

Div I cricket Uttara Sporting beat B Boys

Uttara Sporting Club defeated Bangladesh Boys by 20 runs in the Metropolitan First Division cricket league at the Mirpur City Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Sent in to bat first, Uttara Sporting were all out for 176 in 49.5 overs.

Sumon Barua hammered 91 off 146 balls that featured seven boundaries and three over boundaries while Azad made 23.

Shaon claimed four wickets giving away 29 runs while Shahid took two wickets for 26.

In reply, Bangladesh Boys made 156 for all in 47.5 overs.

Majid made highest 33 off 60 balls with five hits across the crease while Nahid added 30 off 78 balls with two boundaries.

Akikul and Anwarul scored 28 and 23 runs respectively.

Sujon, Firoz and Emadul captured two wickets each for 23, 27 and 33 runs respectively.

Kepler quits cricket

CAPE TOWN, Mar 6: Kepler Wessels, who played Test cricket for two countries, has retired from the game at the age of 42, according to Cape Town newspaper Die Burger, reports Reuters.

The former Australian and South African batsman quit the international scene in 1994, but had continued to play provincial cricket.

He made his Test debut in 1982 as an opener for Australia following his move there during South Africa's apartheid isolation.

He played 24 Tests for Australia, but was back in South Africa before the international return in 1991.

Wessels led South Africa to the World Cup semifinals in 1992 and captained the country of his birth in all 16 Tests he played for them.

In 40 tests, Wessels scored 2,788 runs at an average of 41 with six centuries and 15 half-centuries.

Nat'l schools cricket

Rajshahi Zilla Region A champs

JOYPURHAT, Mar 6: Rajshahi Zilla School emerged champions of Region A of the 17th National schools cricket championship, reports UNB.

Rajshahi outplayed Joypurhat Zilla School by 42 runs at the local stadium today.

Decided to bat first, Rajshahi Zilla School were all out for 145 in 35.3 overs. Aami scored the highest 36 runs while Saidur 25.

In reply, Joypurhat Zilla School was bundled out for 103 runs in 29.1 overs. Fian made 24 and Joyad added 20.

Moon of Rajshahi Zilla School picked up six wickets and was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Meanwhile, the 19th Divisional National Youth Cricket tournament will start on March 12 at the local stadium.

A total of eight teams of Rajshahi Division will take part in the competition. Noagang DSA will take on Rajshahi DSA in the inaugural match.

Physio Hunt in BKSP

Australian physio Robert Alan Hunt, formerly with the Australian "A" and Australian under-19 World Cup teams, arrived here on Friday to take over responsibility of the Bangladesh World Cup squad, reports BSS.

Hunt reached Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protisthan (BKSP) at Savar, where the residential camp of the Bangladesh national team is in progress.

He was accompanied by joint secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Mahmudul Huq Manu.

Hunt will be with the team during the World Cup.

Bangladesh physio as part of an agreement between the two boards and particularly due to effort of the president of Australia Cricket Board.

Expressing gratitude to his Australian counterpart BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury said the inclusion of an experienced physio in the Bangladesh World Cup squad will be helpful to our cricket and the cricketers.

National U-21 snooker

Tanzina, Rubaiya first round sparks

Tanzina Azad and Rubaiya Ahmed, both from Dhaka Club, stole the show on the first day of the 4th national U-21 snooker championship. Tanzina defeated Sameer Sattar comfortably 3-1 while Rubaiya had an easy 3-1 win against Nahayan of Narayanganj Club yesterday, says a press release.

In other matches, Azharul Haque of Uttara Club defeated Abeer Azad of Dhaka Billiards Centre 3-0, Ripon Das of Narayanganj Club defeated A Hasan of Dhaka Club 3-1, Nawveed Newaz of Dhaka Club defeated Omar Faruk of Uttara Club 3-2, Fahim Ahsan of Dhaka Billiards Centre defeated Imran Ali of Gulshan Club 3-1 and Ehsan Abdullah got walkover against Tanvir Hossain.

In today's matches, Tanzina will play against Azharul Haque while Rubaiya will play against Fahim. Ziaur Rahman of Dhaka Club, the youngest player will play against Ehsan, Ziaur defeated Navin in his earlier match. All these matches will be held at 10 am.

