CANBERRA, Oct 31: Australia's rising leg-spinner Stu-art MacGill made a triumphant return home today when he took five wickets to steer New South Wales to victory over the Australian Capital Territory in a Mercantile Cup limited-overs match, reports Reuters.

Playing his first game since helping Australia secure a his-toric series win in Pakistan, MacGill took five for 40 as ACT crumbled to be all out for 205 in 43.2 overs in reply to NSW's 235 from 50 overs.

Rodney Davision top scored for NSW with 89 while allrounder Shane Lee smashed 85 and picked up a bonus prize of 90,000 Australian dollar (55,800 US) along the way for hitting a designated sponsor's sign with a six.

Lee also caught ACT opener Paul Evans off the first ball of their innings then ran out Graeme Cunningham, who top scored for the ACT with 76, to seal victory.

But it was MacGill who turned the match NSW's way. He had ACT captain Mike Veletta stumped for 28 off his first de-livery, then clean bowled all-rounder Ian Garrity for a duck with the last ball of his first

### Moeller agrees to return

COLOGNE, Oct 31: New German coach Erich Ribbeck has convinced Borussia Dortmund's Andreas Moeller to make an early international comeback in the friendly clash next month against Holland, reports

The midfielder a disappointment at the World Cup. announced a couple of months ago he would not play for Germany for the forseeable future and instead concentrate on recapturing his form.

Ribbeck, however, is desperately in need of a midfield playmaker.

Moeller is recovering from a painful viral inflammation. thought to be shingles, and misses Dortmund's home game against Hamburg today.

The 31-year-old Moeller did not play in Germany's two European championship qualifiers this month against Turkey and Moldova. His last start was on July 4 in the second-round World Cup tie with Mexico.

Although Moeller has 82 caps he has developed a reputation of failing on the big occasions. Germany's new assistant coach Uli Stielike had written him off after France '98 for being a "non-starter."

Ribbeck, who replaced Berti Vogts as German coach after he quit in September, plans up to six changes to the 22-man squad which played in Turkey and Moldova for the Holland

Lothar Matthaeus, Thomas Strunz and Mario Basler will all resume after injury.

Paris St Germain's Christian Worns has sat out his two game suspension, picked up during Germany's defeat against Croatia at the World Cup, and AC Milan winger Christian Ziege will win a reprieve after showing good form against Lazio Rome at the week-

The Holland friendly will be contested at Schalke's Park Stadium on November 12th.

### Kuerten has an eye disorder

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct 31: Top Brazilian tennis player Gustavo Kuerten, 23rd in ATP's world rankings, has discovered the reason for his poor form: he's short-sighted, reports AP.

"One moment I win a difficult point and the next I lose one because I can't see the ball clearly," the former French Open winner told the O Globo newspaper Thursday.

## Walcott sends ominous smoke signal

# Test status a far cry

Hasan Masood

Bangladesh will not be awarded Test status, the privilege to play the game at the highest level, unless it meets certain criteria. This was disclosed by Sir Clyde Walcott, chairman of the Cricket Committee of the International Cricket Council (ICC), while talking to The Daily Star during the first semi-final of the Wills International Cup between South Africa and Sri Lanka on Friday.

When prodded about the many assurances so far given by representatives of the game's world governing body that Bangladesh would get the Test status within the next two years or so, the former West Indies cricketer said, "I am not aware of that. I know that they are working towards improving the criteria set for all the associates to reach in order to become a Test playing country. And we have not given any specific

About the time limit, Sir Walcott said, "I don't know. It depends on whether they meet the criteria which has been set. There are several criteria; playing three or four-day cricket is one, the government has the game among the young people and the approach to play better cricket generally". "All I would say is that the

facility here at the Bangabandhu Stadium is good. I have not seen any other facility. But I think once you work with young players, young cricketers in the schools with the very high population you have, and get the game interested among.

