren Lehmann, Tom Moody, Damien Fleming, Shane Warne, Damien Martyn, Michael Kasprovic.

4-a-side h'ball tourney begins on May 10

A four-a-side handball tournament will begin in the capital on May 10, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Handball Federation and Bangladesh Handball Referees Association will jointly organise the tournament.

All clubs, excluding services and agencies (BDR, Police and Ansars), will be allowed to take part in this tourney.

Participants have been requested to contact the federation office by May 5.

This week's letter

Dear Sir, I like your sports page, although I find the same text of news from abroad in all the English dailies. I would suggest you to browse the Internet for more exclusive stories, which will make your paper unique.

Yours sincerely, Raasheduddin Ahmed Sunnydale School, Dhaka.

Frantic

PARIS, Apr 23: The World Cup ticket hotline was overloaded again today as French organisers began the second day of telephone sales for the last tickets for the soccer finals this summer, reports Reuters.

"Because of the large number of calls, your request can not be dealt with now," a taped message said just after the hotline for calls from France opened at 8 am (0600 GMT).

Only a tiny minority of the 20 million calls that deluged the hotlines on Wednesday actually ended up in a sale, organisers said after the frenzied first day.

The organising committee, CFC, which, has come under heavy criticism for its ticketing policy, said just 15,000 of the remaining 110,000 seats were sold in 10 frantic hours of phoning.

The CFC received some 15 million calls from within France and five million from abroad between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm (0600-1600 GMT) on Wednesday in one of the biggest ever concentration of phone calls ever seen for a single event.

Scifo mends fences with Leekens

BRUSSELS, Apr 23: Veteran playmaker Enzo Scifo ended a much-publicised quarrel with national team coach Georges Leekens with an offer to return to the Red Devils but failed to get a guarantee he would make it on the World Cup squad, reports AP.

Scifo has been a key player for Belgium since the 1986 World Cup in Mexico and is seeking to reach his fourth World Cup in a row.

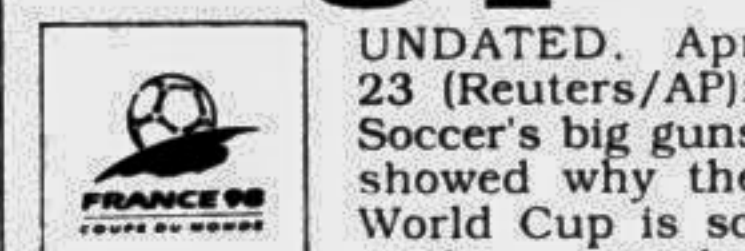
His non-selection for a preparation game against the United States in February sparked a split with Leekens and Scifo's position has been a source of constant debate in the national media since.

"Scifo called me with the message he is available again for the national team," Leekens said after Belgium drew 1-1 with Romania late Wednesday.

"When one of your children knocks on the door you open it," said Leekens. But he refused to make Scifo an automatic entry in his World Cup squad of 22. "I don't bear any grudges. I'll judge him on his performances."

Leekens dropped the 32-year-old after Scifo went public with team criticism and demanded an apology before he could be reintegrated into the team.

Big powers flex their muscles



UNDATED, Apr 23 (Reuters/AP): Soccer's big guns showed why the World Cup is so rarely wrestled from their collective grasp on Wednesday as they overcame some awkward-looking hurdles on a busy night of international soccer.

Former title-holders Germany, Italy, Argentina and England all notched up victories, with France, held 0-0 in Sweden, the only one of the bookmakers' favourites to struggle.

GERMANY 1, NIGERIA 0 (Moeller 57)

Andreas Moeller's goal early in the second half lifted European champions Germany to a 1-0 victory over Nigeria, the Olympic champions at Cologne. Moeller's goal in the 57th minute restored some of Germany's confidence after their 2-1 loss at home to Brazil, the World Cup champions last month. Germany was missing several injured starters.

But the Germans failed to convince and Nigeria, considered by many as a dark horse for this summer's World Cup in France, lacked team cohesion.

Juergen Klinsmann, normally Germany's captain, was left on the bench by coach Berti Vogts, who used Ulf Kirsten and Oliver Bierhoff in the front line. Klinsmann has been out of form in recent months and Thomas Haessler was German

captain in the game. And Haessler created the best opportunity of an uneventful first half. He sent a good cross from the right, defender Markus Babel headed from close range but Ike Shorunmu made a good save on the line, two minutes before halftime.