Australians struggling



PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 6: West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh joined an exclusive club when he took his 400th Test wicket on Friday, reports Reuters.

His dismissal of Ian Healy on the opening day of the first Test against Australia earned him membership of the "400 club" alongside India's Kapil Dev (434) and New Zealand's Richard Hadlee (431).

The 36-year-old Jamaican took three for 37 and Test debutant Pedro Collins two for 31 as Australia laboured to 174 for six on an unpredictable Queens Park Oval pitch.

Walsh, playing his 107th

LATEST

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 6 (Reuters/Internet): Australia were 240-9 at lunch on the second day of the first test against West Indies at Queens Park Oval on Saturday.

Test, had begun the day needing three wickets to join the "400 club."

He moved on to 398 by having Justin Langer caught at the wicket for five and soon afterwards Mark Waugh became his 399th Test scalp when he was trapped leg before.

When he dismissed Healy, also leg before, Walsh held his arms aloft and was embraced by his teammates.

"It's been hard work but I've enjoyed it," Walsh said of his Test career spanning almost 15 years.

"If I have a very good series against Australia there will be an outside chance of passing Kapil Dev but it will be very tough."

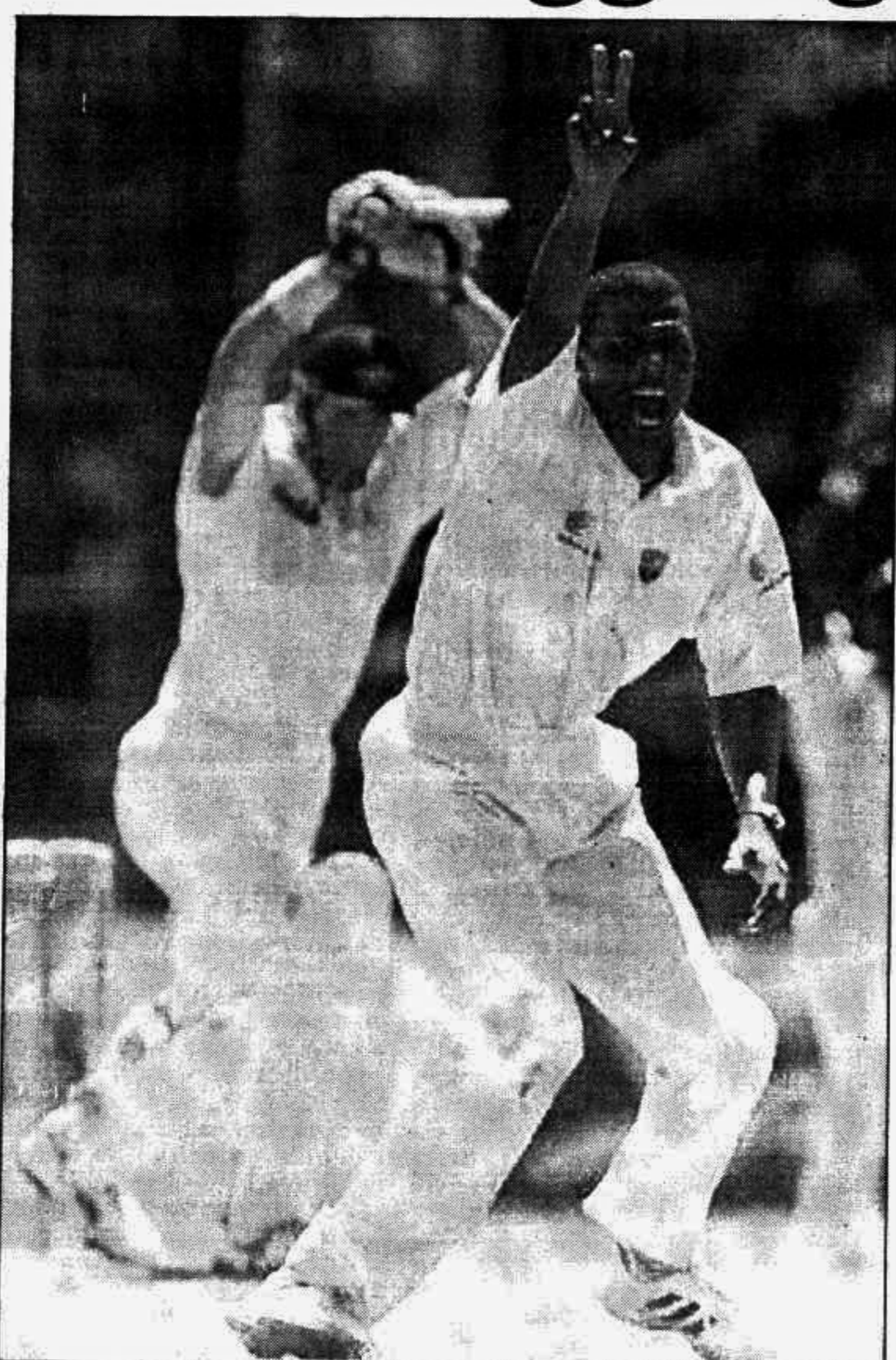
Walsh, affectionately known as "the work horse," had become the highest West Indian wicket-taker in Tests when he overtook the 376 of Malcolm Marshall on the recent disastrous tour of South Africa.

