

## Zimbabwe enjoy run feast

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, Mar 5 (Reuters/APP): Alistair Campbell and Stuart Carlisle shared an unbroken sixth wicket century stand as four Zimbabwe batsmen completed half centuries on the opening day of their West Indies tour on Saturday.

Zimbabwe ended the first day of their three-day match against a West Indies Board XI on 302 for five.

Campbell and Carlisle regained the initiative for the touring team after they had stumbled for 168 for two to 200 for five.

Both were unbeaten on 52 at the close. Carlisle was the more enterprising of the two, driving particularly well in his 85-ball innings which was included seven fours.

Campbell has faced 97 balls and hit six fours.

Opener Grant Flower had given the innings a blazing start by reaching his half century before lunch. He went on to make 69 off 81 balls with 11 fours and a six before attempting an ambitious reverse sweep of spinner Rodney Sooklal.

Flower and Trevor Gripper put on 98 for the second wicket. Gripper made the most of being missed twice to score 62 before pulling across the line and being bowled by 20-year-old pace bowler Jeremy. Jeremy was the most successful bowler with two for 38 off 15 overs.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the opening day of the three-day match between the West Indies Cricket Board XI and Zimbabwe at Queen's Park Stadium here on Saturday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First Innings

G Flower c Sooklal b Johnson 69  
J Gibson c Wallace b Black 17  
Griffin b Jeremy 27  
Goodwin c Browne b Hinds 13  
A Flower c Ganga b Jeremy 52  
Campbell not out 50  
Carlisle not out 85  
Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-7) 10  
Total (For 5 wickets) 302

To bat: M Nkala, H Streak, B Murphy, M Mbangwa.

Fall of wickets: 26-1; 124-2; 168-3; 187-4; 200-5

**Bowler** O M R W  
Cuffy 18 4 47 0  
Black 16 2 60 1  
Jeremy 15 4 38 2  
Sooklal 21 3 80 1  
Semple 5 2 18 0  
Hinds 13 2 47 1  
Sarwan 2 0 9 0

**WICKETS:** P Wallace, D Ganga, K Semple, R Sarwan, R Hinds, B Ramersad, C Browne (cap/wkt), M Black, K Jeremy, C Cuffy, R Sooklal.

Umpires: G Johnson, B Doctrove.

## Koubek, Calatrava reach final

DELRAY BEACH, Florida, Mar 5: Spaniard Alex Calatrava has the opportunity to become the second qualifier ever to win the Citrix Tennis Championships if he can upset sixth seeded Stefan Koubek of Austria in today's final, reports Reuters.

The 26-year-old Calatrava, who was considering quitting tennis if this year did not go well, will have to have a quick recuperation from his long Saturday night 6-0, 5-7, 7-6 (7-3) semifinal battle with American Paul Goldstein.

"I'm so happy now, I'm just going to enjoy it so much that I think I'll recover okay for tomorrow," Calatrava said. "I don't know how I kept going, but I think I wanted to win so badly that even though I was tired, I kept going and going."

Koubek, who will be playing in his third career final and first on hardcourts, also went three sets Saturday afternoon before ousting Australian Richard Fromberg 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-2 in the other semifinal.

"It feels very good because before this I've only done well on clay courts," Koubek said. "It will be good for the other players to know I can play on hardcourts, too."

Koubek knows what it is like winning a tournament as a qualifier because he won his lone career title as a qualifier in Atlanta last year.

Fromberg's departure puts an end to the Australian reign over this tournament with the past five champions from Down Under — Todd Woodbridge in 1995, Jason Stoltenberg in 1996 and 1997, Andrew Lie as a qualifier in 1998 and Lleyton Hewitt in 1999.

Calatrava, a clay court specialist with a surprisingly big serve, was simply stunning as he seemed to win every shot, racing to a 6-0, 2-0 lead in the match.

Goldstein, playing in his first four semifinal, settled down and started to mix up play, which meant Calatrava could no longer dominate him in lengthy baseline battles. In the end, Goldstein had a 5-4 lead and two match points on Calatrava's serve in the 10th game of the final set, but when the match went into a tiebreaker, the Spaniard's serve saw him through to the final.

"I didn't start off trailblazing," Goldstein said. "I'm proud of myself that I battled back and put myself in position to win, but I failed to do so."

This was the second consecutive week that Koubek has beaten Fromberg after losing the first set, eventually winning their second-round encounter on clay at Mexico City.

