

QUOTABLE QUOTES

LONDON, May 17 (AFP): Who said what at the 1999 cricket World Cup:

"Frankly, Sri Lanka — and the game overall — would be better off without him. Yes, there is plenty of animosity between Ranatunga and myself. I don't like him and I'm not in a club of one."

Australian leg spinner Shane Warne on Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga on the opening day of the tournament.

"Warne's comments say more about Shane Warne and Australian culture rather than about me and our culture."

"We have a culture that is 2,500 years old — I think we all know where they (Australians) come from," Ranatunga in response.

"It's just good to hear a helpful voice."

Hansie Cronje after being caught using a radio ear-piece to receive instructions from coach Bob Woolmer while fielding against India.

"I often write 10-dulcar so it was quite nice to wear the 10 shirt."

Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar after discovering his World Cup shirt number.

"The best way of silencing those who question my commitment to Pakistani cricket is to do well and bring the World Cup back to Pakistan."

Wasim Akram, who is facing match-fixing allegations in his home country.

"I have read it would be the death of English cricket if we lost, but we just came here and did the job."

England captain Alec Stewart after beating Sri Lanka in the World Cup opener.

"I would love to bowl at 100mph. I like to see fear in a batsman."

Pakistan pace sensation Shoaib Akhtar.

"Looking back, being dropped from the Test team in the West Indies (in March) might have been the best thing that ever happened to me."

Warne on his gradual return to form.

"It's the selectors, not the critics, who made me captain. Only they can remove me from the job."

India captain Mohammad Azharuddin after being criticised in his home press before the tournament.

"Go and ask the doctors."

West Indies captain Brian Lara, after the umpteenth inquiry about his wrist injury.

"The Duckworth Lewis (scoring system) requires a computer programme comparable with the one which beat Kasparov at chess. If the scientists really want to guard against every computer on the planet blowing up on January 1, it's not the millennium bug they should be working on, but the Duckworth/Lewis."

Martin Johnson in The Daily Telegraph, on the World Cup's complex system to adjust scores in rain-affected matches.

"It's laughable how they (England) keep selecting players over 30 for one day matches. Guys like Ian Austin and Adam Hobbins are very average cricketers, nothing more. They'll never get anywhere near a Pakistan team."

Cricket camp for U-19 team

A three-day cricket camp for players selected from three divisions begins in the city on Friday to form the under-19 cricket squad, reports BSS.

A total of 48 cricketers were named from the three divisions.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday requested all selected players to report to coach Moshuddin Ahmed Montu and Dipu Roy Chowdhury by 3 PM on May 20 at the BCB office at the Bangabandhu National stadium.

The BCB will provide food and lodging for the players.

The division wise names of the selected cricketers are:

Chittagong Division:

Moshuddin Alam (Coxs-bazar), Shadatul Rahman (Bandarban), Biswajit Das (Chandpur), Niaz Moshed Alam (Chandpur), Ishmail Khan Bhutto (Chandpur), Taimur Rahman (Chandpur), Zahurul Huq (Comilla), Badrul Alam (Comilla), Hasanul Hye (B Baria), Al Amin (B Baria), Anwar Azim (Noakhali), Firoz Khan (Chittagong), Namul Hasan Chowdhury (Chittagong) and Galib (Chittagong).

Sylhet Division:

Khandakar Md Razin Saleh Alam, Golam Maula Chowdhury Tusher, Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, Golam Mabud Chowdhury, Shishir Juma Abbas Raju, Rana Mia, Alok Mani Dev, Ejah Ahmed Khan, Tapos Kumar Boishaw, Golam Rahman Chowdhury, Mohammod Sumon Sarker (Habiganj), Babul Hossain Babar, Khandaker Mohammad Rezaul Huq (Nayem), Rintu Roy (Habiganj) and Imran Rahman (Lalu).

Khulna Division:

Mohammad Tariqul Islam, Mohammad Altaf Hossain, Sheikh Tusher Imran, Khorsheed Alam, GM Shariful Islam, Manirul Islam Taj, Md Azad Hossain, Syed Shamim Hossain, Kazi Manjural Islam Rana, Mashraki Bin Murtuza (Kowshik), Md Sazzadul Hasan Setu, Tahmin Bashir Tusher, Hasan Sharif, Mohirul Islam, Mahirul Islam (Chhoto Babu), Md Selim, Ajimul Huda Upal, Shaiful Alam Sabuj and Touhidur Rahman Jami.