About 40,000 fans saw both teams stifled by crowded mid-fields, with only a few long-range attempts that never came close.

Nigeria displayed flashes of great individual skill and combined well at times, but couldn't really put the Germans under sustained pressure.

The Germans showed their traditional fighting spirit but their midfielders failed to feed Kirsten and Bierhoff enough useful passes.

Germany stepped up the pace after the interval and began giving trouble to the Nigerian defense on the flanks.

Italy's hero of the night Francesco Moriero (No 7) being dispossessed by a couple of Paraguayan defenders during a World Cup warm-up match at Parma, Italy on April 22. Moriero scored twice as the hosts won 3-1-AP/UNB photo



The pressure paid off in the 57th minute. Haessler crossed from the left, the Nigerian defense made a clumsy clearance and Moeller drove the ball with the outside of his right foot into the far corner of Willy Okpara, who had replaced Shorunmu at the start of the second half.

Nigeria also picked up the pace, looking for the equaliser, and Tarbo West deflected a free kick, but Kahn was not caught off guard.

ITALY 3, PARAGUAY 1 (Maldini 4) (Sarabia 57) (Moriero 17, 60)

Inter Milan winger Francesco Moriero made the best of his first international start scoring twice as Italy beat Paraguay at Parma.

The hosts, fielding a less prudent side than usual with Moriero roaming freely on the right flank, set the pace in the fourth minute when skipper Paolo Maldini headed home a curling free kick by Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero.

Moriero made it 2-0 just 13 minutes later, drawing gasps from the 25,000-strong crowd with a spectacular bicycle kick from a Dino Baggio cross that left Paraguay keeper Jose Luis Chilavert dumbfounded.

The South Americans, who had come close when Francesco Arce blasted just high in the 29th, cut the gap in the 57th when defender Pedro Sarabia headed home from a corner kick to beat reserve goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

But Moriero, in only his second appearance with Italy, sealed the victory three minutes later with a 25-metre blast that must have dashed any doubts that coach Cesare Maldini may have had about taking the midfielder to France.

"I hope I finally got my visa for France," Moriero commented after the match.

Cesare Maldini, who praised the inter player, said his team had done everything expected of them.

ARGENTINA 2, IRELAND 0 (Battistuta 28) (Ortega 40)

Argentina's record goalscorer Gabriel Battistuta increased his international tally to 38 as the World Cup finalists easily beat Ireland at Lansdowne road, Dublin.

The Fiorentina striker scored in the 28th minute, while Valencia playmaker Ariel Ortega added a gem of a goal in the 40th.

Battistuta has been Argentina's leading scorer since overtaking former captain Diego Maradona's record of 33 international goals two years ago.

Argentina took the Irish defence apart in the first half to move smoothly into a two-goal lead that could easily have been more. After the break, the South Americans who will be among the favourites to win the cup in France, took their feet off the pedal but never looked like losing their lead.

Battistuta should have fired the visitor ahead in the 12th minute when he found himself with only goalkeeper Shay Given to beat. But he fired straight at the keeper.

Argentina's goalkeeper, German Burgos, made a brilliant save, diving to turn a shot from Irish teen-ager Robbie Keane behind for a corner as the Irish threatened.

But the two-time World Cup winner broke out to take the lead in the 28th minute.

Ariel Ortega recovered from a foul tackle by Steve Staunton to find Claudio Lopez wide on the left. Battistuta sneaked away from his markers to the near post and tapped home his low cross.

Argentina's second came five minutes before halftime. Juan Veron charged down the left and set up Ortega with a neat touch. Ortega worked into a shooting

position inside the area, pulled goalkeeper Given from his goalline and chipped the ball over the keeper and lone defender Breen into the net.

"That goal was something else," Ireland manager Mick McCarthy told national broadcaster RTE.

The victory restored Argentine pride after the former world champions suffered the embarrassment of losing 2-1 to a 10-man Israel in Jerusalem last week.

FRANCE 0, SWEDEN 0

France could only manage a goalless draw against non-qualifier Sweden in a lachlure tie at Stockholm.

Playing before only 14,018 fans on a rain-drenched field at Rasunda Stadium - site of the 1958 World Cup final - France didn't impress and failed to create any quality chances on a cold night.

Sweden did get the draw, but has now failed to score in four straight games - 360 minutes - for the first time ever. The Swedes lost their last friendly 4-0 away to World Cup-bound Spain last month. Earlier this year, Sweden failed to score in road games against two other World Cup-bound teams, the United States (1-0) and Jamaica (0-0).