Sino cyclist

killed

SHANGHAI, Oct 31: Chinese

women's cross-country cycling

champion Wang Zexiu has been

killed in a hit-and-run accident

while training for December's

Asian Games, the Liberation

Daily reported today, reports

of Asian cross-country cycling".

was doing road training early

Wednesday near the eastern city

of Nanjing with other members

of the national team when a bus

went out of control and ran her

over, killing her instantly, the

celerated away from the scene,

from the Asian cross-country

cycling championships and the

last Chinese national games,

was in top form and national

team officials had high hopes

she would take gold at the up-

coming Bangkok Asiad, the re-

It described the tragedy as "a

heavy loss" for the country's cy-

The driver immediately ac-

Wang, who held gold medals

official newspaper said.

it said.

port said.

cling team.

Wang, 26, called "the queen

the youngsters, then I think you can get closer to the Test status," opined Sir Walcott.

"The response from the peo-ple to cricket as I have seen for the first time coming here in Dhaka is extremely good. The





interest is high. The crowd is very disciplined and knowl-edgeable. I am only surprised that the standard of cricket in Bangladesh isn't higher than it

is," added Sir Clyde.
When asked about the present picture of the game with the two versions, the bespectacled hero of yesteryears said.
"Cricket has changed. There is, for example, the limited-over game which is completely different from the Test cricket. And that has changed the whole approach to cricket. So there has been a big change in cricket

over the years." "You have to keep faith in what's going on in the world. Everything is changing and I have no problem with that. The game has become more professional, more commercialised And that is what we have to accept today," he continued.

About the dwindling stan-dard of Caribbean cricket, Sir Walcott said, "West Indies has been reeling in the eighties and the nineties; probably for about sixteen years. You can't con-tinue to win for life. The other countries are improving. And we had such a talented side, that it is difficult to maintain a standard throughout. So I think West Indies can still compete but they may not be champions. They should go on and develop new players and hopefully they become better again."
Finally, Sir Walcott praised

the West Indies captain Brian Lara saying, "I think he is a very knowledgeable individual in cricket and he should do very well as captain.

# Crowds, flags & fans



against India yesterday. West Indies captain Brian city. Lara obviously was quite happy

reports UNB. Following their Wills International Cup opener against Pakistan on Thursday, the world record holder in Test cricket praised the spectators who packed the 35,000-capacity

At the same time, Lara was a little frustrated that almost the entire stadium wanted a win for Pakistan.

when West Indies took on India in the second semi-final of the knockout tournament. Spectators supporting

Azharuddin and company were still larger in number, but the Calypso cricketers also had the fans flying flags beating drums and chanting for Lara. "Why shall we not support

"Bangladesh is not here. But

I feel the same pride when the West Indian players perform The Indian tri-colour, how-

ever, outnumbered the West Indian flags. The cheers for Sachin and Saurav were also much louder than for Lara. Several vendors were found selling the Indian flags outside

the stadium. One of them, Kashem said he sold about fifty before and during the match. Like Kashem, many vendors,

not allowed inside the stadium this time as previously, were quite happy with the eightmatch 10-day tournament involving the nine Test-playing nations. "Could it be continued for a

longer period, we won't have any problem of bread and but ter," said Abdur Rahim, a seller of muri (puffed rice). "The football World Cup continues for a month, why not this one," he

#### Stewart has mysterious illness PERTH, Oct 31: England

cricket captain Alec Stewart moved to allay fears today that a back problem could plague him during his side's Ashes tour, reports AFP.

Stewart, 35, who withdrew at the eleventh-hour from the tourists' team to play Western Australia in a four-day game here, said: "It is a problem that just flares up now and again. It is just there — and then it will

Stewart's condition is de-scribed as "back soreness". It also prevented him from field-ing in England's opening game of the tour against an Aus-tralian Cricket Board Chairman's XI at Lilac Hill Park.

Caversham, on Thursday.

