

WI Board's warning

KINGSTON, Mar 1: West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) president Pat Rousseau has reiterated that players must take part fully in the West Indies playing class season to be eligible for international selection, reports AFP.

Rousseau said he does not believe the rule will change in light of a few West Indians playing professionally in South Africa and Australia.

"I think we have answered that [question] several times," Rousseau said.

Pak sun shines

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bowling from Ramzan and two left arm spinners Enamul Haque and Suja Erfan. Enamul bagged three wickets for 28 runs from his ten overs while Suja took two wickets for 33 runs.

Opener Moin scored highest 39 for Bima followed by Indian Rajinder Singh, who added 25.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division cricket league match between Surjo Tarun Club and Sadharan Biman Krira Sangha played at the BKS ground in Savar yesterday.

SURJO TARUN CLUB

Parvez lbw b Mahbub 9
Ramzan lbw b Hasan 29
Imran c Ismail b Rajinder 29
Akhtar c Selim b Rajinder 57
Al-Shahriar c Garry b Moin 44
Enamul c Saiful b Tasriqul 3
Minhazul run out 6
K Masood not out 18
Anis not out 2

Extras: (lb-5, nb-5, w-8) 12
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs) 258

Did not bat: Morshed Ali Khan and Suja Erfan

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-84; 3-153; 4-202; 5-219; 6-246; 7-252.

Bowler O M R W

Mahbub 10 2 28 1
Saiful 7 0 48 1
Tasriqul 9 1 37 1
Rajinder 4 0 42 2
Rezwan 10 0 54 0
Hasan 4 0 33 1

SADHARAN BIMA KS

Moin c & b Suja 39
Ismail lbw b Ramzan 28
Faruque b Ramzan 0
Selim b Ramzan 25
Rajinder b Enamul 7
Saiful b Enamul 11
Rezwan lbw b Suja 12
Garry c Ramzan b Enamul 20
Tasriqul c Anis b Akhtar 20
Hasan not out 3
Mahbub c Suja b Parvez 12
Extras: (lb-3, nb-5, w-4) 12
Total: (All out in 46.1 over) 163

Fall of wickets: 1-40; 2-41; 3-55; 4-104; 5-104; 6-111; 7-111; 8-122; 9-148.

Bowler O M R W

Anis 7 1 27 0
Morshed 4 0 15 0
Ramzan 6 0 16 3
Minhazul 5 0 20 0
Suja 10 1 33 2
Enamul 10 1 28 3
Akhtar 2 0 8 1
Parvez 1 0 6 0
Imran 1 0 6 0

Result: Surjo Tarun Club won by 105 runs.



A combo of AFP pictures shows Indian cricket coach Kapil Dev (L), captain Sachin Tendulkar (C) and South African skipper Hansie Cronje talking to reporters after practice at Bangalore yesterday.

India's home record at stake



BANGALORE, India, Mar 1 (Reuters/Internet): India are looking to their spinners to exploit a helpful pitch and square the two-match series against South Africa in the second Test starting here on Thursday.

Having lost the first game in Bombay last week by four wickets, the home team is under pressure to bounce back and keep their record of being undefeated in a home series for 13 years.

The tourists are bidding to become the first team to win a series in India since Imran Khan's Pakistan did it in 1987.

The Indian team is in disarray after a dismal tour of Australia, the decision by captain Sachin Tendulkar to step down after the current series, shouldering the responsibility for the team's poor performances, and coach Kapil Dev's differences with the selection committee.

A tailor-made pitch to suit the Indian spinners is the only hope left for the home team.

"Looking at the wicket I think it is going to help the spinners. Yes, I would like to have a third spinner in the team," said Tendulkar, who denied his team was suffering any undue pressure.

"There is no pressure on us. Why are we talking about 13 years' losing is losing. Our aim is to go out and win," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Tendulkar and Indian coach Kapil Dev said they would like to have a third spinner in the final 11 but the composition of the team was being decided late on Wednesday after a meeting with the selectors.

The Indian squad has three specialist spinners in leg-break bowler Anil Kumble, off-spinner Nikhil Chopra and left-arm spinner Murali Kartik.

Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin will bolster the brittle batting line-up, returning after an eight-month lay-off caused by a shoulder injury during the World Cup in England.

Opener Sadagopan Ramesh also returns to the side after opting out of the first Test due to injury. South Africa think momentum is on their side and the bowling attack is expected to be "more or less" the same, said skipper Hansie Cronje.