M'singh Zila, Scholastica proceed

Mymensingh Zila and Scholastica won their respective group semifinals in the ANZ Grindlays Bank national schools cricket at different venues yesterday, reports UNB.

BRIEF SCORES

MYMENSINGH ZILA: 248 for 9 in 40 overs. Lpon 43, Sinte 35, Riad 36, Sagar 32, Babu 28, Sumon 27, Extras 23, Rony 3/25, Sujon Sr 2/50 and Pnu 2/29.

NABAKUMAR INSTITUTION: 137 all out in 36.2 overs. Mahubb 33, Pnu 23, Rony 21, Rashid 17, Extras 20; Riad 2/14, Rubel 2/22 and Sadi 2/49.

SCHOLASTICA: 183 all out in 39.2 overs. Rayan 60, Hasan 24, Chab 17, Shahad 16, Xtras 35, Nadim 2/27, Kabir 2/30 and Sajid 2/37.

GOVT LABORATORY: 154 all out in 37.2 overs. Arif 20, Jami 18, Sajid 17, Shamis 13, Asif 13, Extras 36; Hasan 3/23.

'Anelka Arsenal's

LONDON, May 17: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said on Sunday he was "95 per cent certain" that French striker Nicolas Anelka will be staying at the club, despite a string of reports linking him with a move to Real Madrid, reports Reuters.

Minutes after Arsenal were deposited as English league champions by Manchester United, Wenger was asked about Anelka's future at Highbury and replied, "It is 95 per cent certain that he will stay here."

Keith to miss next match

BRISTOL, England, May 17 (Reuters/ Internet): All-rounder Keith Arthurton will miss West Indies next match against Bangladesh in Dublin on Friday after straining foot ligaments in the match against Pakistan, team officials said on Monday.

They said Arthurton had suffered a serious strain when he turned his ankle while fielding and would not be able to walk properly for several days.

Arthurton had bowled one over when he was injured and Pakistan plundered 73 runs from the nine overs of part-time bowlers Jimmy Adams and Ricardo Powell, allowing them to build a total of 229 that West Indies felt 27 runs short of reaching.

The officials said Shivnarine Chanderpaul, West Indies' best batsman with 77, would be fit for the Bangladesh match despite being hit on the foot by a yorker from fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar.

Captain Brian Lara admitted after Sunday's defeat that he may have made a tactical blunder by selecting only three seam bowlers and that he may need a fourth for future matches.

This is likely to pave the way for Reon King or Henderson Bryan to be brought in at the expense of debutant Ricardo Powell, who failed with both bat and ball against Pakistan.

Hagi's desire

BUCHAREST, May 17: Gheorghe Hagi, who retired from the Romanian national team after last year's World Cup finals, has announced he intends to return for a single match — Romania's critical European 2000 qualifier against Hungary, reports Reuters.

Hagi made the announcement on a Sunday night talk show on Antena 1 television, saying he could not turn down so many requests from fans.

National team coach Victor Piturca had also asked him to come back.

"I thank coach Victor Piturca for calling me again in the national team," said a clearly touched Hagi.

He hoped the home match against Hungary, on June 5 would amount to the real final curtain of his time on the national team.

Nicknamed "Maradona of the Carpathians", Hagi, 34, has now established himself as a mainstay of Galatasaray Istanbul.

But he has resisted repeated appeals to abandon his decision to end an illustrious international career during which he captained Romania to three World Cup finals and the 1996 European finals, earning 114 caps and 33 goals.

Under his captaincy, Romania reached the 1994 World Cup quarterfinals in the United States.

His last match in a national jersey was in the second round of the 1998 World Cup finals in France, when Romania lost 1-0 to Croatia.

Since Hagi's departure, Romania have slipped in world rankings. The Hungary match is critical as Romania have dropped into second place in Europe 2000 group seven after a disappointing home goalless draw against Slovakia in March.

Romania have never beaten Hungary. The two teams drew in their first encounter in the group in Budapest last autumn.

Kuerten clinches title

ROME, May 17: Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten denied Pat Rafter the chance to become the world's number one tennis player on Sunday, when he outplayed him 6-4, 7-5, 7-6 to win the Italian Open, reports AFP.