He took 22 wickets in the Test series but could not prevent his side being whitewashed 5-0.

Excellent pace bowling by Walsh and company on a pitch of indifferent bounce shackled the Australians for lengthy periods on Friday.

The morning session produced just 51 runs from 29 overs after Australia's new captain Steve Waugh had won the toss and opted to bat first.

The afternoon session was just as painstaking, 51 coming from a further 29 overs.



West Indian fast bowler Mervyn Dillon demands justice against Matthew Elliott during the first day's play of the first Test on March 5.

Top scorer Matthew Elliott faced 208 balls in compiling 44 and even the day's most enterprising batsman, Greg Blewett, faced 134 balls in making 43 not out.

Elliott, playing his first Test for more than a year, said the pitch was the most difficult one he had batted on in his Test career. "It was very slow and seamed around early."

SCOREBOARDS

Scoreboard on the opening day of the first Test match between the West Indies and Australia at the Queen's Park Oval on Friday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings. Slater c Dillon b Collins 23. Elliott lbw b Collins 44. Langer c Jacobs b Walsh 5.

M Waugh lbw b Walsh 2. S Waugh c Jacobs b Dillon 14. Blewett not out 43. Healy lbw b Walsh 15. Warne not out 15. Extras: (lb-13, nb-3) 16. Total: (For six wkts in 90 overs) 174.

Fall of wkts: 1-42; 2-51; 3-53; 4-74; 5-118; 6-153.

To bat: MacGill, Gillespie, McGrath.

Bowler: (to date) O M R W. Walsh 22 8 37 3. Ambrose 19 11 22 0.

Collins 19 8 31 1. Dillon 19 4 45 1. Adams 11 2 26 0.

WEST INDIES: Campbell, S. Ragoonath, B. Lara, J. Adams, R. Holder, D. Joseph, R. Jacobs, C. Ambrose, M. Dillon, P. Collins, C. Walsh.

Kirsten, Rhodes hit hundreds



CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 6: Gary Kirsten wants to be regarded as a batsman who made an enormous contribution to Test cricket, reports AP.

South Africa XI, inspired by centuries Kirsten and Jonty Rhodes (101 not out) hit up 403 for six declared against a New Zealand A in a three-day match at Lincoln on Saturday.

The home side was 12 without loss with both openers Rob Lawton and Bryan Young unbeaten on eight and three respectively at stumps on the first day.

Kirsten, like Daryll Cullinan enjoying the best form of his career, hit his fourth century of the summer and his second in successive first-class innings.

It was his 31st century of his 13-year long first-class career. His 137 in five hours against a side that included two former Test players — Young and left-arm swing bowler Shayne O'Connor — followed his 128 against New Zealand in the drawn first Test at Auckland last week. He hit 24 boundaries.

"I certainly like to be regarded as someone who did a very good job for South Africa", Kirsten said after his century.

"I set goals and one of them was, at the start of my career I wanted to get 10 Test centuries. If I get it in this series, then may be I look again and say, let's go for 15."

Kirsten's nine Test centuries stand on par with Dudley Nourse in terms of most by a South African in Test cricket.