Stewart scored an apparently untroubled 74 from 68

balls earlier that day. Stewart said he had had every intention of playing in the match against Western Aus-

But, this morning it was not 100 per cent right, so I was not going to risk playing and being set back even further," he said. "If this had been a Test match, it would have been a toss up," whether he played or not, said Stewart.

Stewart said he was hoping his back would be satisfactory for him to practise in the nets here tomorrow morning.

"The trouble comes on only once or twice a year, and for no special reason," he said. "I have hardly missed any games because of it in my ca-

reer, so I am not going to start panicking now." Stewart is a crucial member of the tourists' line-up for the five Test against Australia starting in Brisbane in three

A veteran of 81 Tests, he is a vital middle order batsman and the team's number one wicketkeeper, as well as being an outstanding leader.

#### Saeed, Inzamam & Mushtaq testify

LAHORE, Oct 31: A Pakistani judge probing match-fixing allegations today examined three Test cricketers who all told him they were unaware of any wrong-doing, sources said, reports AFP.

Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq and Mushtaq Ahmed testified before judge Malik Mohammad Qavyum. The judge was "annoyed" at

the statements and asked Inzamam to appear again at the next hearing, the Pakistan Cricket Board's legal advisor Ali Sibtain Fazli said. Inzamam was "scolded

when he told the judge he did not remember the occasion when Pakistani players took an wath on the Quran not to in-· volve in any wrongdoing during the 1994 South African tour. The judge warned Inzamam

against perjury, other sources said. "Go and improve your memory," a source quoted the judge as telling the cricketer. The next hearing will be held on November 11 when the judge

will record a statement from former Pakistan captain Imran Khan, who is now active in national politics. "We asked Mushtaq about the allegations that he and

Salim Malik were offered 100,000 dollars each over a match in the Singer Cup in Sri Lanka in 1994 and he denied it. Fazli said. Anwar denied former Pak-

istan captain Javed Burki's statement before the inquiry commission that once he (Anwar) told Burki that he was offered money to throw away his wicket during a one-day match in Sri Lanka.

"Anwar denied all that and took all the responsibility for Pakistan's loss to India in the 1996 World Cup quarterfinal on himself," Fazli said. The judicial commission

was set up in September and has so far held 17 hearings. Fazli said the hearings were expected to conclude in Novem-

### Benaud abandons the BBC

LONDON, Oct 31: Richie Benaud, the voice of televised cricket in Britain for the last 35 years, has left the BBC to join Channel 4's commentary team, it was announced Friday, report

The former Australian captain has signed a four-year contract to help front the station's coverage after they secured the rights from the BBC to screen England's home Tests and the domestic NatWest Tro-

He will link up with Channel 4 in time for England's fourmatch series against New Zealand next summer. Benaud said: "I'm delighted

to be able to work with Channel 4 on Test matches the NatWest Trophy and the other areas of cricket in the UK. "I hope my own experience with commercial television

will be of benefit to viewers over the next four years. "I have always been in favour of mixing sensible innovation with the traditions of

the game and that will be my aim with Channel 4." Benaud never lost a series while captain of Australia in 28 Tests between 1958 and 1963. He played for his country in 63

Tests in all. The BBC, who had televised cricket since the inaugural broadcast in 1938, lost the rights to cover the sport two weeks ago when the English Cricket Board announced they were moving to Channel 4 in a bid to attract a younger and



Borussia Moenchengladbach's Marcel Ketelaer (L) and Nico Kovac of Bayer Leverkusen are in quest of the ball during their Bundesliga clash in Moenchengladbach on October 30. -AP/UNB photo

### Ronaldo stakes a claim Bosman ruling in December



MILAN, Oct 31: A vear after Inter Milan bought Ronaldo, the Brazilian multi-millionaire is buying a stake in the Italian club. reports AFP.