Rafter would have become the first Aussie since John Newcombe to take top slot in the

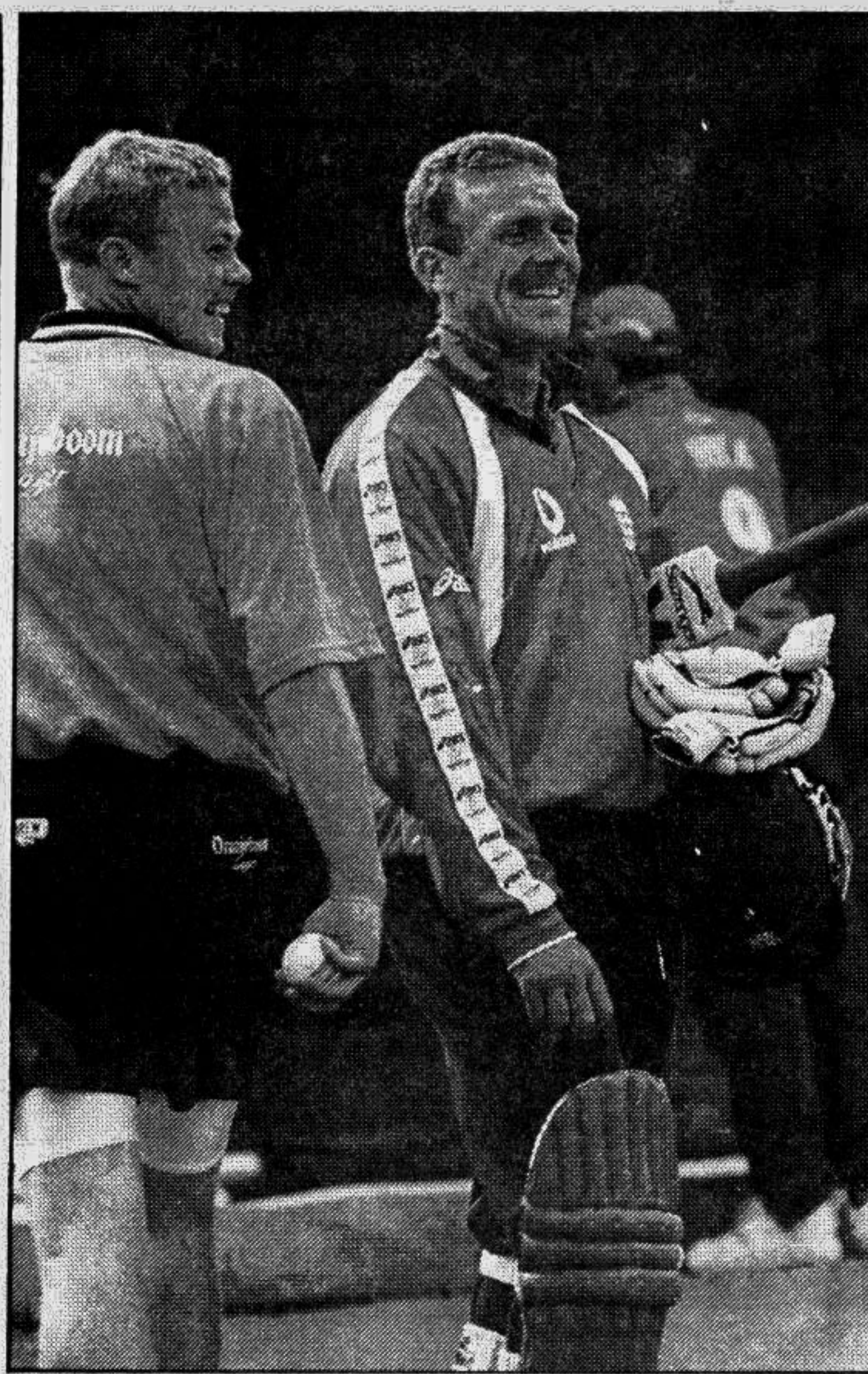
rankings, but the fourth seed never really looked like stopping the Brazilian clay court specialist.

Kuerten, the 1997 French Open winner, combined a solid service game with a superb array of backhand volleys and passing shots to keep the match fully under control.

After winning last month in Monte Carlo, he secured his

fifth career victory — all of which have been on clay — when he hit a backhand volley winner after two hours and 39 minutes.

"I've been playing like this for two months now," said Kuerten. "I just have to enjoy this moment and try to keep playing like this for as long as I can. Hopefully I can be in the same shape at the French Open."



