

Peter starts teaching

PERTH, Oct 27: England's spin doctor Peter Philpott took a beginner's bowling class Tuesday while coach Graham Gooch spared some blunders by banning the media, reports AP.

Philpott, an Australian drafted into the England camp to help them prepare to face longtime nemesis Shane Warne, planned to teach the squad's batsmen how to bowl leg-spin.

Warne, who has taken 85 wickets in 17 Ashes Tests, has not played since shoulder surgery last April but hopes to be fit for the first Test starting in Brisbane on November 20.

Philpott said England's knowledge of wrist spin needed expanding. "They will be bowling them so they understand where the hand has got to be to deliver each ball," Philpott said.

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A Daily Star exclusive

Enthusiasm in Bangladesh is phenomenal—Tony Greig

Hasan Masood

Anthony William Greig better known as Tony Greig needs hardly any introduction to those who have even a little idea about cricket.

He is also considered the pioneer of the instant version of the game when he along with 52 other leading cricketers made a deal with the Australian television magnate, Kerry Packer, to play in the 'World Series Cricket' in 1977.

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tally going to the One-Day games. DS: You have played cricket for England for quite a long period. The standard of cricket is going down in England despite having the most busy local formats. Can you comment on that? Whom do you want to blame for this?

TS: Well, what's happening in England is very sad and one can only blame the administrators of the game there. It's been obvious to me for a long time that the game in England seemed to be struggling. I think the most important thing is that they have to play cricket all the seven days of the week.

TS: Which team is your favourite in the One-Day game?

TS: Well, I would like to speak that the Sri Lankans are playing the most entertaining cricket. I think people like Sanath Jayasuriya, little Kaluwitharana and Aravinda... they are very exciting. And the Australians are playing some good cricket too. Very positive and attacking cricket. They have got some really good players. Steve Waugh... I think he is brilliant. He looks to be the best player in terms of commitment and results.

TS: Do you have any reservation for Indian master blaster Sachin Tendulkar?

TS: Yes, I think Tendulkar is the best player in the world at the moment. He is one of those players who is just absolutely wonderful to watch. You don't want to miss his batting and I hope he keeps going for quite a long time. He provides a lot of entertainment for a lot of people.

TS: Cricket in this sub-continent, specially in Pakistan, is going through major problems because of the betting scandal. What do you think in this regard?

TS: I just like to see some one make a decision. You know I just like to see some one do something on that. There are too many decisions coming out from the courts. If there is any proof that any one has misbehaved or breached the code of ethics of cricket, don't pick them. If they don't do that they are going to continue with the problem.

TS: Finally, what is your impression about Dhaka on your first visit? How is the crowd here and the atmosphere?

TS: Well, can I just say Bangladesh, first of all, that it's absolutely amazing to me. It reminds me of Eden Gardens in Calcutta and also the enthusiasm the people have in cricket... it reminds me of my favourite ground which is Eden Gardens. So, it's not as big... it just holds as many people. But the enthusiasm to the game here when one considers the country is yet to play Test, is absolutely phenomenal. It seems that the morale of the people is so... you know through the roof, very high. So clearly Bangladesh people are very resilient and that's an unbelievable attribute.

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They have to commit a living out of cricket. I suppose they will be able to work out and play. There are lots of very good cricketers in England who are not prepared to commit themselves to seven-day a week cricket when they are 20 years of age. Of course, that takes a lot of people out of the contention. The best thing is for England is... I don't know why they haven't done yet... is to create a very very good amateur league. In other words, an inter-town league to give people an opportunity to also play for England. They should also use a part of the millions of dollars they are collecting from television revenue to see to it that the competition is successful. That is the

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Botham's Ashes

SYDNEY, Oct 27 (AFP): Cricket fans tuning in to coverage of the Ashes tour by one Australian television network might be in for fireworks.

Channel Nine have hired England's Ian Botham to share the commentary box with his arch-rival and former Australian captain Ian Chappell.

Chappell said today he would have no problems working with his old sparring partner. "That's all right as long as they don't expect me to socialise with him because I certainly won't be doing that," he said.

The two former greats have been sworn enemies since a much-publicised bar-room clash in the Melbourne Hilton in 1977.

The Chappell-Botham feud was reignited two years ago when Chappell wrote an article about Botham's chances of becoming an England Test selector.

"How can you respect a guy who puts an empty beer glass in your face and says he will cut you from ear to ear," he wrote. Botham denied the beer-glass incident.

He said at the time he had warned Chappell to cool the pommie-bashing. "Then, finally I could take no more so I threw a punch at him."

Botham says Chappell offered one final insult as he left the bar and he "exploded", chasing him into the street. He retreated when a police car drew up.