Inter president Massimo Moratti, whose family control nearly 70 per cent of the shares, has announced a loss of nearly 30 million dollars and the arrival of an unexpected backer.

someone about Inter earlier today and he asked me if he could buy some shares in the club," Moratti told a shareholders' meeting here on Friday.

was Ronaldo. Inter is a private company

with few shareholders - club sponsor Pirelli has 13 per cent, another Milanese family 12 per cent and Inter's bankers five per cent. Small shareholders have only 0.5 per cent of the club. "Given the difficulty in finding Inter shares available, I will sell him some of mine," the president said, he insisted the 22-year-old striker was making a sound investment. Inter's dismal finances are

only temporary, Moratti said, blaming the red balance sheet mainly on the European court's

"I had a conversation with

"I thought it was a nice thing to ask, and the main question

RONALDO

1995, which changed the way clubs keep their books. Pre-Bosman, clubs could include the market value of play-

ers whose contracts were expiring, as a buyer would still have pay them a transfer fee. But by outlawing transfer fees on players whose contracts

had expired. Those assets vanished, and the court wiped hundreds of millions of dollars off the books of Europe's soccer clubs. Moratti said that 24 billion

of the 45 billion lira loss for the 1997-98 season was down to Bosman write-offs. But he insisted: "Ronaldo

knows that he is making an excellent investment.

"From 1999 onwards, when the new TV rights contract with Telepiu starts, alongwith the new ones for European matches and the new sponsorship deals - Inter will be worth as much as Manchester United: 1,770 billion lira (over a billion dol-

Rame with no chance three

duced the deficit through a goal

from close range eight minutes

after into an enthralling second

Striker Kaba Diawara re-

minutes from the break.

half.

### Strasbourg stun Bordeaux games and so relished their secwhich left goalkeeper Ulrich

ond victory at home this season

while Bordeaux went down to



rasbourg restored their pride by taming Girondins Bordeaux 3-2 in a nailbiting I match.

on Friday to leave Olympique. The lead through a header from Marseille, who trounced Lorient striker Lionel Rouxel in the 3-1 on Thursday, as sole leaders 27th minute.

their second defeat in 11 games. The team from the east, who dominated the first half, took



Marseille are on 27 points. two clear of Bordeaux.

Troubled Paris St Germain took their first victory in five games and the first since Portuguese coach Arture Jorge took over from the sacked Alain Giresse two weeks ago. Nigerian midfielder Jay-Jay

Okocha, who was unhappy with his performances since he joined the team in August, rediscovered his scoring skill with a pair.

Okocha opened the scoring in the sixth minute, blasting home a cross from defender Jimmy Algerino, and put the match beyond doubt against a disappointing Auxerre 10 min-utes after the break.

Rennes defender Dominique Arribage scored the only goal of the match against his former team Toulouse to lift the Brittany side to the third position in the tables on 23 points.

Monaco who trounced Nan-Marseille.

tes 3-1 on Thursday, are now fourth seven points behind

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS** see through 1 Prepare for 41 Plato's H 56 Bleacherite 19 Elvis' shoe a shortage 43 Tandoori 57 Wan 6 Fit, to Bart bread material 44 Typical 21 Homer Simpson DOWN 1 Sombrero Simpson's 9 Jack's 2 "-- Town" malt eater movie 3 Fighting 22 Motorists' 12 Saul 45 A one an' 4 Streamlet Bellow's a two? 24 Author Mr. March 47 Lacking 5 Buys and 13 Li'l Abner's 49 Put an 26 Elongated 6 Beach

end to 14 Japanese 52 1980s rock structure group, Split — 7 Act 15 Refrain robotically 53 "Can I take 8 Drenched 30 Tracks up? phrase 16 Linking 9 — la Paix that as --?" 18 "You 54 Muppet 10 Fred's sib- 33 Its stats betchal" Emmet, ling partner

20 Inactive 11 Hues 21 Rather or 55 "L.A. Law" 17 It lets you 34 Kyushu Quayle Solution time: 26 mins. Virginia" newspaper 24 Prayers are

