

Sport

Hooper not available

ST JOHN'S, Feb 25: All-rounder Carl Hooper has said he may not play in the West Indies President's XI match against Australia because his newborn son is sick, cricket officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

Hooper, the vice-captain of the West Indies team's ill-fated tour of South Africa from November to February, was due to return to the Caribbean in time to play against the touring Australians in Trinidad on Saturday.

But the 32-year-old told the West Indies Cricket Board that he will not be returning in time for the match, the last prior to the first Cable and Wireless Test on March 5, said board chief executive officer Steve Camacho.

Instead, he is staying in Australia to be with his son and wife.

Carl called on Tuesday to report his concern on his son's condition and to advise that in the circumstances he was unable to leave Australia at this time," Camacho said. "I asked him to outline the position in writing and fax it so that it could be considered by the Board and selectors.

The board excused Hooper from Guyana's semifinal Busta Cup match against Trinidad and Tobago last weekend on compassionate grounds to be with his family.

But Camacho said Friday that Mike Findlay, the chairman of selectors, wanted Hooper to play for the President's XI.

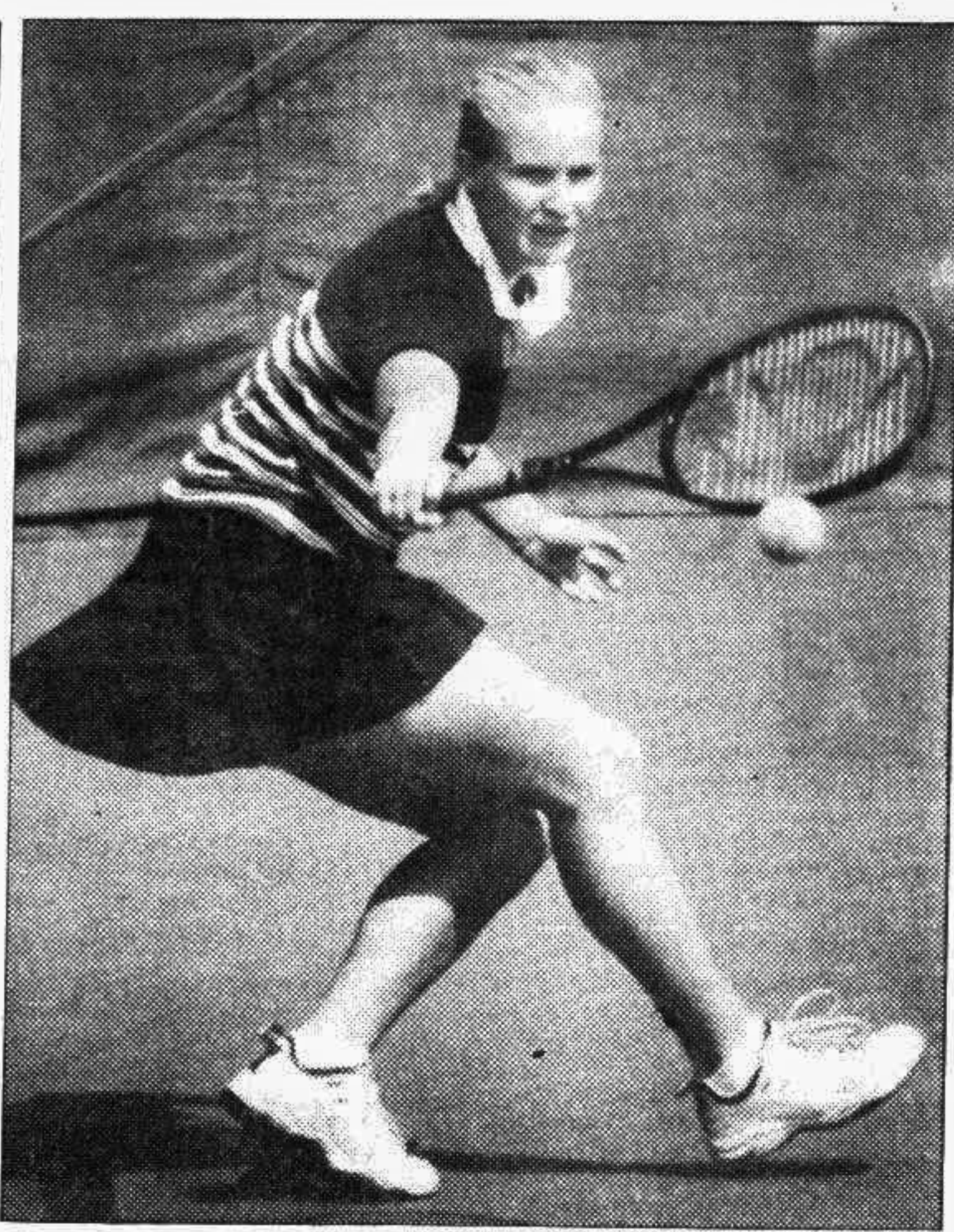
"The chairman of selectors said he would have played no cricket since the South Africa tour and he has today in that match so that there can be an assessment of both his form and fitness," Camacho said Friday.

