

Sport

Taylor could sense the Windies rift!

MELBOURNE, Australia, Nov 8: The split in West Indies cricket has disappointed but hardly surprised Australian captain Mark Taylor...

Having weathered more than a year of strained negotiations between the Australian Cricket Board and the Australian Cricketers Association...

"You're always disappointed to see these sorts of things happen, but they do happen here in Australia last year," he said here today.

"It was not quite to the same extent as what has happened in Johannesburg during the week, but these things are going to happen."

"It's like any other job — people always think cricket is different to other forms of cricket and living, but it's not really."

Taylor's biggest surprise was the split among the West Indian touring party, with seven going to South Africa and nine staying in London.

The West Indian authorities sacked captain Brian Lara and vice-captain Carl Hooper because of the dispute with the players over pay and conditions for the South African tour.

"Obviously the big shock is that seven players turned up and there's nine back in London, so obviously things aren't great there at the moment," Taylor said.

"The players have got to get together and find out what's fair, they've got to talk to the administrators and — hopefully come to some agreement," he said.

"Just trying to read between the lines of what's happened over the last couple of days, I get the feeling the sides might be getting closer together, which would be great for cricket."

Taylor said the Australian and West Indian players had talked about industrial relations matters for some time.

"The West Indians have been talking to us about players unions and associations for years now, it's not something that's just happened over the last 12 months," he said.

Diego keen on playing in fund raiser

SEVILLE, Spain, Nov 8: Diego Maradona has offered to make yet another comeback in order to help the victims of hurricane Mitch in Central America...

Real Madrid President Lorenzo Sanz floated the idea earlier this week of his club staging a benefit match against a team of Latin American players from Spanish league clubs.

Maradona on Saturday reacted enthusiastically to the plan that he described as "marvellous."

"I'd love to play in this game, or at least be present at it," the former World Cup winning captain told Seville based radio station Canal Sur.

"It's a marvellous idea because today football generates a lot of money, which is what is needed after this terrible disaster."

Maradona, who retired from the game for the sixth time in October last year, played for Barcelona and Sevilla in Spain during his long career.

He was recently offered a contract to make it a hat-trick of Spanish clubs at Second Division Badajoz, which has been taken over by Argentine comedian Marcelo Tinelli.

Which, the deadliest Atlantic storm in 200 years, has killed an estimated 11,000 people in Central America. Honduras and Nicaragua have suffered an estimated 3 billion in damage, more than half their annual combined economic outputs.

Antlers close in on crown

TOKYO, Nov 8 (Reuters/Internet): Kashima Antlers have moved closer to a second-stage J-League crown with a 2-1 extra time win over Verdy Kawasaki.

With one match remaining in the second stage, Antlers lead Jubilo Iwata by three points in the standings.

Yoshiyuki Hasegawa headed in the game-winning goal in Saturday's match off a corner from Bismarck.

Antlers can clinch the second-stage title as long as they do not lose to lowly Vissel Kobe next Saturday. They will then face first-stage champion Jubilo in a playoff for the season title.

If Antlers lose and Jubilo win, Jubilo will win the second stage on goal difference. Jubilo will also take the season title.