"I think it is very important as a batsman to set goals. And certainly I have. I would like to be regarded as the one who scored the most centuries and averaged 40 plus in the career," Kirsten, 31, said.

Kirsten, a career-opener, refused to rate bowling attacks.

"Test cricket is all about pressure. It is not about the standard of bowling attacks. At the end of the day you have to still go and get the runs, doesn't matter what the attack is."

"If it is a Test match bowling attack and that's the best they've got to do your best against them. Scoring hundreds against anyone, I don't care," he said.

Gary is the half brother of Peter Kirsten, who opened in the early days of South Africa's return to international cricket.

Rhodes reached his century with the last ball of the innings, hitting medium paceman Carl Bunfin for his third six in addition to the 12 boundaries.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard Saturday at stumps on the first day of the three-day match between a South African XI and New Zealand A at Lincoln.

SOUTH AFRICAN XI: First innings. Kirsten c Bunfin b Bailey 137. Gibbs c O'Connor b Drum 25. Kallis c O'Connor b Drum 37. Cullinan c Stead b Walker 36. Benkenstein run out 33. Rhodes not out 101. Pollock c Drum b O'Connor 31. Cronje not out 17. Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-3, nb-7) 16. Total: (for six wkts dec) 403.

Fall of wkts: 1-29; 2-118; 3-125; 4-194; 5-289; 6-361.

To bat: Steve Elworthy, Paul Adams, Victor Mpsitang.

Bowler: O M R W. Drum 19 3 81 1. O'Connor 22 1 109 1. Bunfin 16 2 1 66 1. Styris 17 2 68 0. Walker 11 1 54 1. Bailey 4 0 19 1.

NEW ZEALAND A: First innings. Lawton not out 8. Young not out 3. Extras: (nb-1) 1. Total: (for no loss) 12.

Bowler: O M R W. Pollock 2 0 10 0. Elworthy 1 0 2 0.

Dress rehearsal for Sydney



SYDNEY, Mar 6 (Reuters/Internet): The main stadium for the Sydney 2000 Olympics passed its first major examination on Saturday when a near-capacity crowd of more than 104,000 turned out for the unofficial opening.

Sydney Olympic officials had been hoping for a smaller crowd of 40,000 for their first test event but were delighted with the way the venue handled the massive attendance.

"It was a great night for Sydney," Australian Prime Minister John Howard said.

"This stadium is really impressive and we'll do the Olympic Games on our ear having seen the way it all worked tonight."

The facilities are good, it didn't seem particularly congested and, overall, 10 out of 10.

The stadium, which will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies, athletics and soccer at the 2000 Olympics, had wanted a relatively low-key start ahead of the official opening on June 12.

The first event chosen for the stadium was a double-

header between local rugby league teams, who usually attract crowds of fewer than 20,000.

But the overwhelming interest in the stadium, despite the Olympic movement's tarnished image, swelled the figure to 104,583 — a world record attendance for a rugby league match and the biggest crowd at any sporting event in Sydney.

Although the Sydney Olympics do not begin until September next year, the state-of-the-art stadium at Homebush Bay has been completed more than 18 months ahead of schedule.



The annual sports meet of Adamjee Cantonment College, Dhaka was held on Mar 4 at the college ground. Chief of General Staff Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Hasan Mashhud Choudhury (L) was present as chief guest while Mrs Jarnigar Choudhury (R) distributed prizes as special guest.

Kasprowicz's hattrick haul

BRISBANE, Australia, Mar 6 (AFP/Internet): Discarded Test paceman Michael Kasprowicz snared a hat-trick here Saturday as Queensland romped to an innings and 117-run win over Victoria to all but secure a home Sheffield Shield cricket final.

Kasprowicz's hat-trick, the second in his career after his 3-0 in four balls against Sri Lanka four years ago, helped destroy Victoria, who had been second to Queensland heading into the penultimate round of games leading up to the final later this month.

With Victoria needing 225 to make Queensland bat again following the Bulls' first innings 413, the Victorians were routed for 108 inside three days.

The win catapulted Queensland to 34 points on the standings 10 points ahead of Victoria and Western Australia, who were involved in a match against Tasmania in Perth.