Experienced left-hand batsman Keith Arthurton has been named captain of the President's XI in Hooper's absence.

Arthurton, who turned 34 last Sunday, has played 33 Tests and 98 one-day internationals for the West Indies.

He is among five players with Test experience in the South Africa last year — captain Darren Ganga, leg-spinner Rawl Lewis and fast bowlers Nixon McLean and Reon King.

PRESIDENT'S XI: Keith Arthurton (captain, Nevis-Leeward Islands), Daren Ganga (Trinidad and Tobago), Suruj Ragoonath (Trinidad and Tobago), Dave Joseph (Antigua, Leeward Islands), Lincoln Roberts (Trinidad and Tobago), Denis Rampersad (Trinidad and Tobago), Wayne Phillip (Dominica/Windward Islands), Rawl Lewis (Grenada/Windward Islands), Nixon McLean (St Vincent/Windward Islands), Reon King (Guyana), Marlon Black (Trinidad and Tobago), Mukesh Persad (Trinidad and Tobago), and Ramnareesh Sarwan (Guyana).



South African Reucken Nicole makes a backhand against P Sonal of India in the Bangladesh International Junior tennis championships girls' singles quarterfinal yesterday. — Star photo

Last local hopes fade

Top-seed Andrew MacDade, Mark Weaver, Y Egawa and W Yen Tzuuo yesterday moved into the semifinals of the 13th Bangladesh International Junior Tennis Championships, report agencies.

World junior number 36, South African Andrew shrugged off Ahmed Wahla of Pakistan 6-1, 6-2 at Court No-1 of the Ramna Tennis National Complex.

Weaver of Britain cantered past Ravi Krishna of India by 6-1, 6-3. Japanese Y Egawa eliminated Pich Lue of Thailand 6-3, 6-3 and Tzuuo of Chinese Taipei overcame BDW Smith of South Africa 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

Earlier in the day, Bangladesh's national junior number one Nadim Kamran Khan

Rohan earned 40 international junior ranking points by reaching the second round.

It was the highest ever ranking points earned by a Bangladeshi player so far, an official of Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF) said.

Rohan lost to Tzuuo 5-7, 6-7 (1-7) in a pre-quarterfinal.

Meanwhile, Rencken Nicole of South Africa, G Sheetal and R Tulpule of India and PS Virat of Thailand ensured their girls' singles semifinal berths.