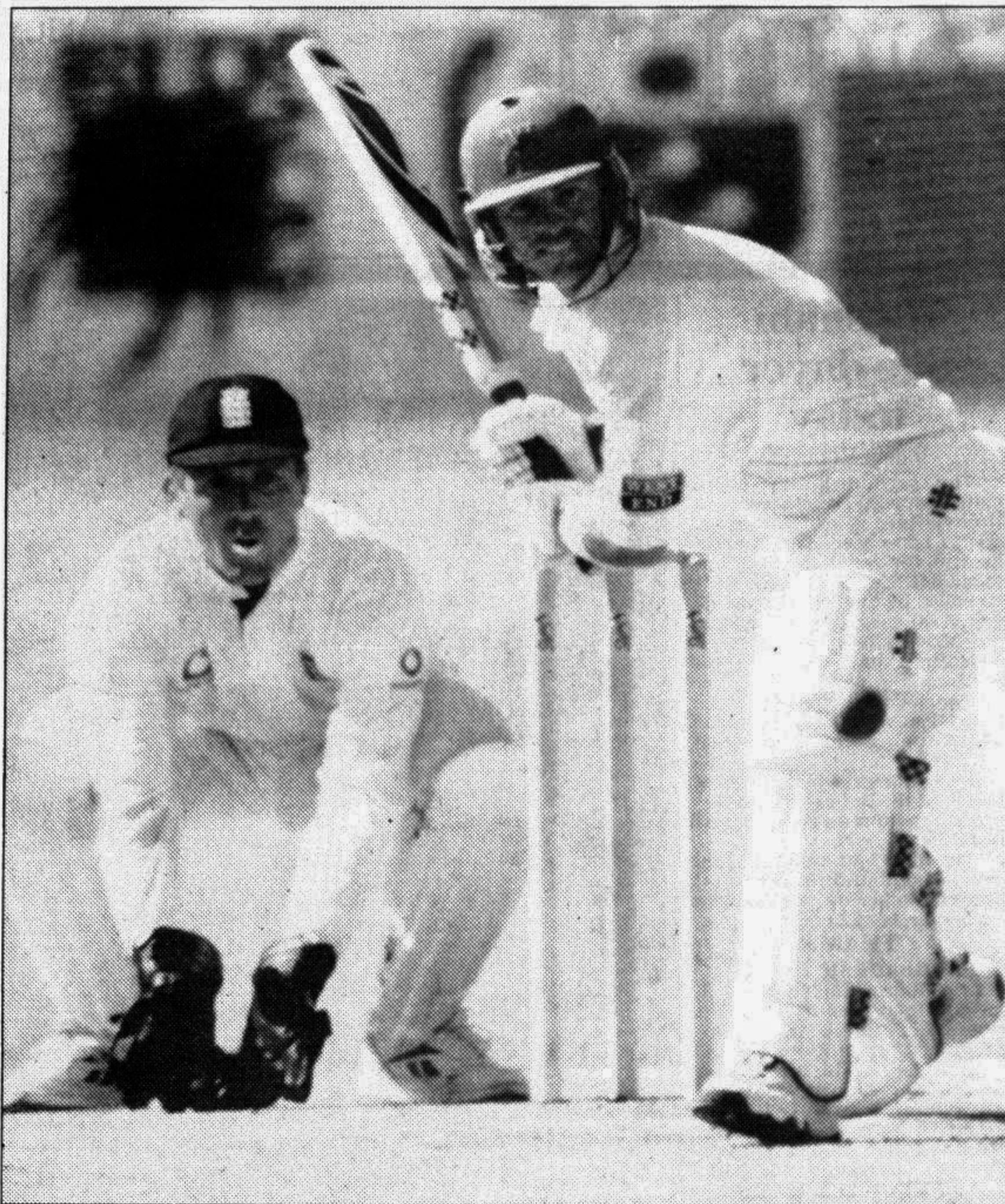
Jubilo beat Kashiwa Reysol 4-0, with Brazilian star Dunga controlling play throughout the match. League-leading scorer Masashi Nakayama notched up his 34th goal of the season.

In other games, Akhito Nagashima scored twice as Vissel Kobe surprised Shimizu S-Pulse with a 3-0 win, while Masahiro Fukuda, Shinji Ono and Spanish midfielder Aitor Beguiristain scored in Urawa Reds' 3-1 win over Kyoto Purple Sanga.

In what may be their penultimate match, Yokohama Flügels beat Avispa Fukuoka 2-1. Flügels are expected to be merged with Yokohama Marinos next season because their sponsor can no longer support the team.

Marinos lost in extra time to Nagoya Grampus Eight with Dragan Stojkovic scoring the game-winning goal.