England's Andrew Flintoff (L) and skipper Alec Stewart share a light moment during practice session at Canterbury on May 17. —AFP photo

Final analysis

LONDON, May 17: Australia skipper Steve Waugh did not mince his words when analysing his out-of-sorts team's six wicket win over 500-1 World Cup outsiders Scotland at Worcester on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The ground fielding was atrocious, the throwing pretty ordinary and the overall performance rated no more than five out of 10, he said.

Pakistan skipper Wasim Akram was a much happier man after his side got out of jail against West Indies in Bristol.

Akram hitting a top score of 43 in 29 balls, to post 229 for a eight and then bowled out West Indies for 202 in 48.5 overs.

"We knew that one of their part-timers had to bowl five or six overs and I timed it to come in at that stage and it worked," said Akram.

Australia, second favourites behind South Africa, dropped three catches and delivered 22 wides and eight no-balls as they allowed the Scots to post a more than respectable 181 for seven from their 50 overs.

Australia were then made to work hard for their opening Group B success. They were indebted to Mark Waugh's 67 and brother Steve's 49 not out as they reached their target with 5.1 overs to spare.

"I'd rate our performance at five out of 10," said Waugh. "The ground fielding was atrocious, the throwing pretty ordinary and we've got some work to do."

"I'd say we can't field that badly again in the tournament," Akram played a captain's innings in Bristol to lift the Pakistan innings to respectable. Fast bowler Abdul

Razaq then took three for 22, including the vital wicket of Brian Lara for 11.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul top scored with 77 for West Indies but after Lara's dismissal they rarely looked capable of overhauling the modest Pakistan total.

Former England one-day captain Adam Hobbins has escaped with a warning for making offensive gestures to spectators during a World Cup warm-up game against Essex.

A number of spectators complained to Essex officials after Hobbins made three V-signs to a section of the crowd who had booed him toward the end of England's win a week ago.

England Cricket Board spokesman Brian Murgatroyd said Hobbins, who played in the tournament's opening game against champions Sri Lanka on Friday, had been reminded that gestures could be misinterpreted. "We told him to be careful."

South Africa's highly successful coach, said he was keen to talk the cricketing authorities round on the one-way radio issue which sparked controversy at his team's game against India on Saturday.

South African captain Hansie Cronje fell foul of the match umpire when he was ordered to remove an earpiece with enabled Woolmer to give him advice during the game.

"I'd like to discuss it with the ICC (the game's ruling body)," said Woolmer. "Talking through a radio device was quicker than sending a 12th man out with messages."

"We don't want to upset anyone. We just want to get on with the game, speed it up. I've tried to be innovative."

Among the players, Hasibul Hossain has been the prime performer. There was nothing peaceful about Shano's performance with the willow. He battled with fresh belligerence, hitting a marvelous straight six off a Chris Harris floater among other enterprising ventures. He could be forgiven for feeling a little hard done by after being given out off a no-ball.

Hasibul also bowled well before the lunch break, conceding only two from his four overs and would consider himself a touch unlucky that three mis-cued shots left excruciatingly short of the fielders.

Post lunch, the Royal Bengal paceman has taken the wicket of Macmillan and generally bowled with great heart. His aggression is something other players should be infected with.

Other than that and a trying effort from Manjural, one can only hope for more of the Bengali sun on rest of today's game and the following matches of the tournament.

ACB censorship

From page 16

The advance party, which will include ACA president and former player Tim May, will travel to Sri Lanka in the next few weeks.

"On the basis of that review we'll decide whether we need a 24-hour guard," Speed told reporters.

No thanks Sunny

From page 16

The message from the land of cricket-crazy Sri Lanka to Sunil is 'don't think that the pride and patriotism of Bangladesh is a half volley and it can be hit anywhere. Treat it with respect and don't ever make the mistake of discounting the spirit of the Bangladeshis. If you want to joke about it then do so where others won't hear it.'

Actually, Gavaskar should be advised to exercise as little 'humour' on air as possible, for he does not generally possess much sense for the art.

Minhaz to quit after WC

LONDON, May 17: Experienced batsman Minhazul Abedin will retire from the international cricket immediately after the World Cup, reports BSS.

Minhazul, who was dropped from the first match against New Zealand today, said, "I will say goodbye to cricket after the World Cup."

The former captain of Bangladesh team, who made his debut in the one-day international in the Asia Cup against Pakistan in Colombo in 1985-86, said that he would continue playing club cricket.

"I will try my best to satisfy my fans, who put pressure on the board for my selection at the last moment," he added.