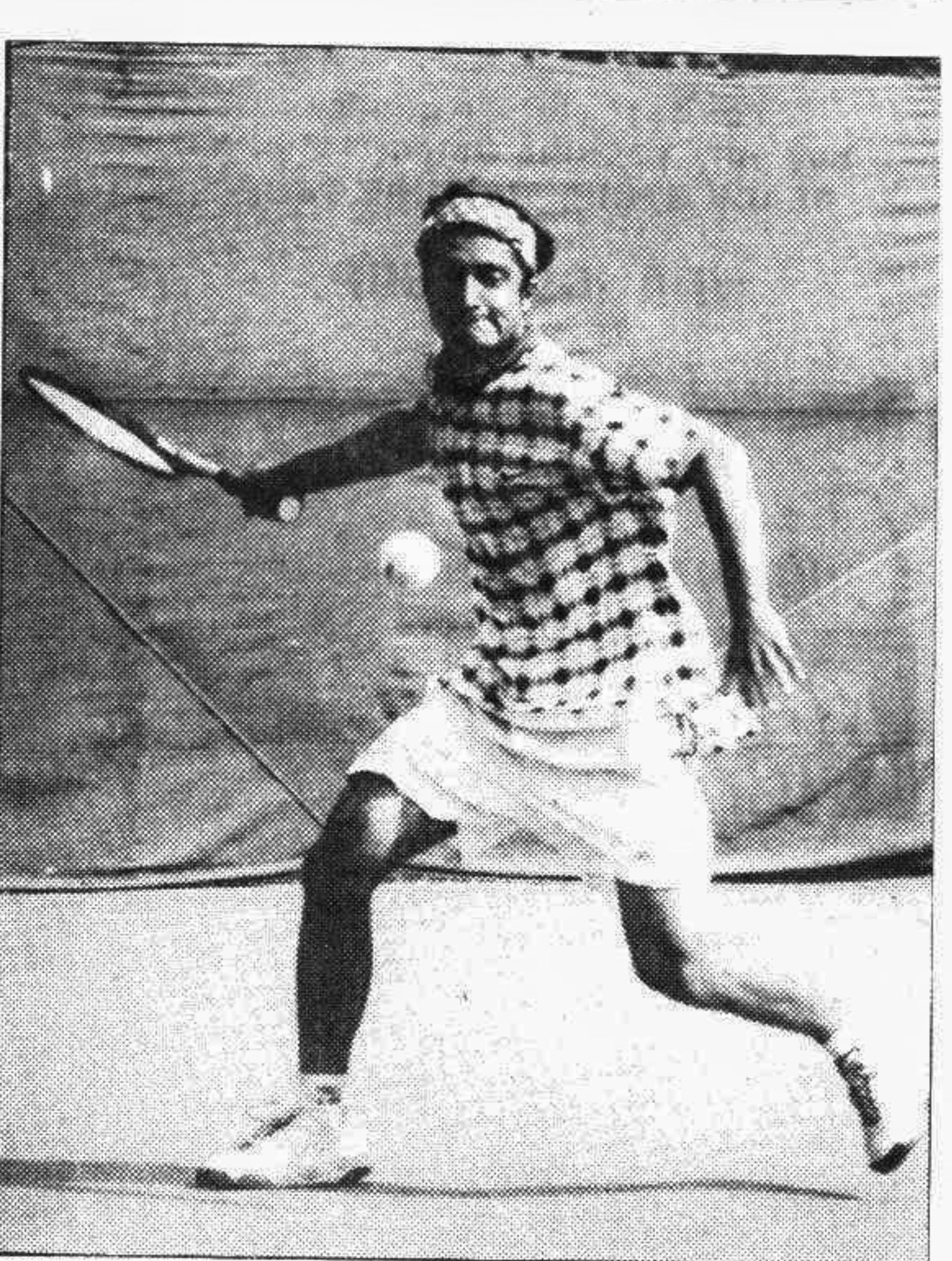
Nicole beat Sonal of India 6-0, 6-4. Sheetal defeated C Hsin Chen of Chinese Taipei. Tulpule ousted CC Jung of Chinese Taipei and Virat beat Chao Shiao Han of Chinese Taipei.

Bangladesh's promising junior girl Shefat Nusrat Baishakhi earned 15 ranking points by reaching the quarterfinals, in which she lost to second seeded Virat.

Her points stood at 20 — highest so far by a local girl — as she earned five points in the Rajshahi International Junior Championships last week.

Weaver and Wahla, Lin Y Ta and La Ly Yen of Chang HY and C Chon also of Chinese Taipei and MacDade and Smith of South Africa entered the boys doubles semis.

Lai Yi Yang and Lu Yen Hua of Taiwan, CY Hsu and C Hsin Chen of Taiwan, Radhika and Yang Polly and Sheetal and



Nadeem Kamran Khan of Bangladesh plays forehand during his second round clash against Taipei's W Yen Tzuuo yesterday. — Star photo

Dilley to teach Scots bowling

GLASGOW, Feb 25: Cricket World Cup finalists Scotland appointed former England pacesman Graham Dilley as their bowling coach here today, reports AFP.