Consadole Sapporo beat JEF United Ichihara 3-1, Bellmare Hiratsuka beat Gamba Osaka 2-1 and Sanfrecce Hiroshima blanked Cerezo Osaka 1-0.



South Australia's out of favour Test player Greg Blewett closely follows the ball while England skipper Alec Stewart watches in anticipation during the tour match at Adelaide yesterday.

England struggle against S Australia

Blewett proves he exists

ADELAIDE, Nov 8 (Reuters/Internet): Greg Blewett pushed his claims for a recall to the Australian Test team with a century against England on Sunday.

Blewett hit 143 as South Australia plundered England's bowling to reach 262 for five at close on the second day of the

Carter seals it

NOOSA, Australia, Nov 8: New Zealand's Hamish Carter sealed the World Cup triathlon series Sunday when he placed second in the 10th and final leg, reports AP.

Venezuela's Gilberto Gonzalez won the men's race but Carter did enough to finish first in the overall standings ahead of Dimitry Gaag of Kazakhstan.

Australian Michelle Jones had already secured the women's world title. Jones crashed out on the first lap of the bike leg Sunday as fellow Australian Loretta Harrop won the event.

four-day match.

That gave them a first innings lead of 75 after England had made just 187 in their first innings.

Blewett, who lost his place in the Australian team to Justin Langer after failing on Australia's recent tour of India, is among a handful of former Test players desperate to make it back into the national side.

But, despite this brilliant century, Blewett does not expect to get back for the Ashes series against England because of the strength of the current Australian line-up.

"I'm not relying on playing the first Test, that's for sure," Blewett said.

"I just want to keep making runs and let them know that I'm still around."

"My goal is to have a really solid year and there's a tour coming of the West Indies so hopefully I can get my way onto that."

Blewett, the South Australian captain, dominated England's attack from the out-

set at Adelaide Oval on Sunday.

His innings lasted 312 minutes and contained 11 boundaries and a six before he was bowled by part-time spinner Mark Ramprakash.

England's bowlers toiled without luck in the Australian sun.

The pick of them was Dominic Cork, who claimed two for 28 off 28 economical overs.

Australia still have loopholes

PERTH, Nov 8: Australia's Test cricket team is ranked No 1 in the world but Sandy Gordon believes there is plenty of room for improvement, reports AP.

Gordon has a vested interest in the gap between Australia's present form and their potential, having just signed on as the team's sports psychologist. He will work with the Aussies on a part-time basis over the next two years.

Warne's workout goes well

MELBOURNE, Nov 8 (Reuters/Internet): Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne made a triumphant return to state cricket on Sunday by leading Victoria to victory over New South Wales.

Warne took a wicket and scored 24 runs to steer his team to a 29-run win in a one-day match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"It's very exciting. I was very happy with the eight overs I bowled," Warne said.

"I'm not far away, I'm not far off bowling flat-out for as long as I like."

Warne, regarded as the world's best slow bowler, had not played a state match in more than six months after undergoing shoulder surgery.

He hopes to play in the upcoming Ashes series against England but wants to fully test his shoulder before he makes his return.

"I'm way ahead of schedule at the moment, but it's not something I'm rushing," he said.

"I've just got to get some match fitness and match practice and get some bowling under my belt."

Batting at number eight, Warne blasted 24 off just 29 balls then took one for 23 off eight overs, claiming the wicket of Scott Thomson when he skied a shot to Matthew Mott at mid-off.

Australian and NSW captain Mark Taylor was encouraged by Warne's performance but does not expect him to back before the third Test in Adelaide starting on December 11.

"The fact he bowled eight overs straight was great for Australian cricket," Taylor said.

"It was probably great for cricket full stop, although I'm not so sure the English side will agree with me."

Bordeaux close in on Marseille

PARIS, Nov 8: Striker Sylvain Wittord scored twice as Girondins Bordeaux beat Toulouse 3-1 at home to keep in close touch with French league leaders Olympique Marseille on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Marseille are now two points in front having beaten Monaco 1-0 at home on Friday with an injury time goal by substitute striker Florian Maurice.