38 New Year's

on them 25 Kiln KATE GATEWAYS
INO UNO WEE
40 Posh
TYMPANUM SKAT
42 City near 27 Let up 29 Extreme 31 Protuberant 35 Old song, 37 "- off to Yesterday's answer

an axe you think Knoxville 45 Charlie, for one 46 Ex-Gis 48 Lummox 50 Observe

51 Compass

point suffi

foxhole

28 Make like

may be

32 Under

Yamaguchi CRYPTOQUIP HBTH NYOI EGOY

> EHQOY ZYRTOHVYLH ZYHYDHANY DQGLHYO ERI. HOGHB,

> Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A CAT FANCIER'S FA-VORITE SOÁP OPÉŘA IŠ LÍABLE TO BE "NINE LIVES TO LIVE." Today's Cryptoquip clue: D equals C

> 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.

## SIX NO TRUMPS

A K Sayeedul Huq

WEST MADE A WRONG CONTRACT! (Hand # 129)

West AS A3 ♥H: K10852 ♦D QJ5 +C KQ5

₩ H: A63 East D None AS: K1075 ♣ C.863 ♥ H: Q J 9 4 ◆ D: K 10 9 3 South ♣ C:10 AS. None ◆ D: A87642 ♣ C AJ9742

Bidding: North South were vulnerable

South West East Pass 3 Spades Double Pass 3 No Trumps Pass 4 Hearts Pass Pass Pass Double Pass Pass

In a vulnerable position North opened pre-emptive 3 Spades which, when came around to West, was doubled. East had a choice to keep it stay for penalty. In that case 4 Clubs could be bid by South. In fact 5 Clubs could be made, as the cards were distributed. However, East bid 3 No Trumps, which could be easily made. At that stage, South decided not to come into bidding in a vulnerable position. West however took a wrong decision to bid 4 Hearts. This was doubled by south for penalty, as although he had a singleton Heart, he could ruff a Spade, and two Aces could book the double and partner should be able to get a trick or

#### THE PLAY

PERTH, Oct 31: Speed pair Darren Gough and Alan Mullally spared England's blushes on the opening day of their initial first-class

game of their Ashes tour here today, reports AFP. Energetic Yorkshireman Gough snapped up three wickets and left-armer Mullally two as England turfed three chances and went without reward for long periods against an under-

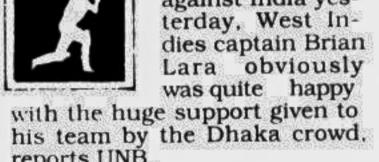
manned Western Australian side at the WACA ground. Overall, it was not a performance that will concern Aussie

North (D) ♠ S : Q J 9 8 6 42

and then cashed the Ace of Diamonds. When North showed out, he led the 2 of Diamonds to indicate the Club entry. North thought of returning a Spade in case South had another Heart to ruff Spade. However, it was unlikely because West would not have bid 4 Hearts with four cards. Moreover, South would not have led the 2 of Diamonds, if he had another Heart to ruff the second Spade. He therefore dutifully led a Club which South took with the Ace and gave partner another Diamond ruff. Thus, defence got six tricks for down three.

North opened the Queen of Spades, dummy played low, but South ruffed

#### After their victory best side in the tournament. said Mahmudul Haq who came from Wari in the old part of the



Bangabandhu National Stadium.