In Sydney, former Test captain Mark Taylor knocked back the chance to become the greatest Shield run-scorer for New South Wales as they built their lead to 225 runs after the third day of their match against South Australia.

Taylor, needing eight runs to pass Alan Kippax's tally of 6,096, dropped himself to No.6 in the batting order as NSW reached 128 for two in their second innings at the close.

Michael Bevan had 32 not out to go with his unbeaten 202 in the first innings, while young left-hander Graeme Rummans was not out 22.

The Blues must win to have a chance of avoiding a first-ever wooden spoon and they would have been much better placed if not for a defiant 166 from veteran Jamie Siddons in South Australia's 362.

Siddons batted 339 minutes and hit 21 fours in sharing a 172-run stand with Jeff Vaughan (70) after SA had been 27 for three on Friday.

SL yet to sign Botham

COLOMBO, Mar 6 (Reuters/Internet): Sri Lankan cricket officials have denied that an agreement has been signed with former England captain Ian Botham to coach their fast bowlers ahead of the World Cup, a local newspaper said on Saturday.

"Sri Lanka Cricket Board President Thilanga Sumathipala denied that an agreement had been signed with former England all-rounder Ian Botham to coach the national team," the Independent Island said in a report.

Sumathipala told Reuters earlier this week that Botham had been hired to coach the Sri Lankan fast bowlers after their World Cup squad arrived in England three weeks ahead of the tournament starting on May 14.

Botham's lawyer on Thursday denied the former England captain had a formal agreement with the Sri Lankans.

Responding to Botham's denial, Sumathipala clarified that his services were sought since the national coach and specialised coaches appointed by the (Sri Lankan) board felt he was the best man to give a pep up to the seam bowlers.... the Island said.

It did not give details. Sumathipala or other Sri Lankan cricket officials were not immediately available for comment.

World Cup holders Sri Lanka are to formally announce their 19-member squad next week but cricket officials have said it would have little surprises except the exclusion of middle-order batsman Roshan Mahanama.

KB Roy memorial cricket

CCS Red earned a facile 102 runs victory over the Boy Care in a Masters Group match of the KB Roy Chowdhury memorial under-13 cricket tournament at the Kalabagan KC ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Winning the toss, CCS Red batted first to score 194 for 7 wickets in fixed 20 overs. Later, they bundled out the Boy Care for a paltry 92 runs in 17 overs.

CCS RED: 194 for 7 in 20 overs. Ronny 55, Ashan 51, Tanveer not out 20, Jewel 12, extras 35; Saquib 3/45.

BOY CARE: 92 all out in 17 overs. Saquib 28, Reza 20, extras 14; Avik 3/21, Abir 2/5 and Rajib 2/9.

Sebastien in semis

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Mar 6: Sebastien Grosjean saved two match points in the second set and went on to beat Daniel Nestor 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 Friday night in the quarterfinals of the Copenhagen Open, reports AP.

Nestor, a Canadian, had upset top-seeded Marc Rosset in the second round.

Grosjean will play fellow Frenchman Fabrice Santoro in Saturday's semifinals. Santoro, seeded fourth in the indoor tournament, advanced when German Rainer Schuttler retired because of stomach problems while trailing 2-0 in the second set. Santoro won the first set 6-3.

Byron Black and Magnus Gustafsson were extended to three sets in the other quarterfinals.

Black, the second seed from Zimbabwe, rallied to defeat qualifier Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-3.

Gustafsson spoiled a semifinal meeting between the Black brothers, beating Wayne Black 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

Gustafsson, one of the heroes on Sweden's winning Davis Cup team last year, is the defending champion in the Copenhagen Open.

Another 60-day jail for Tyson



INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 6 (AP/Internet): Mike Tyson will have to serve an extra 60 days in jail in Maryland for violating terms of his Indiana probation for a 1992 rape conviction, according to court documents filed Friday.

The former heavyweight champion, however, will not have to return to Indiana for the jail time under an agreement reached Thursday with Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman.