The 39-year-old, who played 41 times for England, will assist Scotland's director of cricket Jim Love, who enjoyed a prolific batting career at Yorkshire, in the build-up to their first group match with Australia at Worcester on May 16.

Scotland will also face Bangladesh, New Zealand, West Indies and the 1992 world champions Pakistan, with the top three finishers qualifying for the second stage.

Parents part with Patty

ZURICH, Feb 25: The parents of Patty Schnyder have estranged themselves from their tennis-playing daughter over the 12th-ranked Swiss ties to a German fitness trainer, according to a series of reports in the Swiss press, says AP.

Rain hinders Australia

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Feb 25: Rain frustrated any chance Australia had of beating a West Indian Cricket Board XI on the third and final day in their opening tour match at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The Board XI held on to be 121-4 at the close after 65 minutes were lost in three separate rain interruptions.

The match was abandoned with six overs remaining. Board XI opening batsman Adrian Griffith scored a painstaking 38 not out in 216 minutes to ensure a draw.

Earlier, acting captain Shane Warne declared Australia's second innings closed at 209-4, setting the home side 311 to win from a minimum of 71 overs.

Australia had resumed at 176-3 and Warne's declaration was prompted by the loss of Greg Blewett's wicket for 58, caught at long-on by Corey Collymore of left-arm spinner Ryan Hinds.

Ricky Ponting finished on 61 not out after he and Blewett added 117 in 161 minutes.

The Board XI lost their first wicket on 34 when captain Stuart Williams was bowled for 15

attempting to drive the medium pace of Colin Miller.

Following his failure to score in the first innings, Williams is given little chance of regaining a place in the side for the first Test, beginning in Trinidad on March 5.

Left-hander Wavell Hinds (17) was bowled by leg-spinner Stuart MacGill swinging across the line. Reynold McLean (15) was caught at mid-on off Warne and Hinds was trapped leg before wicket by MacGill.

Australia's next match is a four-day game against a Board President's XI at Guaracara Park in Trinidad, beginning on Saturday.

The President's XI appear a significantly stronger side than the Board XI, captain Keith Arthurton, 34, is one of five players to have competed at Test level named in a 13-man squad. The others are promising batsman Darren Ganga, leg-spinner Rawl Lewis and fast bowlers Nixon McLean and Reon King.

WEST INDIES BOARD XI:
First innings 55 (A Dele 7-24)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 176-3)

Slater c Collymore b R Hinds	40
Elliott c Sinclair b Collymore	28
Langer b Collins	12
Ponting not out	61
Blewett c Collymore b R Hinds	58
Extras (lb-3, nb-7)	10
Total (For four wkts dec)	209
Fall of wkts: 1-64; 2-80; 3-92; 4-209	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Collins	4	4	43	1
Mais	14	0	63	0
Collymore	12	4	23	1
R Hinds	17	2	37	2
Powell	16	1	40	0

WEST INDIES BOARD XI:
Second innings

Williams b Miller	35
Griffith not out	18
W Hinds b MacGill	17
McLean c Bichel b Warne	15
R Hinds lbw MacGill	11
Gayle not out	6
Extras (lb-5, lb-6, nb-8)	19
Total (For four wkts)	121
Fall of wkts: 1-34; 2-64; 3-85; 4-102	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bichel	8	2	24	0
Dale	11	5	14	0
MacGill	12	6	21	2
Miller	13	5	27	1
Warne	12	3	20	1
Blewett	3	0	4	0

Result: Match drawn.

McMillan asked to apologise publicly

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 25: Leading South African all-rounder Brian McMillan will have to publicly apologise for using the racially connotated term "coolie creeper" at the weekend, the United Cricket Board (UCB) said today, reports AFP.

"In mitigation of imposing a more severe sentence, McMillan will acknowledge that his words may have offended certain sections of the community," the UCB said.

McMillan, who retired from international cricket last season, will apologise in Cape Town today at the end of the game between the Western province and Border sides, the UCB said.

"Big Mac" used the bowling term — which refers to a slow ball rolled along the ground — during a provincial match last weekend.