Wittord, top scorer in the First Division, took his tally to nine with a goal in each half. Toulouse had defender Antoine Preget sent off after two yellow card offences in a minute.

Rennes remained comfortably in third place with a 4-0 home victory over Sochaux.

Champions RC Lens had two players sent off in the last two minutes, captain Frederic Dehu and midfielder Cyril Rool, as they went down 3-1 at Le Havre.

Paris St Germain lost for the first time in four matches under coach Artur Jorge, 2-1 at Montpellier.

African champs' soccer

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 8: Dynamos of Zimbabwe had to endure an agonising couple of minutes before winning through to the final of the African Champions' League on Saturday despite a 1-0 home defeat by Hearts of Oak of Ghana in Harare, reports Reuters.

The results left both teams equal at the top of the standings but Dynamos finished top on goal difference and will play in the two-leg final in December.

But the match, in front of a near-capacity crowd at the national stadium, was clouded in controversy as the referee blew the final whistle a minute early and denied the Ghanaian visitors a chance to clinch an improbable victory.

Hearts of Oak needed to win the game by two goals to squeeze past Dynamos into first place and they set up a nail-biting finish with a goal in the 87th minute from Joe Fameyeh.

The Hearts of Oak striker swept home a loose ball from Dynamos failed to clear their lines.

But then, as the Ghanaians launched a wave of attacks in search of the all-important second goal, Senegalese referee Falla N'doye blew for time in the 89th minute.

He was surrounded and jostled by angry Hearts players and officials as Dynamos celebrated becoming the first club from Zimbabwe to reach the final of an African club competition.

There were few scoring opportunities in a tense match, watched by a vocal 50,000-strong crowd who sang and chanted almost throughout.

Dynamos looked nervous in the opening 20 minutes but were never tested by the quick-passing game of Hearts until Fameyeh popped up for his fourth goal in three games in the competition.

Both goalkeepers were left to deal with long-range efforts for most of the match.

In the other Group A match played later on Saturday, Etoile Sahel of Tunisia beat Nigeria's Eagle Cement 5-0 in the coastal resort town of Sousse.

Defender Mounir Boukadida scored in the 26th minute with a far-post header and added a second from a corner in the 58th minute.

Riadh Jelassi got the third goal in the 69th minute and substitute Samir Raouene the fourth, both from close range. Hakim El Bargui scored the fifth with the last kick of the game.

The identity of Dynamos' final opponents will be known on today when the concluding matches in Group B of the mini-league are played.

Brandes upends world champs

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Nov 8: Zimbabwe, inspired by a deadly opening spell from Eddo Brandes, crushed world champions Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the Coca Cola Trophy here on Saturday, reports AP.

Brandes ripped through the top order with three wickets in his first six overs and part-timer Craig Evans polished off the tail with 3-11 as Sri Lanka were shot out for 196 after being sent in to bat.

Murray Goodwin then made 54 and Grant Flower remained unbeaten on 87 as Zimbabwe cruised home in the 47th over to record only their third win over the Sri Lankans in 16 outings.

The pair put on 90 for the third wicket after Zimbabwe were 31-2, and when Goodwin was run out, Andy Flower joined his brother to score the remaining 76 runs.

It was the World Cup holders' second successive defeat in two days following the three-wicket loss to India in Friday's opener and left Arjuna Ranatunga's men gasping for survival in the three-nation event.

Sri Lanka must now win both return matches in the double-leg preliminary league to have any hopes of making the final next Friday.

"We obviously did not learn the lesson from the game against India because we once again batted and bowled poorly," an embarrassed Ranatunga said.

"It was very difficult to stay in the match after being bowled out for a low score. Zimbabwe played well but we made their task much easier," he added.

"There are two more matches to go, so all is not lost yet, we have fought back in the past and can certainly do it again provided the boys pick up their game."