Meanwhile, coach Graham Ford has warned South Africa must avoid panicking against the home side's spin bowlers.

And, although the tourists won the first game, Ford believes that panic caused the first-innings crash when they slumped from 90 without loss to 176 all out.

"We've got to accept that there are going to be unplayable balls. But not all balls are going to be unplayable. We mustn't panic."

"In South Africa we can face seamers who bowl good balls and the guys can handle that. We must try to have the same mind-set."

South Africa, however, will be boosted by the return of middle-order star Daryll Cullinan, who declared himself fit after a hard practice on Tuesday.

"Cullinan seems to be moving okay and I think he'll be playing," Cronje said. "But we'll finalise the team only in the evening."

In the three previous series between the two countries to date, the number four has the highest average of any player on either side with 52 - including Indian batting genius Tendulkar.

Tendulkar and Azharuddin have the best records against South Africa's seam attack, although the likes of Rahul Dravid and Ganguly have the potential to be masterful on their day.

THE TEAMS

INDIA (from): Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Wasim Jaffer,



Former Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin signing autographs for fans after a training session at Bangalore yesterday.

Sadgoppan Ramesh, Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly, Mohammad Azharuddin, Nayan Mongia (wicketkeeper), Anil Kumble, Nikhil Chopra, Murali Kartik, Javagal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar, Thiru Kumar, Mohammad Kaif.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Hansie Cronje (captain), Shaun Pollock, Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Pieter Strydom, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher (wicketkeeper), Allan Donald, Clive Eksteen, Morantau Hayward, Boeta Dippenaar, Nicky Boje.

Linares chess Anand, Kramnik share point

LINARES, March 1: The world's second-ranked chess player, Viswanathan Anand of India, needed only 33 minutes on Tuesday to play to a draw with the Black pieces against number-three Vladimir Kramnik of Russia in the second round of the Linares Grandmaster tournament, reports AP.

Anand chose a solid line of Slav Defense and Kramnik was unable to demonstrate an advantage in a rare sideline after 8. Nh4.

In another game, FIDE world champion Alexander Khalifman, ranked 31st was playing with the White pieces against world number one Gary Kasparov. After 18 moves, the position remained unclear in a sharp Gruenfeld Defense. But Khalifman had fallen a half hour behind on a clock.

In the third match of the six-player tournament, world number four Alexei Shirov was engaged in a sharp struggle against the world's top junior player, Peter Leko of Hungary. Shirov as White sacrificed an exchange in a complex position and forced Leko into time trouble.

Kasparov first won the world championship under the auspices of FIDE in 1985 but in 1993 broke away and formed the Professional Chess Association rather than accept FIDE's ground rules for his championship defense match against Britain's Nigel Short.

He successfully defended his title against Short in 1993 and against Anand in 1995 but he has not defended it since then.

FIDE has continued to hold its championship on a regular basis. Despite his relatively low rating, Khalifman won the title in a championship match in Las Vegas in 1999.

In the first round of the Linares tournament Kasparov beat Shirov. Kramnik defeated Khalifman and Anand played to a draw against Leko.

Kanhai pulls for Richards

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Mar 1: Rohan Kanhai said the handling of the appointment of Roger Harper as West Indies coach had been "a slap in the face" to Viv Richards, one of the applicants for the post, reports Reuters.

"You don't treat men who have put West Indies cricket on the map all over the world like that," the former West Indies Test batsman and coach told the Guyana Chronicle.

Richards learned of Harper's appointment from a junior West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) official rather than chief executive Steve Camacho.

The WICB's offices in Antigua came under attack from angry Richards supporters the day after Harper's appointment.

"What I am upset about is the way it was done," said Kanhai. "I think that the WICB, Steve Camacho or (president) Pat Rousseau, should have called Sir Vivian and had a word with him and told him what was going on before all of this came out in the press."

"It is not fair on a great West Indian batsman, one of the greatest of all times, for this to happen to him like it did."

Richards, who captained West Indies in 50 Tests, coached the national side on an interim basis on the recent tour of New Zealand when West Indies lost both Tests and all five one-day matches.

Kanhai, who played in 79 Tests, said he was sorry that Brian Lara had quit as West Indies captain.

"There was a lot of pressure on him and people have been blaming him (for their poor form)," said Kanhai. "Of course, he is only one man."

A 20-man squad from which the team will be selected for the forthcoming home Test series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan will attend a training camp in Jamaica from March 4 to 12.

The first Test against Zimbabwe starts in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on March 16.