In South Africa, the word "coolie", defined as an unskilled labourer in eastern countries, is a derogatory word used against people of Asian extraction.

The popular all-rounder said earlier this week: "I'm not prepared to apologise for what I said because I believe it is part of cricketing terminology."

The UCB also banned Eastern Province B captain Alan Badenhorst for two years for calling another player a "half-bred kaffer" during a game in the southern city of Port Elizabeth last Friday.

Badenhorst was suspended from "from participating in any cricket match played under the auspices of the UCB, inclusive of club cricket, until January 1, 2001," the cricketing body said.

It added: "The UCB views the use of derogatory racial remarks in whatever form in a very serious light, which will not be tolerated."

Bacher enters all-white issue

AUCKLAND, Feb 25: (Reuters/Intern et): South African cricket's chief administrator Ali Bacher stepped into the all-white team controversy on Thursday.

Bacher's involvement followed the statement by United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) president Ray White on Wednesday criticising the all-white composition of the teams fielded against New Zealand in two one-day internationals last week.

White described the situation as a "misunderstanding" but said that it had been resolved and that he did not expect it to happen again.

Team captain Hansie Cronje and manager Goolam Rajah both denied any conversation with White before the statement was released and only claimed to have heard about it through the media.

Bacher said from Johannesburg: "I have spoken to Hansie and he gave an assurance that the intention was never to flout Board policy or ignore the UCB vision for the future of SA cricket. They were merely experimenting with combina-

tions for the World Cup. Hansie assured me that Board policy will be adhered to in future. He remains committed to captaining a successful South African team that will illicit the support of all South Africans."

Bacher said Cronje, along with vice-captain Shaun Pollock and coach Bob Woolmer, were not aware of the details of the Board's policy.

"After the Centurion Park test (against West Indies) I addressed the entire team on the broader issues of SA cricket but, in fairness to both Hansie and Bob, they have never officially been given the document drawn up after the (UCB executive) meeting in December (when the policy was adopted)," Bacher said.

"Peter Pollock (selection convenor) and I must accept the blame for that."

Bacher also said that selection policy had now been altered from the original document which stated: "The national team must be a team of colour, wherever possible... The words 'wherever possible' had now been removed, Bacher said.

"The Board met last Saturday and this was first item on the agenda. It caused a very lively debate and the result was the statement that Ray White released in his capacity as president," Bacher said.

Both Bacher and White said they had attempted to reach the team before the statement was released but Rajah, Woolmer and Cronje all said they had not been contacted.



ALI BACHER

Tim, Goran tumble

LONDON, Feb 25: Second seed and world number seven Tim Henman squandered a match point as he crashed of the 500,000 dollars Guardian Direct Cup indoor tournament in the first round to Slovakia's Jan Krosiak 2-6, 7-6, 6-4 on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Henman joined seventh seed Goran Ivanisevic as a seeded casualty of the ATP Tour event in Battersea Park as the Croatian was earlier beaten by stylish Moroccan Hicham Arazi.

The temperamental Croat lost 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the second round.

Henman stormed into the lead in front of a vocal home crowd, hitting the lines with confidence, but allowed Krosiak back into the match, a scorching return by the Slovak saved a match-point in the second set tiebreak which he went on to win 10-8.

Two early breaks gave Krosiak a 4-1 lead in the third and, despite being broken back once, the world number 79 held on for a famous victory.

"This is a great win... I just said come on Jan, eyes down, concentrate, concentrate, concentrate," Krosiak said.

Henman said, "That was disappointing... to dominate so much and so early and not get the opportunities is really disappointing but I won't let it get to me. I am sure I'll bounce back from this."

Earlier on the same centre-court, Ivanisevic looked to have done the hard work when he broke Arazi for 4-2 in the final set.

But the Moroccan, ranked 46th broke straight back with some rapiers returns and went on to win the last four games.

Fourth seed Richard Krajicek wasted little time in eliminating up and coming German Nicolas Pietrangola to book his quarterfinal spot. The Dutch 1996 Wimbledon champion was too powerful for Pietrangola and ran out a 6-3, 6-4 winner in 79 minutes, big-serving Krajicek cracked down 13 aces, fittingly ending the match with one.