"I haven't had many words with him since," said Chappell today. "It would suit me if I never spoke to the guy again."

Channel Nine's cricket executive producer Graeme Kooze, who signed Botham to line up with Chappell and Richie Benaud, said: "It's great to have a bit of rivalry. That's where Ian (Botham) will be good."

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Congratulations Mark!

SYDNEY, Oct 27 (AP/AFR) Richie Benaud, the only other Australian cricket captain to win a series in Pakistan, was among the first to congratulate Mark Taylor's side for wrapping up a 1-0 triumph in Karachi.

"I thought the senior players — Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Ian Healy in particular — were outstanding but the entire team made contributions," Benaud said Tuesday. "It's fantastic."

Benaud's team beat Pakistan 2-0 in the 1959-60 series while Taylor's team set up its 1-0 win with a victory in the first Test and draws in the second and third.

"It was slightly disappointing they didn't win the last Test for 2-0," Benaud said. "But it was a marvellous effort and the team deserves every plaudit it's getting, every one."

Bob Simpson led an Australian team to Pakistan as captain in 1964-65 and coached teams led by Allan Border in 1988-89 and Taylor in 1994. He lost all three times.

"It is without doubt a great achievement, especially to dominate the whole series and win so comfortably," Simpson said Tuesday. "The 1994 series was very frustrating because we probably played just as well and lost."

Taylor's 1994 team was deprived of victory by a record last-wicket stand in the third Test as the hosts made more than 300 on the final day.

His first Test in Pakistan resulted in two ducks and the series loss but he was heralded as Australia's player-of-the-series after the victory and his Australian record-equaling 334 in the second game.

Taylor, who had been expected to retire in March following the upcoming Ashes tour by England, said the series may have increased his time in the

stand down as Test skipper after the upcoming home series against England but, bolstered by his team's success over Pakistan and his own stunning return to form, the 34-year-old opening batsman wants to continue.

Meanwhile Taylor, said today England are next in the firing line.

"The key is to carry on the good work and we will be up against a spirited England side who beat South Africa very recently," said Taylor, who celebrated his 34th birthday at a private club with colleagues.

He termed the 1-0 series win Monday as "historic and one of Australia's top wins."

"The last time we played England at home four years ago, we beat them 3-1 after having lost to Pakistan 1-0. Now we have a win under our belts against Pakistan, so I am sure the result of the Ashes will be more convincing for us this time."

On the other hand, tough-talking England captain Alec Stewart warned today there would be no room for sentiment when he returned to his "second home" — Perth — for his side's opening clash of the Ashes tour.

"We want to win it — we want to win every game on tour," he said at the end of a gruelling six hours' practice only two days before the tourists take on an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in a one-day hit-out at Lilac Hill Park, Caversham, near here, Thursday.

Stewart, 35, spent eight seasons as a young player with the Midland-Guildford District Club at Lilac Hill before he made his mark with Surrey and later England.

"Look, I was out to dinner last night with the fellows from Midland-Guildford, the people I played with and who helped me so much," he said.

"But I told them we are going up to Lilac Hill to win. "I know it is a festive game — I have played it in twice before — but it is a match we want to win."

"I am looking forward to it. It is great going back as England player, and especially as captain."

The Lilac Hill warm-up game, on the banks of the Meandering Swan river, has become the Australian equivalent of the traditional Arundel match which launches Australian cricket tours of England.

Stewart said England's batsmen had gained useful advice about leg-spin during a three-hour session early in the day with leg-spinning guru Peter Philpott, an Australian Test player of the 1960s.

England have hired the Sydney schoolteacher in a bid to demystify the bowling of champion spin bowler Shane Warne — assuming he is fit — during the series.

TTF's warning SYDNEY, Oct 27 A leading tourism spokesman has warned that the industry would be hurt if Australian governments gouged Olympic Games visitors with increased taxes, reports AP.

Tourism Task Force (TTF) chief executive officer Chris Brown said the federal government's plan to introduce a goods and services tax in time to slug Games visitors and the New South Wales government's bed tax showed they were leading the way in gouging.

—AP/UNB photo

—AP/UNB photo

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sending sides from the academy over there," said Chappell. "The players are a lot better prepared and the senior guys have been there before. They've all been very well prepared."

Former skipper Hughes believes the introduction of neutral umpires to Test match cricket contributed to Australia's series success.

"What a fantastic win but we still owe the Pakistanis plenty," Hughes said.

Hughes, adamant his claim took nothing away from the "tremendous achievement" of the Australians, said his 1982-83 outfit was on a hiding to nothing from Pakistani umpires.