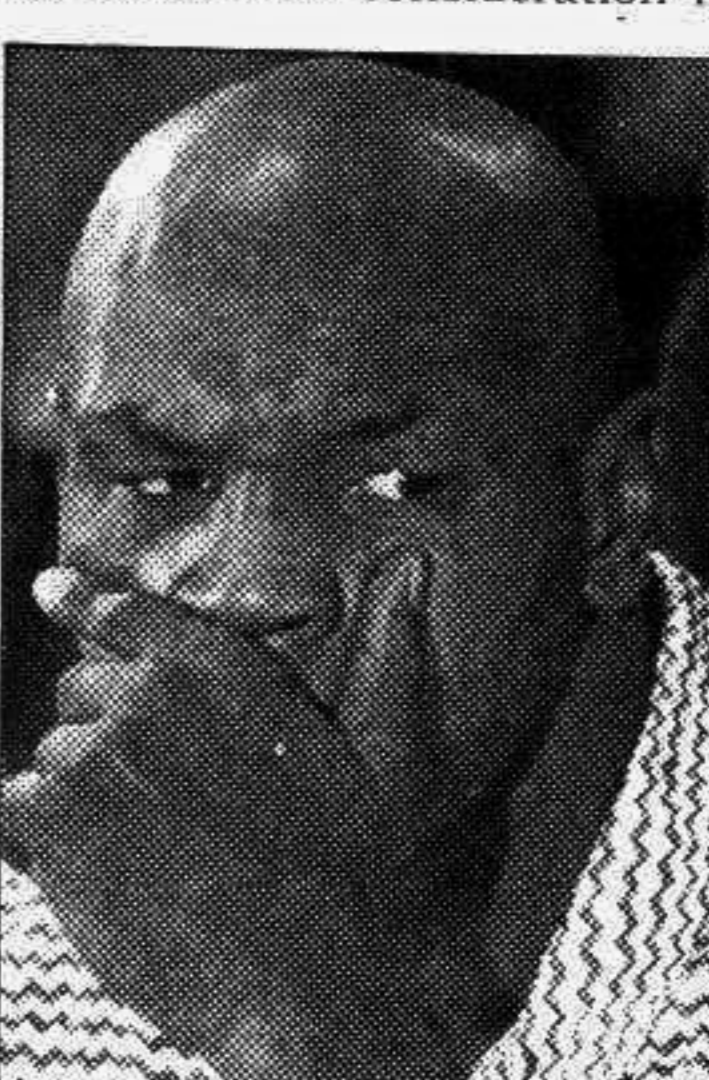
"We were frankly not anxious - and I don't think the people of Indiana were anxious - to have Mike Tyson back in our court and in our jails," Newman said.

Tyson must serve the 60-day sentence for violating probation at the end of the one-year sentence he is serving in Montgomery County, for a misdemeanor assault, according to the agreement. His Maryland sentence still could be reduced for good behaviour.

Tyson will pay the state of Indiana \$80 per day, or a total of \$4,800, for the cost of his incarceration on the probation violation, and Indiana will reimburse Maryland authorities.

Under the agreement, Tyson admitted he violated terms of his probation. He also agreed to waive his right to appeal his no-contest plea and one-year sen-

tence in Maryland. After serving the additional 60 days, his record will show that his Indiana probation was terminated as "unsatisfactory," the agreement said. That would be taken into consideration if



MIKE TYSON

Tyson were to get into legal trouble again.

Newman said he and Maryland prosecutors were looking for a way to remove the Indiana probation violation at no further cost to Indiana taxpayers and still hold Tyson accountable. They negotiated the agreement during the past two

weeks. If Tyson had been forced to appear in court in Indiana on the probation violations, he would likely have withdrawn his Maryland plea and appealed his sentence.

There would have been protracted litigation in this matter, probably in two states," Newman said.

The agreement was signed by Newman, Tyson and the boxer's Indianapolis attorney, James Voyles, and was accepted today by Judge Patricia Gifford, who had sentenced Tyson after his 1992 conviction.

Tyson began serving his Maryland sentence Feb. 5. He had until Sunday to appeal his one-year sentence, which could be reduced for good behaviour.

Muhammad Siddeeq, a spiritual adviser to Tyson, said those close to Tyson were "extremely grateful" a deal could be worked out.

"I'm sure that Mike would want me to say on his behalf... that he's going to try to be worthy of the consideration that's been given him," Siddeeq said.