Sumo rings safe for now

TOKYO, Mar 1: Japan's sumo mandarins breathed a sigh of relief on Wednesday as the country's first woman governor backed down from her quest to enter the male-dominated sport's hallowed ring, reports Reuters.

But Fusae Ota, elected governor of the western city of Osaka last month, said she will keep raising the issue of whether she can enter the ring to present a tournament trophy until they give in.

The governor will keep on trying, a spokesman for the Osaka government told this news agency on Wednesday. Osaka government officials reported that Ota had withdrawn her request to present a trophy because she did not have enough time to muster support for her cause. Her place will be taken by a male deputy.

Debate over whether a woman can enter the sumo ring erupted after Ota's election. When she asked the Japan Sumo Association to allow her to present a trophy to the winner of an Osaka sumo tournament this month.

Tradition bans women from the ring itself on the grounds that it is sacred and their presence, considered unclean, would pollute it. Yet it is also customary for prizes to be presented by the governor of the prefecture in which a tournament is held.

The Sumo Association, though, remained unmoved, asking that Ota give in for the sake of tradition.

Both boys and girls may take part in children's sumo wrestling in primary school, but women are barred from the rings where national matches are held under the association's auspices.

Easy win for Kournikova

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 1: Wedding bells apparently are no distraction to Anna Kournikova.

The much-admired 18-year-old Russian needed only 45 minutes to dispatch Alina Jidkova 6-2, 6-1 Tuesday night in the first round of the State Farm Women's Tennis Classic, reports AP.

While Kournikova wouldn't confirm her engagement to 28-year-old hockey star Pavel Bure, she did say that she didn't intend to allow the situation to affect her play.

"Hopefully it won't be and hopefully it isn't," she said. "I'm trying to block everything out because I'm concentrating on my tennis right now. That's why I'm here. I wouldn't be coming here if I wasn't ready. I'm here to play."

Kournikova did offer a tantalizing hint that a formal announcement was forthcoming.

"I do not have any details right now for you," she said. "As soon as I will be ready, I will let you know everything."

Kournikova dominated Jidkova in all phases of the match. "I knew her from way before," Kournikova said. "We grew up together in Russia. But I have never played against her professionally."

Ranked 10th in the world and seeded sixth in the tournament, Kournikova said her goal is to reach the top five. She's never won a WTA event, let alone a grand slam, "but I'm getting closer," she said.

Bevan outshines Astle



NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 1: Michael Bevan began disastrously but finished with a flourish to spearhead Australia to their fourth emphatic one-day cricket victory over New Zealand here Wednesday, reports AFP.

Australia continued their dominance of their trans-Tasman rivals cruising to a five-wicket win to lead the series 4-0 with one match to play in Auckland on Friday.

Bevan's day began with acute embarrassment when he split an easy midriff catch in the opening over before Kiwi opener Nathan Astle had scored and his blunder was compounded when Astle went on to score 104 - his seventh one-day century.

But the stylish Australian left-hander, elevated to No. 4 in the batting order, replied with a hundred of his own and his fourth in one-dayers, to guide the Australians to victory with 26 balls to spare.

Man-of-the-match Bevan stroked a commanding 107 off 141 balls with 10 fours as Australia scored 245 for five to overtake New Zealand's 243 for nine.

Of his fumble-fingered clanger, Bevan said: "I was just hoping he (Astle) would get out for 30 or 40 and someone would take a screamer but it didn't happen but it was just lucky I scored some runs."

"I had to make amends but I was happy with the way I hit them."

"I hit a few 70s in the Australian summer and I wanted to go on with it. I was just trying to stay there today and make sure I was the guy who got them through."

Bevan's night was slightly soured when he was overlooked for teammate Damien Martyn when selectors named a replacement for injured batsman Ricky Ponting for this month's Test series in New Zealand. Instead he will head home on Saturday.

Bevan was well supported by another left-hander, Matthew Hayden, who cracked 57 off 67 balls in a 96-run stand for the third wicket.

Skipper Steve Waugh chipped in with a typically pugnacious 43 off 34 balls with two sixes as Australia got the runs with few concerns.

"It was a good performance by us, we had to work hard, 243

was always going to be a tough score and Michael Bevan and Matthew Hayden put a good partnership together that won us the match," said Waugh.

Looking to the distinct possibility of a series clean sweep on Friday, Waugh said: "It will be like New Zealand in the yachting (America's Cup), and

Australian-born opener Matthew Sinclair, who was dismissed on his first ball in his one-day debut in the last match in Christchurch, was out on the fourth ball Wednesday again for a duck.