"We had a pretty handy team in '82 with guys like Greg and Dennis but it felt like we had to get 18 wickets in an innings and they (Pakistan) had to get six," Hughes said.

"There weren't too many lbws against them but there were plenty against us."

"So to be brutally frank and honest, using these neutral umpires makes life a lot easier over there."

England coach Graham Gooch, preparing a side to meet Australia on its return from the subcontinent, also praised Taylor's outfit.

"It's not an easy place to win: it's tough conditions and Pakistan are a difficult side to predict," said Gooch. "They're a bit erratic but you have got to give Australia credit, they did well. I have to congratulate them."

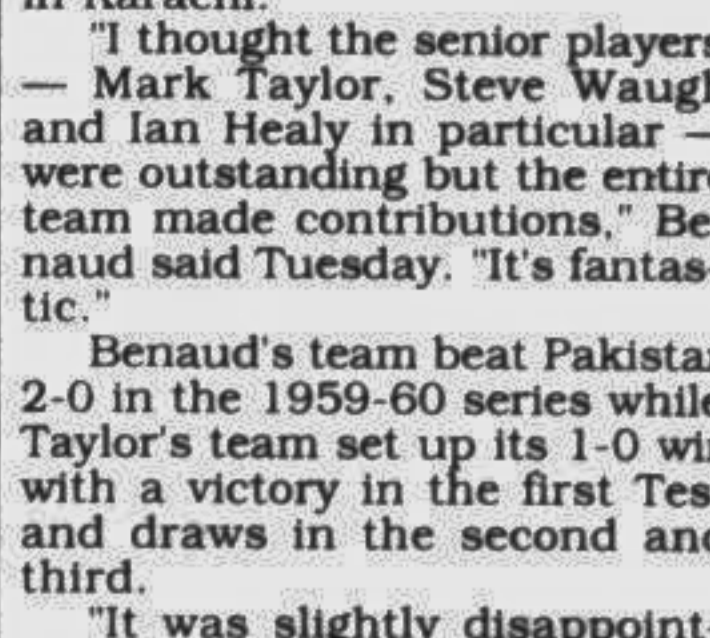
Australian cricket writers said the series win was one of the most important in the country's history.

"It ranks with victory in the West Indies three years ago as a defining moment in the modern game," wrote Malcolm Conn in The Australian.

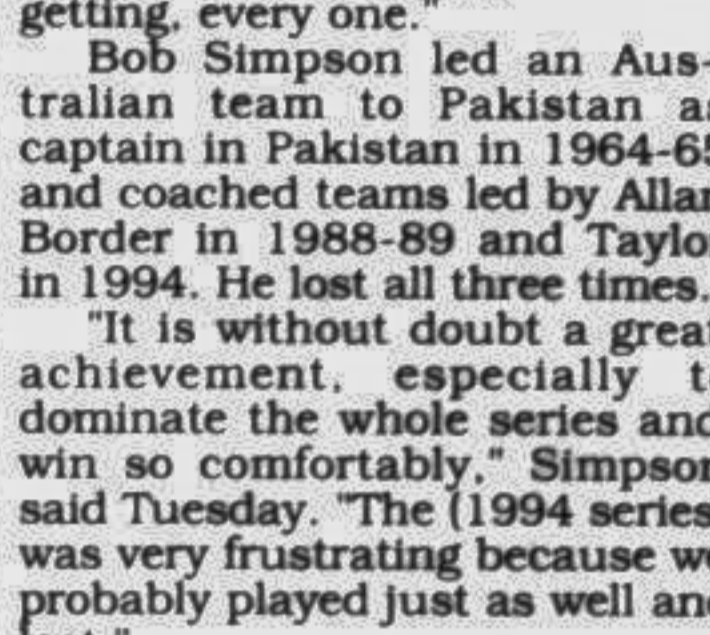
Mark Ray, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, said Taylor's "place in the first rank of Australian captains was confirmed" by the victory.