This time the match turned in Koubek's favour after a two-hour delay occurred when the stadium hardcourt started to come up right behind one of the baselines at 2-2, 15-30 with Koubek serving in the second set.

## Road to World Cup kicks off

# Smashing start by T&T

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 5: The long road to the 2002 World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan began on Saturday as Trinidad and Tobago crushed the Netherlands Antilles 5-0 in the very first match of qualifying, reports AFP.

Angus Eve and Arnold Dwarika led the assault, grabbing two goals apiece for Trinidad in the Caribbean Zone preliminary phase first-leg match.

The match kicked off a qualifying competition that will span 809 games and 21 months.

The World Cup itself -- the first to be co-hosted by two countries -- begins in South Korea on June 1, 2002 and concludes in Japan on June 30.

As co-hosts of the competition, South Korea and Japan already are assured berths, as are defending champions France.

Another 195 countries will battle for the remaining 29 berths through November 2001.

After the Antilles, composed of amateur players, managed to hold their own in the opening minutes, Trinidad found gaping holes in the visitors' defence before an estimated crowd of 8,000 at Hasely Crawford Stadium.

"If anyone would have told me before the game the final result would be 5-0, I would have been very happy," Trinidad coach Ian Porterfield said. "I thought we started out a little bit shakily. We were a little bit nervous. As the game went on, we improved and we scored some very good goals... We could have scored more because we

had a lot of good chances."

Marvin Andrews, who plays for Raith Rovers in the Scottish League, connected for the first goal of qualifying as he headed a left-wing cross past goalkeeper Marcello Pisos in the 19th minute.



The goal calmed Trinidad's nerves and the hosts started to dominate and take possession of the ball for long periods of time, forcing the Netherlands Antilles players to foul to stop further penetrations by Trinidad.

Eve scored into an empty net in the 43rd minute, after Pisos came far out of his goalmouth. Eve, who plays for Chester in the English Third Division, connected for his second goal in the 57th minute, heading in a cross from the left for a 3-0 advantage.

Trinidad was far from finished. Dwarika picked up a pass from team captain Anthony Rougier and blasted in a 12-yard shot in the 63rd minute. Dwarika closed out the scoring in the 87th minute with Pisos at the top of the penalty area.

The match culminated a rather tumultuous week for Trinidad, which secured a new coach barely 48 hours before the kickoff and lost an international tug of war with Manchester United over the services of star striker Dwight Yorke.

Yorke stayed in England and played the first 85 minutes of United's 1-1 draw with Liverpool in the Premiership.

On Thursday, Scottish native Porterfield was named Trinidad coach, replacing the fired Bertille St. Clair. Porterfield has been coaching the Public in the Trinidad professional league, has extensive club coaching experience in England and has directed National Teams in Oman, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

St. Clair was axed after Trinidad was eliminated in the semi-finals of the Football Confederation's Gold Cup by Canada, the eventual champion.

"It caused a hiccup," Rougier said. "It was not a situation we would want to go through in the World Cup preliminary round. The players have done very well with the circumstances. The boys were pretty much focused. This has been a very, very proud of ourselves. We feel pretty good of the goal, which is qualifying for the World Cup."

# Quiet revolution at Anfield

LONDON, Mar 5 (Reuters): Eyebrows were raised when Liverpool's French manager Gerard Houllier

spent about 25 million pounds (\$39.4 million dollars) in the summer on seven foreign players who were far from household names on Merseyside.

Bookmakers decided he was the second most likely Premier League manager to be sacked while long-suffering fans were left wondering just who were these new Anfield saviours.

Titi Camara of the Ivory Coast, Dutch goalkeeper Sander Westerveld and Finnish defender Sami Hyypia were mystery men while Swiss defender Stephane Henchoz was hardly setting the pulses racing for relegated Blackburn.

But Houllier splashed out some 13 million pounds on them and then another seven million for Newcastle United's Dietmar Hamann as he tried to rebuild the club after the departure of Steve McManaman, Paul Ince and David James.

Anfield was suddenly buzzing with 15 nationalities, held together by a French coach

with a huge weight of expectation on his shoulders.

Things did not start well. A home defeat by Watford was followed by a 1-0 reverse at Middlesbrough.

The calls for Houllier's head were predictably swift but he shrugged them off, insisting the rebuilding job was a long-term project.

Back-to-back victories over Leeds and Arsenal bought him some time but a poor spell saw the Merseysiders stuck in 12th place in October.

Houllier was unconcerned.