Roger Twose hit 32 off 57 balls and put on 89 runs for the third wicket with Astle while Chris Cairns smashed two sixes in his 31 off 46 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fifth one-day cricket international between New Zealand and Australia at McLean Park here Wednesday:

NEW ZEALAND

Sinclair lbw b Fleming 0
Astle c Gilchrist b Fleming 104
Fleming c S Waugh b Fleming 10
Twose b M Waugh 32
Cairns c Warner b McGrath 31
Harris c Hayden b Harvey 15
Styris b McGrath 31
Nevin c Martyn b Warner 11
Vettori c Hayden b Fleming 17
Doutt not out 0
Extras: (lb-7, nb-4, w-12) 23
Total: (For 9 wks in 50 overs) 243

Fall of wks: 1-4; 2-26; 3-115; 4-177; 5-207; 6-208; 7-223; 8-232; 9-243.

Bowler O M R W

McGrath 10 0 61 2
Fleming 8 0 41 4
Harvey 10 0 35 4
S Lee 5 0 23 0
Warne 10 2 34 1
M Waugh 7 0 42 1

AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c Styris b Cairns 14
M Waugh c Astle b Cairns 0
Hayden c Nevin b Wiseman 57
Bevan c Styris b Doull 107
Warne st Nevin b Vettori 12
S Waugh not out 43
Martyn not out 4
Extras: (w-2, b-3, lb-3) 8
Total: (For 5 wks in 45.4 overs) 245

Fall of wks: 1-1; 2-34; 3-130; 4-155; 5-237.

Bowler O M R W

Cairns 8 0 31 2
Doull 7 0 36 1
Styris 6.4 0 46 0
Wiseman 10 0 52 1
Vettori 10 0 47 1
Harris 2 0 17 0
Astle 2 0 10 0

Result: Australia won by 5 wickets.

Australia lead series 4-0.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Bevan.

Damien Fleming took 4-41

UEFA Cup fourth round 1st leg

Advantage for Parma, Prague

PARIS, Mar 1: UEFA Cup holders Parma and Slavia Prague both scored 1-0 wins on Tuesday night in fourth-round, first leg matches, reports AFP.

Argentine ace Hernan Crespo struck in the sixth minute to give Parma their 1-0 win over Germany's Werder Bremen, while the Czech side edged Udinese of Italy by a identical scoreline.

PARMA-WERDER BREMEN
Parma ended an eight-match winless streak with the victory - but rarely sparked against

their dogged if uninspired, German opponents.

Argentine playmaker Ariel Ortega set up the goal when he crossed from the right and Crespo took advantage of some poor marking to score with a crisp first-time shot.

Werder came close to an equaliser in the 36th minute but the strike by Brazilian Ailton was ruled out by Belgian referee Michel Piraux for offside.

The win delighted Parma coach Alberto Malesani, whose job had been under threat after a 4-0 weekend loss to Fiorentina.



Scene from the Shah Sports Office Hockey League match between Bangladesh Air Force and Bangladesh Railway at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

"This was just the sort of win we needed," said Malesani.

SLAVIA PRAGUE-UDINESE
Marco Zanchi's own goal with 16 minutes remaining was enough to give Slavia Prague their win.

Zanchi directed the ball into his own net after a cross from the right wing by Ivo Ulrich.

Udinese fought hard for an equaliser but the closest they came was two minutes after the goal when goalkeeper Radek Cerny dived low to keep out a shot from Carlos Sosa.

Slavia played some excellent football but will take only a one-goal advantage to Udinese for the second leg.

The remaining six fourth round, first leg matches will be played on Thursday night.

Arsenal host Deportivo La Coruna in London, while Deportivo's compatriots from Mallorca and Atletico Madrid are both at home to French league opposition.

Mallorca play Monaco and Atletico Madrid host Lens.