—AP/UNB photo

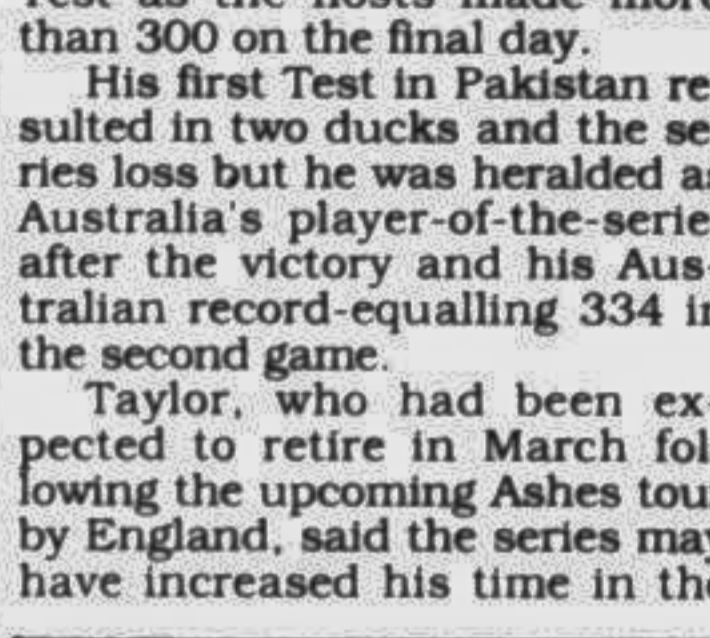
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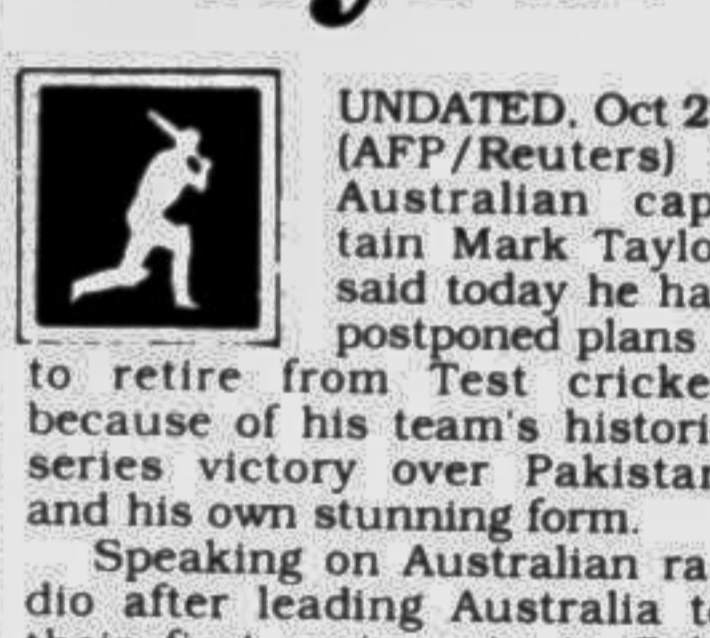
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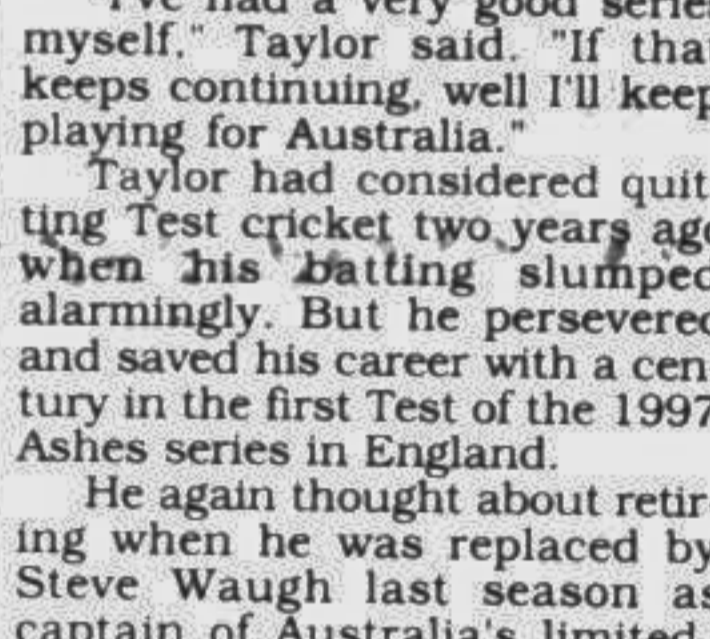
GREG CHAPPELL