It was another disappointing tuneup for the World Cup hosts, who also struggled against another non-qualifier, Russia, last month.

Inter's Youri Djorkaeff produced two of France's best chances within a few minutes late in the game. Djorkaeff, who only played the second half, curled a free kick around the Swedish wall with four minutes left but Swedish goalie Magnus Hedman made a brilliant save. Then, Djorkaeff timed his header well a minute later from Hedman's crossbar.

French coach Aime Jacquet let a handful of his starters pass up the game because they have already made sure of a spot on the World Cup squad that Jacquet will announce on May 7.

ENGLAND 3, PORTUGAL 0 (Shearer 5, 66) (Sheringham 46)

England recovered from a nervous, unconvincing first half to beat Portugal in their penultimate home international before the World Cup in a match that raised more doubts about their prospects in France.

Two goals from Alan Shearer and one from Teddy Sheringham at Wembley Stadium, gave the England side a 3-0 advantage to England who could have been two or three goals behind at the interval if Portugal had capitalised on some of their outstanding approach work.

If England play with as little cohesion in the World Cup as they did for the first 45 minutes here, they will not progress far in the tournament.

But despite the excellence of Joao Pinto, Figo and Jorge Cadete, especially in the first hour, England ended the game strongly with a three-goal winning margin that never looked likely at the interval.

They even had what appeared to be a perfectly legitimate header from Tony Adams ruled out three minutes from time which would have given the scoreline an even more unrealistic look - as well as giving the Arsenal skipper a goal to mark his 50th international cap.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 advertisement. Features 'ROUND 2' and 'Win These Breathtaking Prizes!!!'. Prizes include Philips CD Mini System, Sanyo Twin-Tub Washing Machine, Philips Rice Cooker, and 5 Dozen Philips Bulbs. 5th Prize: Caps & T-Shirts. All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Official Licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

Competition Information, Prizes and Rules. Information: The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98 is a series of competitions on World Cup Soccer being held in France from June 10 to July 12, 1998. Rules: Residents of Bangladesh are eligible to participate in The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98. Employees of The Daily Star and Transcom Electronics Ltd and their immediate family members shall not be eligible to participate.

The Daily Star World Cup Quiz '98, Round Two. Ends April 29, 1998. Tick (✓) the correct answers. 1. For World Cup '98, who was last to qualify? Iran, Iraq, Ireland. 2. The Final of World Cup '98 will be played at Paris, London, Rome. 3. Who is known as Brazil's 'white Pele'? Zico, Romario, Pele. 4. 1974 champs Germany played Final against Holland, England, Brazil. 5. Which one is Danish star Brian Laudrup? Includes small portraits of players.

Tender Notice. According to Tender Notice No. XEN/O&M Divn Mirpur/98/126/251 Dt. 30-3-98. Sealed tenders in PDB Form No. T-1 are hereby invited from enlisted contractor of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority for supplying fitting & fixing Aluminium swing door & window, Tilex tube light, adjust fan, ceiling fan, insulated cable at Digum 132/33 Sub-Station under O&M Divn, Mirpur, DESA, Dhaka. Estimated cost of Tk. 2,28,239. Detailed tender documents/schedule to be obtained at a cost of (i) Tk. 100 (one hundred) non-refundable per set through Bank Draft/Pay Order (from scheduled bank) in favour of the Additional Director, RAO, DESA, Dhaka, during office hours up to 13-5-98 from the office of the (a) General Manager, Consumer Service (North), 75, Kakrail, DESA, Dhaka, (b) Superintending Engineer, Consumer Service, Mirpur Circle, Satmasjid Road, DESA, Dhaka and (c) Manager, Janata Bank, Section-1 Branch, Mirpur, Dhaka with prior permission from the undersigned. The tender will be received up to 12-00 Noon on 14-5-98 along with 2.5% (two point five per cent) earnest money of quoted rate in the shape of PO/DD in favour of Additional Director, RAO, DESA, Dhaka in the above office. The tender will be opened on 14-5-98 at 12-30 PM (in presence of the tenderers, if any). The authority reserves the right of acceptance or rejection of any tender without assigning thereof.

DES/SEC/PR/A5-06 DFP-8292-19/4/98 G-840 Executive Engineer O&M Division, Mirpur DESA, Dhaka.