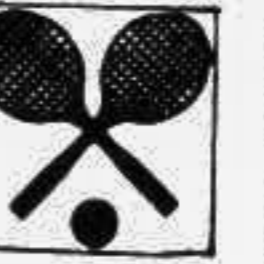
Tyson began serving his Maryland sentence February 5. He had until Sunday to appeal his one-year sentence.

Tyson was on probation in Indiana for raping a beauty pageant contestant in an Indianapolis hotel room in 1991. He was released from prison in March 1995 after serving three years of a six-year sentence.



Romanian Gabriela Szabo (C), who grabbed gold in the women's 1500 metres, is flanked by silver-winning compatriot Violeta Beclea-Szekely (L) and bronze medalist Lidia Chojecka of Poland on the podium in Maebashi yesterday.

Andre sails, Goran fails



SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 6: Andre Agassi continued his mastery of France's best player Friday night, humbling eddie Pioline 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic, reports AP.

Agassi, a three-time champion in Scottsdale (1993, 1994, 1998), guaranteed an Australian-US final. He will play Jan-Michael Gambill of Colbert, Washington, in one semifinal Saturday night.

The winner moves on to a championship showdown against Lleyton Hewitt or Mark Woodford, a pair of Aussies from Adelaide.

Gambill upset Pete Sampras Friday night, and 24 hours later he turned the tables on another player he had never beaten — Justin Gimelstob of Miami, winning 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Gimelstob had beaten Gambill in five previous meetings, including once on the ATP Tour, three times in junior matches and in a 1997 qualifier.

Hewitt, 18, the youngest entrant in the event, defeated Jerome Golmard 6-1, 3-0 when the Frenchman had to retire because of the flu, and the 33-year-old Woodford, the oldest, followed with a 7-6 (8-6), 4-6, 6-1 victory over No 4 seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia.

Agassi, seeded third in this tournament and ranked ninth in the world, is the only seeded player left in the draw.

The Las Vegas native improved to 7-2 in 1999 matches and 3-0 against the No 6 Pioline, who ranks 20th in the ATP, with ease.

Pioline, a 1997 Wimbledon finalist who reached his fourth quarterfinal, was 9-4 coming in. But he had the psychological burden of never having won a set against Agassi, who beat him 6-4, 6-2 in 1994 and 6-0, 6-0 last year.

"Some people match up better into my game than others," Agassi said. "He can give a lot of guys problems and certainly has potential to give me problems, but if I'm playing well, I feel like I'll be in control of most of the points no matter who's serving."

Agassi broke the Frenchman's serve in the third game, and when Pioline broke right back, Agassi won four of Pioline's next five service points to break again for a 3-2 lead in first set.

In the second set, Agassi trumped everything Pioline tried, breaking service in the first, third and seventh games with unerring shots during volleys that almost always ended with Pioline going too deep or just outside.

Woodford, a five-time Wimbledon doubles champion ranked 6th in singles, beat one of the world's 24 best singles players for the third straight match.

He surprised No 5 Tommy Haas (18th) in the first round, then ousted Francisco Clavet (24th) on Thursday.

Ivanisevic, ranked 14th, served 14 aces but couldn't get his famous left-handed serve under control.

He double-faulted nine times, including in the third

game of the third set, when the Australian left-handed broke through to take a 3-0 lead.

"At times he goes for a big second serve, and sometimes they come off funny," said Woodford, who is 3-2 against Ivanisevic on hardcourt. "I think playing against a guy like me who returns pretty well, he's got to try something a little more special on his second serve."

Woodford broke Ivanisevic's service again in the sixth game. By the seventh game, Ivanisevic was so frustrated that, when a fan tried to return a ball from the grandstand, he blasted it into the parking lot.

"I played a stupid game and he broke me," Ivanisevic said. "Then I played another stupid game and another break."

Hewitt, who beat Patrick Rafter to reach the quarters, improved to 10-3 this season to equal his victory total from 1998, when he was 10-9.

Serginho on road to Milan?

MILAN, Mar 6: AC Milan are poised to sign Brazilian left wing back Serginho from Sao Paulo for 12 million dollars, ANSA news agency reported on Friday, reports Reuters.

It said the 27-year-old, seen as a possible successor to Real Madrid's Roberto Carlos in the Brazilian national side, would