MARK TAYLOR



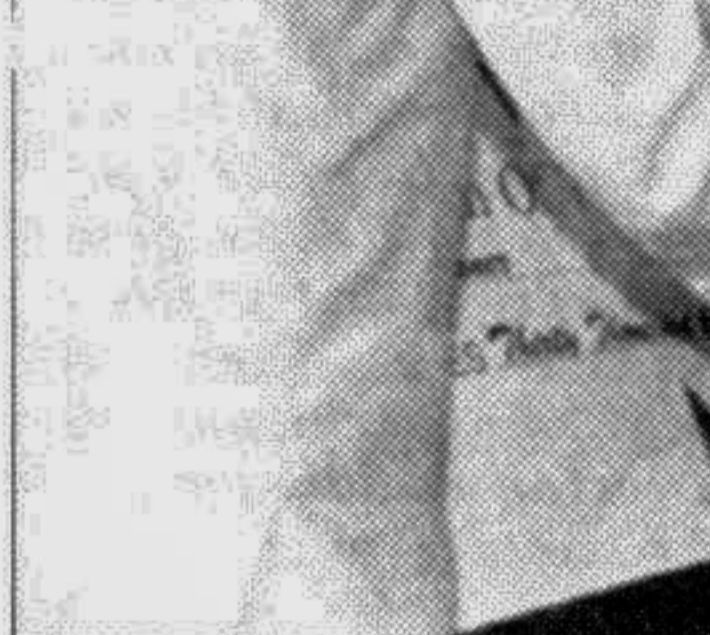
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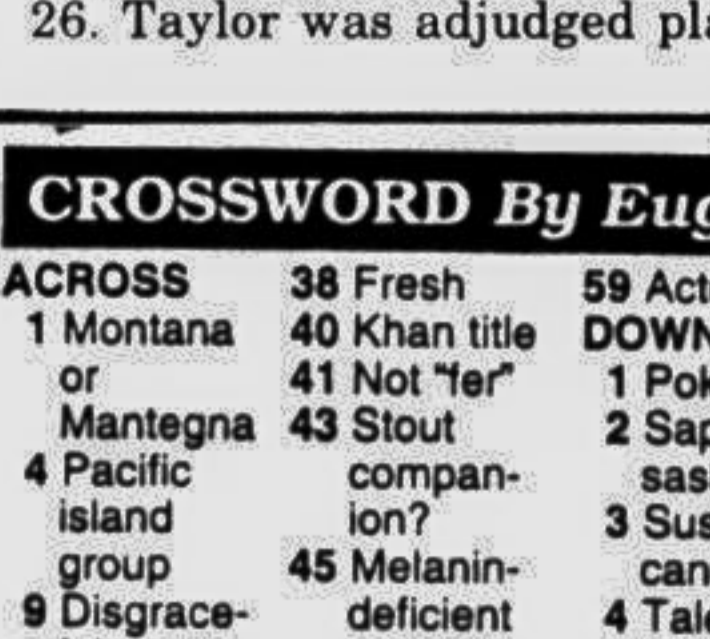
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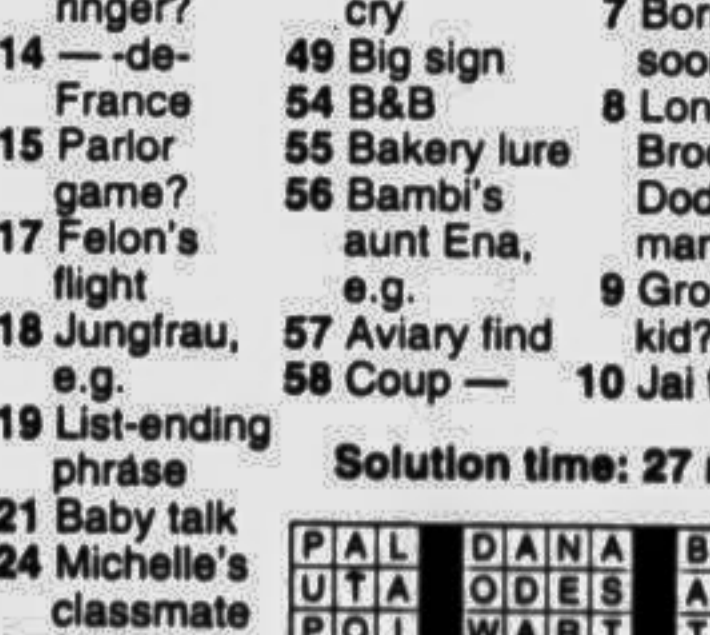
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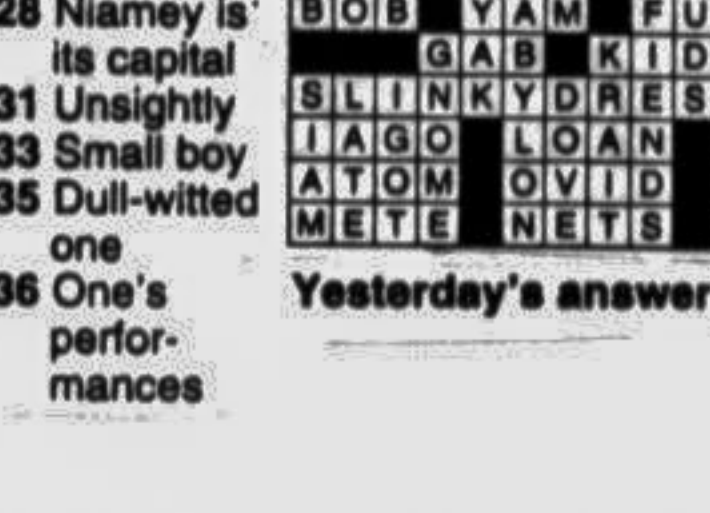
ALLAN BORDER