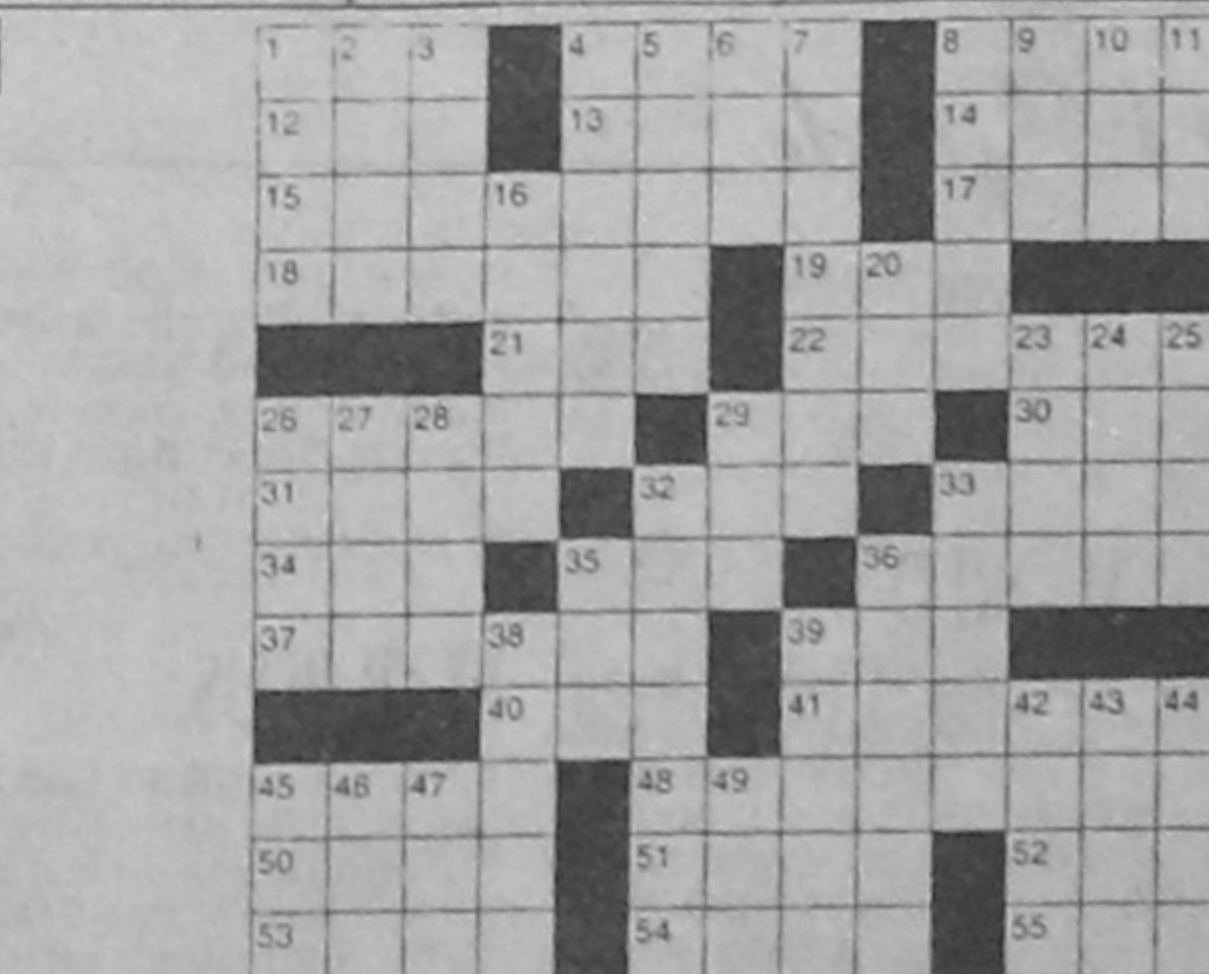
In other matches, Juventus play the fourth Spanish representatives from Celta Vigo, Borussia Dortmund face Galatasaray and Roma host Leeds United.

Ribbeck hits back at critics

BERLIN, Mar 1: Germany's head coach Erich Ribbeck hit back Tuesday after being criticised for poor leadership qualities by a German international in the football magazine Kicker after last week's 2-1 loss to Holland, reports AFP.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

CBR Q R A B X J Z A I R Q X I Y R E

CBXC BR'E WRADQR IXC B R I

ODDE XC WIXYR EXJAZJO

Yesterday's Cryptquip: PEDIATRICIANS CAN

OFTEN BE DESCRIBED AS PEOPLE OF LITTLE

PATIENTS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals G

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.



BANGLADESH INLAND WATER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date : 29-02-2000

Credit No. 2232-1 BD

IFB No. DH/G-2/117

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the THIRD INLAND WATER TRANSPORT PROJECT (IWT-III). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for:
Constructions for Bench Mark

2. The Director (Hydrography), Department of Hydrography, BIWTA Bhaban (10th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Bangladesh now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and installation of