Sixth seed Thomas Enqvist eased safely into the quarters with a 6-4, 7-5 win over David Prinosil.

A single break was all the world number 13 needed to take the first set from German Prinosil who had qualified for the main draw.

Powerful, heavily spun ground strokes flew from both men's rackets but it was Enqvist, runner-up in the Australian Open last month, who handled the pressure best.

The pair exchanged breaks early in the tiebreak but before both began to hold comfortably.

But, serving at 5-5 62nd ranked Prinosil crumbled under the pressure, a double fault, a netted backhand, a short serve and a backhand hit wide saw him lose his serve to love.

ACB regrets letting off Shane, Mark

SYDNEY, Feb 25: (Reuters/Intern et): The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) has admitted it should have enforced tougher penalties on Test stars Mark Waugh and Shane Warne after they accepted money from an Indian bookmaker.

ACB chief executive Malcolm Speed told Australian Broadcasting Corporation radio on Thursday that the board had made a mistake in letting the pair off with a fine, but said it was too late to do anything about it because the matter was closed.

"With hindsight, I think we can look back on these penalties and say perhaps they should have been harsher," Speed said.

"But even if the Australian Cricket Board wanted to revisit it, it is not able to do so."

The ACB was criticised on Wednesday by the independent lawyer charged with investigating allegations of bribery and match-fixing in Australian cricket.

Rob O'Regan said the ACB should have suspended the pair

after they admitted selling information to an illegal Indian bookmaker during a limited overs tournament in Sri Lanka in 1994.

He also criticised the ACB for covering up the scandal and

play poorly during Australia's 1994 test series in Pakistan.

Former Australian captain Mark Taylor said on Thursday that he also believed the case had been handled badly but said it should now be laid to rest.

"Things could have been done better in 1994 but they weren't and that's about the end of the story," Taylor said.

"I think we've got to make sure we keep it in perspective, it could have been handled better but let's hope this is the end of it."

Warne and Waugh were fined by the ACB in 1995 after admitting they had been paid thousands of dollars to provide "mundane" information on pitch and weather conditions during the one-day tournament in Sri Lanka.

The fines were kept secret but when an Australian newspaper broke the story last December it sparked international outrage, particularly in Pakistan where an inquiry has examined allegations by the pair and former Australian test off-spinner Tim May that Malik had offered them bribes during the 1994 tests.



MALCOLM SPEED

failing to notify the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about the case.

Warne and Waugh had accused Pakistan captain Salim Malik of offering them bribes to

Tyson isolated further

ROCKVILLE, Maryland, Feb 25: Former heavyweight world champion Mike Tyson was sentenced to 20 more days in an isolated environment, today for throwing a television set in jail last week, reports AFP.

The penalty, however, is not expected to lengthen the prison term he is serving after pleading no-contest to two charges of second degree assault stemming from an August 31 traffic accident in Gaithersburg, Maryland, near Washington.

Tyson has been in a restricted environment since Friday's incident at Montgomery County Jail and will continue to be kept away from the rest of the prison population for 23 hours a day, in addition, he will lose other unspecified inmate privileges.

Tyson appeared at a hearing this morning on charges of disorderly conduct, destroying property and assaulting a correctional officer.

Eric Seleznow, a representative of the Montgomery County Department of Corrections, today said the county would not seek additional criminal charges over the incident.

"It's still a one-year sentence," Seleznow said. "I don't think that has changed."

Tyson was sentenced February 5 to two years in prison, with one year suspended, he began serving his sentence that day and is still eligible to file an appeal.

Seleznow also disputed claims by Tyson's lawyers that the boxer was taken off an antidepressant drug prior to the incident.

"He has been offered his medication," Seleznow said. "We can't say if he is taking it. We're saying it was offered."

One of the hardest punchers in boxing history, Tyson scored a fifth-round knockout of Francois Botha on January 16 in his first bout since his boxing license was reinstated by the Nevada Athletic Commission. He was suspended July 9, 1997 after twice biting Evander Holyfield during a heavyweight title fight 11 days earlier.

Tyson remains on probation until March as a result of his 1992 rape conviction in Indiana.