BOB SIMPSON



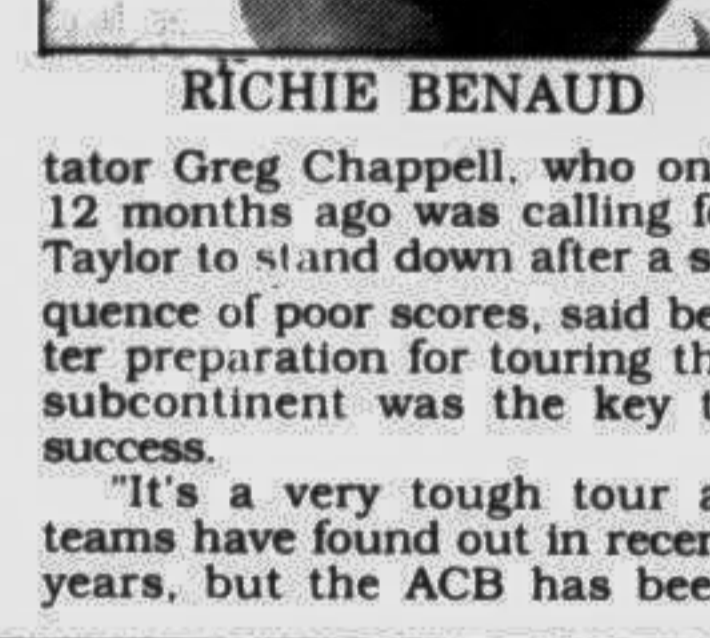
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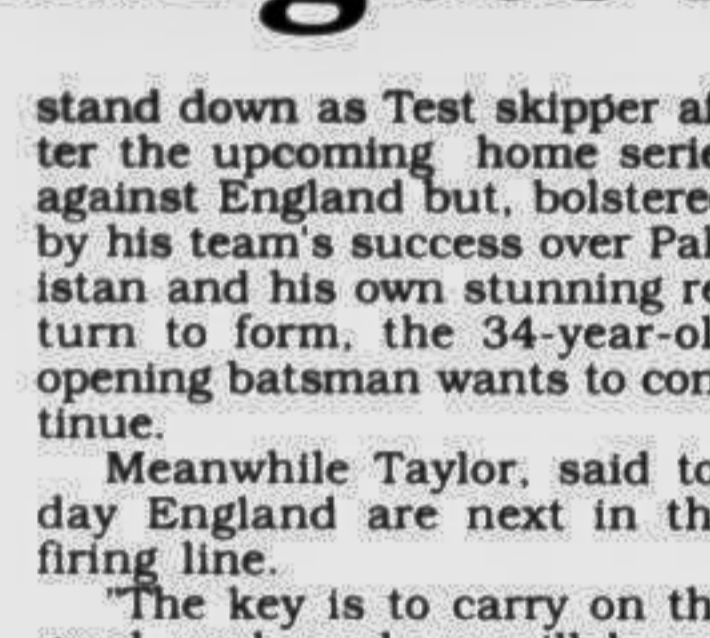
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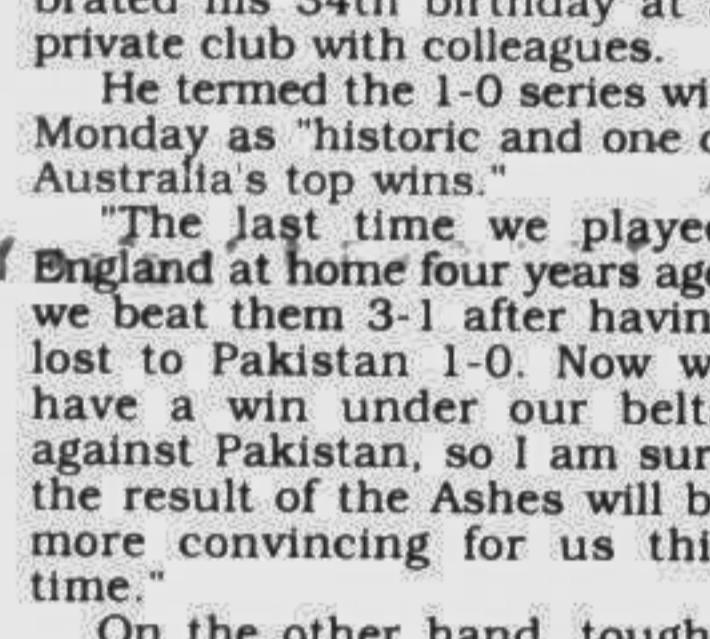
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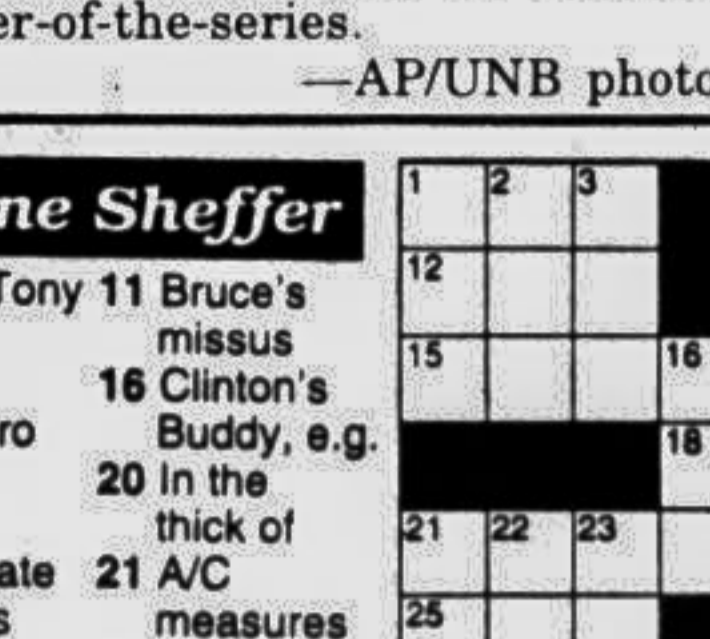
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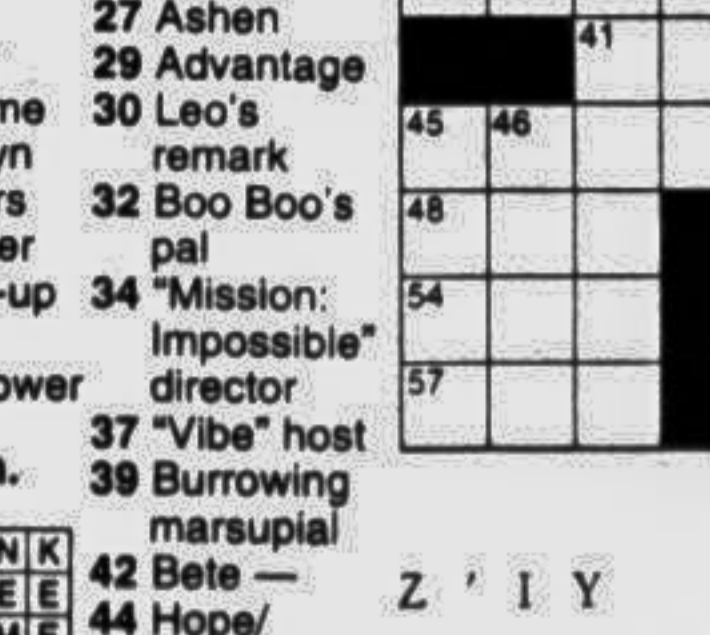