Zimbabwe coach Dave Houghton said he had never seen his team so impressive in the field.

"The bowling and fielding was top class," he said. "We have known Brandes' ability to destroy a team but the others chipped in too."

"It's the sort of victory that lifts the entire team and hopefully we can play as well against India on Sunday."

The sensational burst from Brandes, a 35-year-old chicken farmer, saw Sri Lanka collapse to 49-2 before veterans Aravinda de Silva and Roshan Mahanama restored sanity with gritty half-centuries.

De Silva made 55 and Mahanama 51, but three batsmen failed to open their account on the slow wicket that hampered stroke-making.

Brandes dismissed Avishka Gunawardena, Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya — all plump leg-before — to justify captain Alistair Campbell's decision to field first.

Gunawardena went in Brandes' second over, Atapattu in his fourth and Jayasuriya two overs later for 22 after surviving an appeal for a catch at the wicket before he had scored.

Romesh Kaluwitharana, playing his 100th international, faced just three balls without scoring when he was run out by a direct throw from Grant Flower as he scrambled back to the nonstriker's end.

Ranatunga helped De Silva take the score from 49-4 to 97 when he too departed, stumped while trying to heave spinner Andrew Whittall out of the ground.

After five bowlers failed to dislodge De Silva, Goodwin struck with his first delivery when he trapped the danger man leg-before to reduce Sri Lanka to 126-6 in the 32nd.

Evans, the seventh bowler used by Campbell, joined in the fun with the wickets of Tilan

Samaraweera and Chaminda Vaas in his first over and Mahanama in his third.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Coca-Cola Trophy one-day international between Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka on Saturday:

SRI LANKA: Jayasuriya lbw b Brandes 22; Gunawardena lbw b Brandes 1; Kaluwitharana run out 0; Atapattu lbw b Brandes 0; A De Silva lbw b Goodwin 55; Ranatunga st A Flower b Whittall 18; Mahanama b Evans 51; Samaraweera lbw b Evans 20; Vaas b Evans 0; Dharmasena not out 11; Zoysa run out 4; Extras (lb 3, w 9, nb 2) 14; Total: (All out in 49.4 overs) 196; Fall of wickets 1-10: 2-11: 3-24: 4-49: 5-97: 6-126: 7-171 8-171: 9-188.

Zimbabwe: Brandes 7 2 19 3; Johnson 6 0 32 0; Streak 9.4 0 53 0; Whittall 10 1 30 1; Strang 10 0 36 0; Goodwin 4 1 12 1; Evans 3 0 11 3.

ZIMBABWE: A Campbell b Ranatunga b Zoysa 5; G Flower not out 87; N Johnson run out 9; M Goodwin run out 54; A Flower not out 26; Extras (lb 2, w 7, nb 7) 16; Total (for three wickets in 46.1 overs) 197; Did not bat: C Wishart, C Evans, P Strang, H Streak, A Whittall, E Brandes.

Fall of wickets 1-7: 2-31: 3-121: Bowler: O M R W; Vaas 10 1 38 0; Zoysa 10 0 33 1; Dharmasena 10 1 33 0; D Silva 2.1 0 16 0; Samaraweera 10 0 49 0; Jayasuriya 4 0 26 0.

Result: Zimbabwe won by seven wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Eddo Brandes.



Zimbabwean veteran paceman Eddo Brandes (C) is congratulated by team-mates after the dismissal of a Lankan batsman in their Coca-Cola Trophy match in Sharjah on Nov 7.

Bayern too good for TSV

MUNICH, Nov 8: Three second-half goals helped German First Division leaders Bayern Munich to a 3-1 victory over city rivals TSV 1860 in their top-of-the-table clash on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Second-placed TSV, who have not beaten their more glamorous neighbours in 21 years, held out manfully in the first half before cracking in the second period as Bayern opened out an eight-point lead at the top of the table.