GERARD HOULLIER

"We are in the early stages of a new era and if we are given time the good times will come," he said.

He pointed to other foreigners such as Chelsea's Marcel Desailly and Manchester United's Jaap Stam as examples of players who needed time to adjust to the English game.

"Our new players will need time and indulgence," said Houllier. "I don't want to use a plea of patience as a shield for me but it is just a fact that it will take time for these players to adapt."

He was not helped by injuries to England strikers Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen. But gradually the new faces began to settle and the results

started to come.

Importantly, the defence was sorted out first. Ever since the 1980s trophy-laden days of Alan Hansen and Mark Lawrenson the centre back area has been a weakness at Anfield.

A succession of Scandinavians had tried and failed to fill the void but Henchoz and the powerful Hyypia have developed into an outstanding partnership.

With Westerveld proving an able goalkeeper and Hamann patrolling as a deep midfielder Houllier's team can boast the best defensive record in the league -- 22 goals conceded in 26 games compared with Manchester United's 34 in 27.

Although Saturday's 1-1 draw with United at Old Trafford allowed Chelsea to climb above Liverpool into third place, Houllier was delighted with his side's performance and the progress it showed.

"I'm really proud of my players," he said. "We created some good chances which is not easy at Old Trafford and I think we played some good football."

"We are still learning a lot. It is still developing and there is a long way to go but I am very pleased with our progress."

"It is too late now as I'm sure United will win the league but I can see the core of a coming team."

Owen, who came on as a 77th minute substitute for his first appearance since straining a hamstring on January 22, agreed that things will be a big achievement, he said.

"We've said all along that qualifying for the Champions' League will be a big achievement," he said.

"People are starting to take notice now. They were asking questions about these players they hadn't heard of but they are starting to gel and we are playing well as a team now."

Owen could have won the game for Liverpool with virtually his first touch on Saturday but after being sent clear by Danny Murphy he clipped his shot just wide.



Gabriel Batistuta of Fiorentina (R) under pressure from veteran Piacenza defender Pietro Vierchowod during their Serie A fixture at Florence on March 4. —AFP photo

## Office hockey Army beat Sonali Bank

Bangladesh Army came from behind to beat Sonali Bank Club 2-1 in their last first phase match of the Shah Sports Office Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

With the win, title aspirants Army, who already reached the four-team super league, finished top jointly in the first phase with Blue Berry Travels and Tours both having unbeaten record securing 16 points from six league outings.

Sirajul and Abu Salam scored two field goals for Army in the 46th and 68th minutes after Rubel put defending champions Sonali Bank ahead in the second minute.

The second match between two services teams Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force ended in a one-all draw.

Shamsuzzaman scored a field goal for the Navy in the 14th minute while Masud restored parity for the Air Force in the 59th minute, also by a field goal.



Scene from yesterday's Shah Sports Office Hockey League encounter between Bangladesh Army and Sonali Bank at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium. —Star photo

## Azhar gets one-day recall

# Finger pointed at fatigue

BANGALORE, Mar 5 (AFP): India's selectors blamed cricket fatigue behind a dismal performance by their team which was facing a South African rout here Sunday.

"We are disappointed. But it is the fatigue. Too much cricket is being played these days and

### Shield cricket

MELBOURNE, Mar 5 (AFP): Left-arm fast bowler Matthew Inness on Saturday became the first player to take a hat-trick for Victoria in almost 70 years and gave his state an outside chance of hosting this year's Sheffield Shield cricket final.

Inness' efforts ensured Victoria wrapped up their match against New South Wales in three days. He removed Blues' skipper Shawn Bradstreet, all-rounder Mark Higgs and fast bowler Trent Johnston in successive balls to give the Victorians their sixth outright win in nine matches this season.

The Inness-inspired victory has taken Victoria to within six points of leaders Queensland with one match remaining following the Bulls' capitulation to Western Australia in Perth.

Despite the 10-wicket win, Victoria still need to win their last match in Tasmania outright next week - while hoping Queensland fail to pick up a point at home to South Australia - to have a chance of grabbing home advantage in the final later this month.

Inness became the first player to take a hat-trick for Victoria since Francis Morton against Tasmania in 1931-32.

the players view every match as a sort of routine," India's selection committee chief, Chandu Borde, told reporters.

"There is no urge in the players to look forward or prepare for a new match," Borde said.

"Let us hope that the one-day internationals bring us the glory of the past days," Borde said of the matches starting in the southern city of Cochin on March 7.