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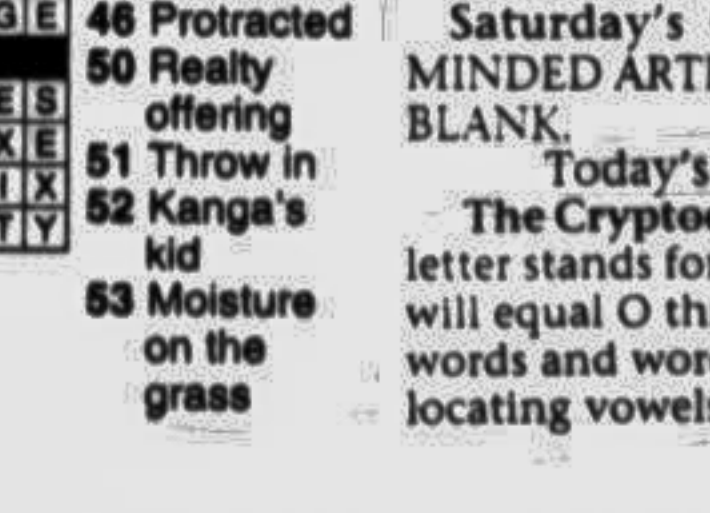
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GREG CHAPPELL



MARK TAYLOR



IAN BOTHAM

Hamed coming to America

LONDON, Oct 27: After a two-day delay caused by visa problems, "Prince" Naseem Hamed flew to the United States on Tuesday for Saturday's WBO featherweight defence against Wayne McCullough in Atlantic City, reports AP.