Midfielder Jens Jeremies, who joined Bayern from TSV this season, put the home side on the way with a header in the 60th minute.

Striker Alexander Zickler made it 2-0 with a shot from just outside the penalty area four minutes later and defender Thomas Linke made the game safe from close range three minutes from time.

TSV reduced the arrears through defender Jochen Kientz, who caught out an inattentive Bayern defence in the

dying moments.

"We were far too cautious in the first half but after that we found our rhythm and played really well," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

"Jeremies' goal was fantastic and his performance today showed the guy's temperament."

The only real scoring-chance of the first half came for Bayern in the 20th minute when a shot from inside the box by Brazil striker Elber was cleared off the line by TSV's Czech defender Roman Tyce.

But after the break Bayern were clearly the better team, using their superior skills in midfield to take control of their nervous visitors.

The victory helped Bayern, who had slumped to their first league defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 at promoted Eintracht Frankfurt last week, reinforce their bid to recapture the title they lost to Kaiserslautern last season.

Defeat for TSV left them eight points back and under threat from Bayer Leverkusen, just one point behind and still to play this weekend — at home

to VfB Stuttgart today.

TSV, re-emerging as a soccer force after years in the doldrums, were hoping for their first victory over Bayern in a Munich derby since a 3-1 win in 1977.

But there was little the lions could do to tame a better organised Bayern side, who had boosted their confidence by winning 2-1 in Barcelona in a Champions' League duel on Wednesday.

TSV coach Werner Lorant had to watch the game from the stands with the rest of a 69,000 capacity crowd packing Munich's Olympic Stadium on a chilly but dry evening.

Lorant, famous for his outbursts, was banned for one game and fined for swearing at the referee during his side's 1-1 draw away to Bayer Leverkusen on October 24.

"I am very disappointed," said assistant coach Peter Pacult, deputising for Lorant afterwards. "We never managed to put them under pressure and the players made for too many silly mistakes. We treated them with too much respect."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Mortarboards, 5 Scale member, 8 Mardi follower, 12 Island feast, 13 Prior to, 14 Yorkshire river, 15 Fleur-de-lis, 16 Impale, 20 Canal zone, 21 California wine valley, 23 Mal de, 24 Conduct business, 28 Stupely, 31 Succor, 32 Aligns, 34 Gift-tag word, 35 Versifier, 37 Bus-to-bus link, 39 On the -vive, 41 - for All Seasons, 42 Root, 45 Parodies, 49 Fax.

DOWN: 4 'Valley of the Dolls' author, 5 Isolated, 6 Hockey legend, 25 Brazilian resort, 7 Acknowledge, 8 Reacted in horror, 9 Low-class types, 10 Seed covering, 11 Not merely, 12 Movie attractive, 13 Fragment, 14 Distress, 19 Jib holder, 20 Science suffix, 23 Sans escort, 24 Whether, 44 Austen heroine, 46 Heinz, 47 Occupy completely, 48 Broker's advice, 50 Dalmatian daily.

Solution time: 26 min. STRAW, SWEETERS, MARINA, WALLEY, ANIMAL, AMOEBA, GAPE, KEMPE, TAB, EBB, AVOID, ARMS, WALK, TALK, TALK, ERIE, RILE, CLAY, ZAP, SKITIM, WIZ, RAMS, ALLAI, TINA, LIA, GI, PUH, STRIPA, FELLE, HODGES, FREUD.

CRYPTOQUIP: B S C K S D B N Q A D D A O I B N M Q U L N M C U A J D C Z L H T K A O D H C J L D S A K N Q U A I D N Z H Q Q C K. Saturday's Cryptoquip: I'M TOLD THAT THIS ROBBEBECAMEANACTOR: HE WANTED TO STEAL THE SHOW. Today's Cryptoquip clue: K 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.



Nottingham Forest's Dutch international Pierre van Hooijdonk (L) being chased by a Wimbledon player during their Premiership encounter on Nov 7.