Alex fires wages warning

GLASGOW, Feb 25: (Reuters/Intern et): Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson on Thursday hit out at the wages spiral he believes is in danger of crippling the game.

Ferguson, whose club were recently ranked as the richest in the world, warned that the hike in players' salaries sparked by the Bosman ruling is hurting fans as well as clubs and could lead to a whole generation of supporters turning away from football.

"What you have now is a free-for-all so far as wages are concerned," Ferguson said in an interview with the Glasgow Herald newspaper. "It is a serious concern now whether clubs can afford to pay the kind of money which is being talked about."

"If you are to believe some of the sums being bandied about then the game could die if clubs attempt to meet the demands which are being made."

"We all know of cases where clubs are struggling financially and a great many of the problems — if not almost all of them — stem from the fact that players are asking for salaries which are too high and which will cripple the game permanently unless there is some common sense brought to bear on the whole matter."

The Bosman ruling gave players the right to leave clubs on a free transfer at the end of their contracts.

That led to the recent high-profile case of Liverpool winger Steve McManaman, who has signed a five-year deal with Real Madrid that will earn him

future of football is on the line unless we get back to wage negotiations in which players and clubs are comfortable and can talk clearly to each other instead of being hung up on the often nonsensical wage deals which are being asked for nowadays."

Ferguson, the longest-serving manager in England's Premier League, said if the freedom of contract given to players by the Bosman ruling was not used more wisely he had "real fears" for the game's future — from the fans' point of view as well as that of the clubs.

"It has to come to an end some time but what will be left of football as we know it if these spiralling wages carry on for much longer."

"The money to pay the players has to come from somewhere and, inevitably, that means it will come from the pockets of the supporters."

"I don't believe we should be continually asking the fans to pay higher prices to see games. If you go to London you can find yourself being asked for 30 pounds (48.11 dollars) for the cheapest seats."

"That takes the game out of reach of the ordinary fan and it makes it impossible to take the family, so you are losing out on the next generation of supporters. That would be a serious problem."



ALEX FERGUSON

a reported 14 million pounds (22.45 million dollars) in wages and signing-on fees.

Ferguson called on players' unions to "preach reality" to their members involved with contract negotiations.