Hamed, who was supposed to have arrived in the States on Sunday, had to delay his departure because his handlers waited until the last minute to apply for his visa.

British newspapers said the American pay-TV company HBO was furious that Hamed had missed major promotion events in New York, Atlantic City and Philadelphia.

Promoter Frank Warren, blamed by HBO for Hamed's late arrival, tried to be upbeat. "All the problems have been solved," he said at Heathrow airport. "There was a problem with the visa and it's all been sorted. That's why we're getting on the plane."

Hamed, despite the mix-up and a falling out with trainer Brendan Ingle, predicted a quick fight as he boarded the Concorde accompanied by family members and Warren.

"I'll win in three," he said, thrusting three fingers in the air. "You can't put your house on it. You couldn't lose."

Hamed, 30-0 with 28 knockouts, is making his 11th title defence. McCullough, an Irishman, is 22-1 with 14 KOs.

Advantage Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Oct 27: Organisers of the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics will have a much easier time pulling together money to meet their budget than their counterparts from Atlanta's 1996 games, reports AP.

Organisers of the centennial summer Olympics struggled to raise 1.8 billion dollars and broke even by selling out space and sponsor deals in an over-commercialised mess.

Humane Australians

Sports Reporter

Every sportsman is a humanist and Australian one-day cricket captain Stephen Rodger Waugh is no exception.

Steve, along with his three-teammates — Brendon Julian, Adam Gilchrist and Andrew Symonds, spent some time with 12 under-privileged girls and boys of Save the Children, Australia at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The Australian captain shook hands with the children and allowed them to have photographs with him. He also presented a bat signed by all members of the Australian team.

"It's an inexplicable joy. I never imagined I'll see the Australians in person with my own eyes. And now we also played a game..." an excited Yusuf Khan ran off before he could finish the sentence to get an autograph of Steve.

The boys and girls, in white cricket dresses and in full playing gears, were all smiles as the cricketers played the friendly game with a tape-tennis ball to raise funds for the country's flood-hit children.

There was no crowd inside the stadium, but journalists, and movie and still cameras were there when the Aussie skipper showed the youngsters how to face spin or pace balls.

The lucky group of boys and girls, coming from remote villages in Tangal district, had heard the names of the Aussie cricketers and only a few of them watched their heroes on television. But they never

thought of watching the stars in action in front of them. "We play other games, but like cricket most," said Mustafiz sporting a cap given by Steve Waugh.

Steve did not think he was doing anything extraordinary as "children around the world should be helped."

"I like to play with the children and to do something for them, especially those in need," said Waugh, who worked for the lepers in Calcutta several months back.

Gilchrist and Julian also showed off some cricketing techniques. SCA National Director Wendy Rose said on the great occasion: "The team's participation shows the same generosity of spirit that makes such a wonderful contribution to world cricket."

"After the devastation of the flood, the visit by the Australian team will bring back for these children some of the joy that should be part of every childhood," she said.

SCA official Golam Mustafa, who had brought the children to Bangabandhu National Stadium, said they would auction the bat autographed by the players to raise funds for the flood-hit Bangladesh children in their project areas.

The first seeded players will be in action on Tuesday but the man the local fans are waiting to see is a wild card entrant, German idol Boris Becker.

The three-times Wimbledon champion, now semi-retired, won twice in Stuttgart, in 1990 and 1996. He faces a qualifier, Dutchman Sjren Schalken.

The crowd will also cheer on another German, Nicolas Kiefer, who plays Byron Black of Zimbabwe. The winner of that match will challenge Sampras.

English hire Birkenshaw LONDON, Oct 27: Leicester-shire coach Jack Birkenshaw has been called up to work with the England one-day team for their international series in Australia next year, reports Reuters.

Birkenshaw, who will oversee two training sessions in November and December, has been chosen to replace England coach David Lloyd, who will be on Ashes duty in Australia. The team will be named in mid-November and will fly to Australia on December 26.

Chang bites the dust

STUTTGART, Oct 27: Troubled Michael Chang, who has nothing to do with the ongoing battle for the number one spot, suffered another embarrassing defeat when he fell to unheralded Frenchman Guillaume Raoux in straight sets in the first round of the Eurocard Open on Monday, reports Reuters.

Former world number two Chang, struggling to recover from a string of injuries, looked as pale as his current ranking on his way to another early exit.