A BCB official justified the dropping of Minhazul and said off-spinner-cum-batsman Naimur Rahman was included in his place as the New Zealand's have a number of left handers.

Aussie-American Davis Cup tie on hardcourt

SYDNEY, May 17: Australia will play the United States on hardcourt in their Davis Cup quarterfinal in Boston in July after Australian players threatened a boycott over a plan to play on clay, tennis officials said today, reports AFP.

The decision follows a month of speculation over the surface to be used in the July 16-18 tie, which was moved to Boston from Australia to mark the centenary of the Cup tie between the US and Great Britain at the Longwood Cricket Club.

Chelmsford sports

From page 13

nounce any with comfort or conviction.

PUZZLING INDEED

The Press Box at Chelmsford gives a view from mid-wicket or extra cover. There is no way of getting a look at the line of the ball, which was the privilege of the ball-tall television commentators.

Stands were not more than four to five rows deep in most places. A section of the boundary was marked by a row of tents. The ground was adorned with publicity strips of sponsors on the green grass. Seeing the Bangladesh batting, someone commented whether he should fly back home by Emirates, or ring for new recruits over Vodafone, have a Pepsi to wet his dry throat or ask the batsmen to pen their account in the NatWest bank.

Bits & pieces

From page 13

tighter security at English venues because players were too vulnerable.

"There has been crowd trouble in the West Indies recently and this trend concerns me," the 36-year-old batsman said.

"We need more security. If the security guy hadn't grabbed hold of the fan, the incident might have been worse," he was quoted saying.

The International Cricket Council has promised a review of security at all international venues.

TINY VENUES

BRISTOL, May 17 (AP): Pakistan tour manager Zafar Altaf says many of the venues hosting World Cup matches are for too small.

Speaking at the 8,500 capacity Nevil Road ground at Bristol, where Pakistan were set to play the West Indies in a Group B match Sunday, Altaf described the ground as "tiny" and unsuitable for a match of the highest standard.

"Come to the sub-continent and I'll fill a stadium with 100,000 for this type of match," he was quoted saying after inspecting Gloucestershire's country ground.

ANSWER QUIZ, THEN VISA

COLOMBO, May 17 (Reuters): Sri Lankans applying for British visas to watch the World Cup tournament have to undergo a cricket quiz as part of the screening process, British High Commission officials said today.

They said the questions, which include the countries taking part, venues and other matters related to the tournament, were to ascertain whether applicants were bona fide cricket fans.

Some 600 Sri Lankans had applied for visas by last week and there had been only 25 rejections, the officials said.

Sri Lanka, the defending champions, lost their first match against England last Friday by eight wickets.

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From page 16

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Youngsters enjoy the Bangladesh-New Zealand match on TV. — Star photo by Enamul Haque

Scottish fans fume at BBC

LONDON, May 17 (Internet report): Scottish cricket fans — including the parents of captain George Salmond — have criticised the BBC for suspending live coverage of their first ever World Cup match against Australia.

As Scotland battled bravely in defeat in their inaugural one-day international against the Aussies at Worcester yesterday, the BBC took their live cameras away from the group clash to screen coverage of Pakistan against West Indies at Bristol and later the Benson and Hedges International Open golf.

Just the first hour and final 45 minutes of Scotland's innings were transmitted live in Scotland, leaving the captain's mother Christine — among others — fuming back at her home in Arbroath.

Mrs Salmond, having decided to stay at home with her husband who has a heart condition, said: "I will never forgive the people at the BBC. They didn't show a single minute of George's innings."

"They have badly let me and thousands of other Scots fans down. Words just can't express how angry I am."

BBC Scotland claimed they were forced into a balancing act with their coverage to satisfy the demands of Scotland's Pakistani community.

When they did rejoin the Scottish innings for the closing 10 overs the response was a series of calls from angry Pakistani fans who had settled into watching their team's game.

BBC Scotland spokesman Roy Templeton said: "We would apologise to those who felt they didn't get the coverage they were expecting, but we had set out what we were going to do in advance."

"When a clash like this happens you are never going to please everyone and when we moved away from the Pakistan and West Indies match we had

complaints from Scotland's large Pakistani community.

"In the end we received a number of calls from both Scotland and Pakistan supporters, but can inform both that we should have uninterrupted coverage of both this Thursday as they play each other."

BBC Scotland did have the option to have stayed with the Scotland game north of the border and only make the change in England, but decided there was equal interest in both fixtures.