But things looked different

the West Indies? They are the asked. WA overcome early shock

> skipper Mark Taylor's side almost three weeks before the first Test of a five match series starting in Brisbane. Western Australia went to stumps with 265-6 in their first innings, to which 23-year-old left-hander Simon Katich contributed and excellent, con-

trolled 106 in five and a half hours in only his 11th firstclass game. The unbeaten batsmen are

Kade Harvey (7) and Matthew Nicholson (16). England failed to consolidate after an encouraging start despite losing the toss and being asked to field in heat of 34 degree Centigrade (90 Fahrenheit)

#### heat under a blistering sun. After only 13 deliveries. Western Australia were a Tyson plans to

fight in Jan NEW YORK, Oct 31: Mike Tyson is headed for a fight early

next year at the site of his boxing ban. "He's going to fight in January," Shelly Finkel, calling himself Tyson's boxing adviser, said Thursday. "We're looking

It was at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas that Tyson bit Evander Holyfield's ears June 28. 1997, leading to his license revocation and a dlrs 3 million fine.

at Las Vegas.

to restore Tyson's license. The former champion, however, still faces a Dec. 1 trial on misdemeanor assault charges stemming from a traffic accident Aug. 31 at Gaithersburg. Maryland.

Finkel did not mention a

specific site or date, but the

MGM Grand reportedly is inter-

Commission voted 4-1 on Oct 19

The Nevada State Athletic

ested in bringing Tyson back. with Jan. 16 a possibility. As for an opponent, Finkel said. "We're looking at the Axel Schulzes, the Francois Bothas, the Vaughn Beans, somebody like that. Schulz, Botha and Bean are

capable fighters, but are not

knockout punchers, which is in their favour when considered as possible opponents for Tyson. They have good records and have title-fight experience. In other words, they are much more acceptable, and saleable at this point of Tyson's career than a Peter McNeeley would be. In Tyson's first fight after his release from prison in 1995, he beat McNeeley in 89 seconds.

for the IBF title in 1995. The German also lost a 12round decision to Michael Moorer for the vacant IBF championship in 1996.

Schulz lost a 12-round deci-

sion to George Foreman in a bid

stunned 4-2, with both openers Ryan Campbell (1) and Michael Hussey (3), a pair seen with Aus-

tralian potential, dismissed. Campbell fell lbw to the last ball of Darren Gough's opening over, while the left-handed Hussey was snapped up at first slip off left-arm paceman Mullally's opening ball of his second over.

But England were unable to make a further break for more than three hours as Australian Test number three Justin Langer and Katich piled on a side-saving 145 runs, thanks in part to sloppy fielding.

Langer was missed at 56 and 79 on his way to a stubborn 85 off 154 balls, with 11 bound-Acting captain Nasser Hussain, at second slip, put down the first chance, off swing

bowler Dominic Cork, and Mark Butcher, at mid-wicket. floored a chance from all-spinner Robert Croft. Langer finally departed when Gough held a sharp caught

Late in the day, stand-in wicketkeeper Warren Hegg missed a chance offered by number eight batsman. Matthew Nicholson, then six, off Gough. England were forced to make two late withdrawals, with

and bowled chance.

a precaution."

captain and opening batsman Mike Atherton out of action because of a bruised right hip. England team spokesman Brian Murgatroyd said neither player was seriously hut, and the pair were left out "purely as

skipper Ale Stewart sidelined

with a sore back and former

#### keeper, Lancashire's Warren Hegg, was given an unexpected opportunity to don the gloves.

SCOREBOARD

while the side's deputy wicket-

Hussain took command,

Scorecard at stumps on the opening day of the four-day game between Western Australia and England at the WACA ground on Saturday. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: First innings

Hussey c Thorpe b Mullally Campbell Ibw Gough Langer c and b Gough Katich Ibw Gough Dighton c cork b Mullally Rogers c Hegg b Ramprakash 14 Harvey not out Nicholson not out Extras: Total: (6 wkts) Fall of wkts: 1-4; 2-4; 3-149; 4-193; 5-230; 6-249.

Bowler

Mullally

Gough

Cork

Fraser

Ramprakash

Croft

M R W 45 58 0 51 53 wider audience.

# PARIS, Oct 31: St-

in France, reports Reuters. Strasbourg had a draw and two defeats in their last three



Ajay Jadeja falls short of his ground.

-Star photo