India has lost the first Test match at Bombay by four wickets and its 13-year-old unbeaten reign on home soil is on the verge of being broken by South Africa after they grabbed five Indian wickets Sunday.

India go to the last day of the second Test match here still needing 125 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

J.Y. Lele, secretary of the Board of Cricket Control for India, announced the one-day team for the first three matches to be led by Saurav Ganguly after skipper Sachin Tendulkar decided to step down after the current Test series which ends Monday.

Wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia and paceman Jagavallabh Singh have been dropped from the team and seamer Amit Bhandari and keeper Sameer Dinguhe called up.

"Mongia is not fit. We have decided to use Srinath as sparingly as possible. He may play after the first three one-day matches. He requested to be rested," Lele said.

Borde said seamer Venkatesh Prasad "who did well" during the recent Australian tour was dropped because "we want to give a chance to youngsters."

The morale-shattering Australian tour, where India lost

all three Tests and seven of the eight one-dayers, ended just five weeks ago.

The Indian team for the first three one-day matches: Saurav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Mohammad Kaif, Robin Singh, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Nikhil Chopra, T. Ku-

maran, Ajit Agarkar, Amit Bhandari and Sameer Dinguhe.

## SA's one-day players arrive in Bangalore

BANGALORE, Mar 5 (Inter-net report): South Africa's Neil McKenzie, Derek Crookes, Steve Elworthy, Dale Benkenstein and Henry Williams arrived in Bangalore on Saturday to hook up with their team-mates playing in the final cricket Test.

The five players are part of the national squad that will contest the five one-day matches against India from March 9-19.

Test players Daryll Cullinan, Allan Donald, Boeta Dippenaar and Clive Eksteen will fly home after the five-dayers, scheduled to end on Monday.

### SQUAD

Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Hansie Cronje (captain), Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Mornan-tau Hayward, Pieter Strydom, Neil McKenzie, Dale Benkenstein, Steve Elworthy, Henry Williams and Derek Crookes.

# Hingis, Davenport showdown

SCOTSDALE, Mar 5: Martina Hingis validated her No. 1 ranking against Saturday night when she put away Mary Pierce 6-4, 6-3 to advance to the final of the State Farm Women's Tennis Classic and resume her rivalry with Lindsay Davenport, reports AP.

Davenport, seeded second and ranked second in the world, routed Anna Kournikova 6-2, 6-2 in their afternoon semifinal.

Davenport is 10-7 against Hingis and 7-3 against her in finals, including 4-0 since 1998. She beat the Swiss star in the Australian Open final in January.

Hingis' last two matches were against seeded players, and she won handily. Davenport believes she had a more difficult road to the final.

She had to rally against unseeded Jennifer Capriati and Monica Seles, coming from a set down to beat Capriati and trailing Seles 4-1 before winning the last five games of the second set in the quarterfinals.

"Coming off the beat against two really tough opponents, maybe it sets you up to play better over the weekend," Davenport said, dominating the sixth-seeded Kournikova, who ranks 10th. "And I think that's what happened."

Hingis, who took her first title of the year in Tokyo four weeks ago, won her seventh match in a row and 15th in 17 starts this season with unerring shots that frustrated the third-seeded Pierce, the world's sixth-ranked player.

After four straight service breaks in the first set left them tied 3-3, Hingis held service twice and went into the 10th game with a lead. She broke the Frenchwoman's serve again, starting with a volley-ending smash of a lob.

Pierce then double faulted and twice returned volleys into the net -- three of her 33 unforced errors to Hingis' 22 -- and lost without scoring in the final game.

In the second set, Pierce broke Hingis' service in the third game, but Hingis broke back to go up 3-2.

She broke Pierce's serve again in the eighth game, overcoming a 30-love deficit with one of her 23 winners, followed by three unforced errors by Pierce, and ended it with a forehand volley winner.

Davenport, the Wimbledon

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Davenport, the Wimbledon

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Elsewhere, a Don Goodman goal gave Motherwell a 1-0 win at home to Aberdeen and late goals from Eddie Annand and James Grady completed a fine recovery for Dundee at Kilmarnock as strikes by Ian Durrant and Frederic Dindeleux were cancelled out at Rugby Park.

Celtic visit Hibernian at Easter Road on Sunday

entry 30 Bottom 31 "Clueless" 32 Calif. 34 Simon or 35 Waikiki 29 Round, flat

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### CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptquip: THE LAWN

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