Templeton insisted: "We did have a look at whether we should have regionalised the coverage and took the view that cricket fans would probably want to see action from both games."

"We felt a balanced approach was the best option because as a public service there was only one channel open to us, we still had a duty to cater for non-sports fans on BBC1."

Surrey find Essex fighting

LONDON, May 17 (Reuters/ Internet): Looking for the victory that would take them to the top of the county championship table, Surrey found themselves in a tight contest against last season's bottom club Essex at The Oval.

With young England pace-man Alex Tudor taking four for 42, Surrey dispensed their visitors for 204 in their second innings. Queensland captain Stuart Law top-scoring with 64.

That left the home side requiring 272 for victory and by close on the third day they were 110 for three.

Nottinghamshire wrapped up victory with a day to spare over Somerset, recording their second successive win.

Dismissed for 246 in a low-scoring game, they then skittled Somerset out for 232 to win by 31 runs, despite good resistance from Australian Jamie Cox. Somerset's new captain. He hit 83.

Worcestershire, missing World Cup stars Tom Moody and Graeme Hick, were left on the verge of defeat by Hampshire. At 244 for nine following on, they led by only 76.

Worcestershire could be bottom once the current matches finish on Monday as Durham, the only team below them, recovered against Kent.

Bowled out for 93, with the Indian-born spinner Min Patel taking five for 18, they did better when they followed on to reach 153 without loss by the close.

Anthony McGrath made 142 not out, the highest score of his career, as Yorkshire totalled 313 against Middlesex, who were left needing 230 to win. At the close they had lost three wickets for 42, but had experienced Australian Justin Langer still there on 25 not out.

Derbyshire, needing 349 to beat Warwickshire, lost two wickets for 31 by the end of the penultimate day.

Glamorgan's Ismail Dawood, pressed into service as an opener, hit a maiden century and finished with 102 as the Welsh county set Gloucestershire a daunting 464 to win. They were 103 for three at the close.

Mike Watkinson and Mark Chilton were both century-makers for Lancashire against Northamptonshire in a game that seems destined to end in a draw.

ATP rankings

PARIS, May 17 (AFP): Leading ATP Tour tennis rankings issued here on Monday:

Player	points
1. Kafelnikov	3371
2. Sampras	3317
3. Rafter	3298
4. Moya	3080
5. Krawieck	2863
6. Corretja	2849
7. Henman	2671
8. Kuerten	2441
9. Rios	2422
10. Philippoussis	2267
11. Martin	2216
12. Kucera	2185
13. Rusedski	2126
14. Agassi	2101
15. Mantilla	2053
16. Ivanisevic	1813
17. Enqvist	1739
18. Johansson	1650
19. Haas	1640
20. Clavet	1610
21. Kiefer	1529
22. Golmard	1478
23. Ferreira	1305
24. Costa	1295
25. Spadea	1244
26. Zabaleta	1235
27. Lapentti	1223
28. Bjorkman	1202
29. Pioline	1176
30. Rosset	1176



Australian Ricky Ponting drives. —AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	successor	2 Mrs. Copperfield	11 Do as you're told
1 Commotions	41 Squander	16 "Krazy"	20 Swab
5 Semicircular handle	43 Private address?	3 Piece of work	22 Prophet
9 — Paulo	47 Traffic output	4 Aromatic bag	23 Adam's grandson
12 Manilow's	48 Traffic fixture	5 Active hopper's rebuker	24 Drumstick
13 Loosen dinner	51 "But — on forever" (Tennyson)	6 Grass-hopper's choose to run	25 "Believer"
14 Rundown boat	52 Brass member	7 — not choose to run	26 Period
15 Highway diner	53 Unclear	8 Strides view	27 Pig pick
17 Inseparable	54 Dandy	9 "Travesties"	29 Become one
18 Strut	55 Hoosgow	10 Em or Bee	30 Ph. bk. data
19 Vacant	56 Faction	DOWN	35 Torched
21 Spielberg hero	1 Gospels' follow-up	39 Waistcoats	37 Eschews the script
22 Man of morals?	24 Elevator	40 W. state	41 Stray animal
23 Chignon	25 One of the king's men	42 Jason's ship	43 Practice pugilism
31 Ostrich's kin	32 Past	44 Jamaican tangelo	45 Sound of dull impact
33 — Speedwagon	34 Chutzpah	46 To be, in Tours	49 Legendary boy king
36 Clear the tables	37 Puts together	50 Sapporo sash	
38 Unpopular entree	40 LP		

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