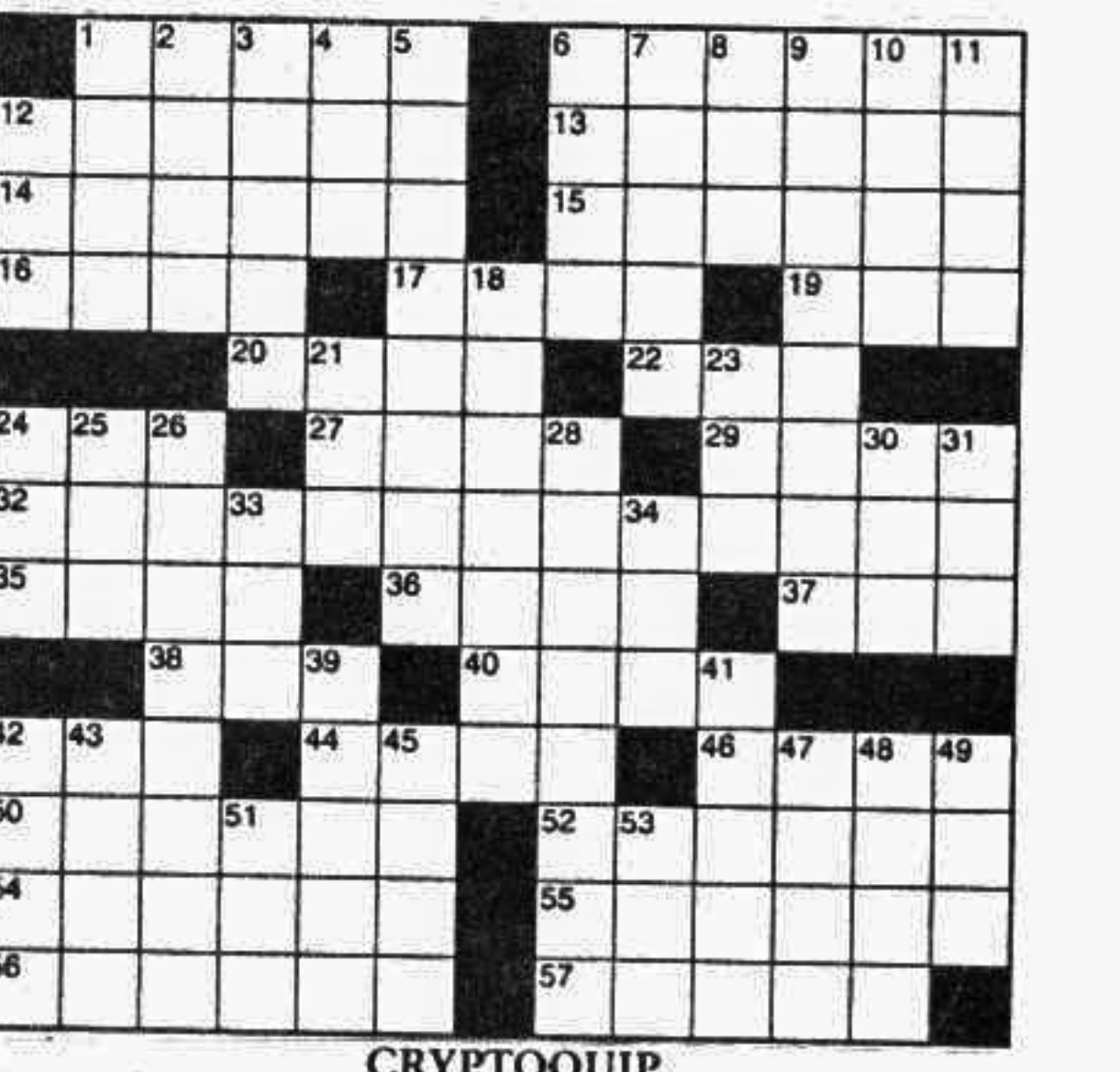
"Honestly, I believe the very



Amelie Mauresmo of France in action against compatriot Laurence Andreotto during her French Indoors tournament encounter at Paris on February 24. Mauresmo won 6-2, 7-5. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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| ACROSS | 1 Lies | 6 Shields' lobby | 12 Long, straight cigar | 13 Complaints | 14 Up | 15 Song of 1927 | 16 Nap | 17 Apothe-cary unit | 19 "bodkins" | 20 Playwright David | 22 Chap | 24 Ram's ma'am | 27 Houston acronym | 29 In which case | 32 Falling apart | 35 "How clumsy of me!" | 36 Location | 37 Young fellow | 38 Singer Sumac | 40 E or G, e.g. | 42 Swiss river | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 44 Portent | 46 Lion | 50 VIPs in their field | 52 "Grand Old Flag" | 54 Canine coat? | 55 Mrs. in Montauban | 56 Mrs. in Malaga | 57 Hitchcock's "The 39—" | DOWN | 1 Bullring | 2 N.M. | 3 Also-ran | 4 Away from | 5 Anti-flood stack | 6 Taj Mahal locale | 7 Texas singer | 8 Purpose | 9 Sugar dosage? | 10 Fax | 11 "Stupid—" from "Forrest Gump" | 12 Heel | 18 Seeking | 21 Fay's King Kong role | 23 Have a bug | 24 "The Name of the Rose" author | 25 Court | 26 Firmament | 28 They'll never be the same | 30 It's high in salt | 31 Peculiar | 33 Doctrine | 34 Compre-hend | 39 Michael-mas daisy | 41 Duck | 42 Data in some logic puzzles | 43 "Judith" composer | 45 Madonna's "La Bonita" | 47 Not give— | 48 Margins | 49 Actress Charlotte | 51 I love, to Livy | 53 Granola tidbit |
- Solution time: 24 mins.**



CRYPTOQUIP

I Y A I R T H D X Q T D H R W D

G T D Q N X S D ' H Y G M I T X N D

W I M X D X H ' N R T N S D T D A G S S .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: "I SURELY WON'T GO OUT WITH THAT PRINTER AGAIN; HE'S SIMPLY NOT MY TYPE."

Today's Cryptquip clue: S equals L.

The Cryptquip 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.