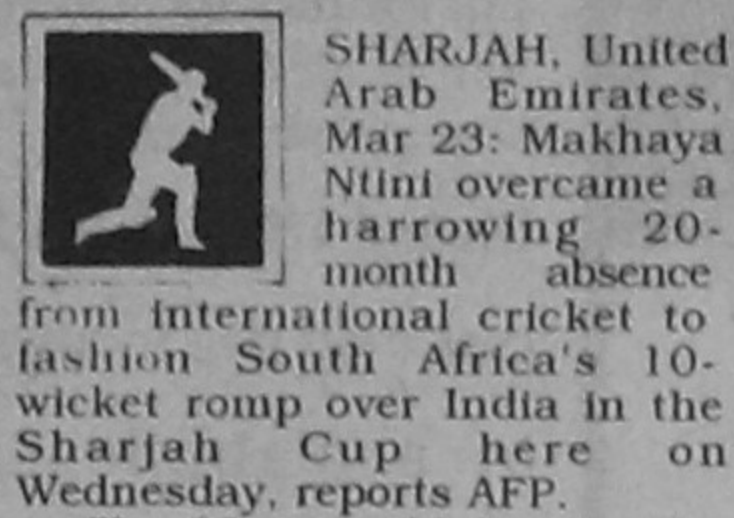


Div 1 Cricket resumes today

After a long break the Janakpura Premier Division Cricket League will resume on March 28, reports UNB.

Kirsten, Gibbs enough



SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Mar 23: Makhaya Ntini overcame a harrowing 20-minute absence from international cricket to fashion South Africa's 10-wicket romp over India in the Sharjah Cup here on Wednesday, reports AFP.

will contest the final on March 31. South African captain Hansie Cronje praised the disciplined effort by his bowlers. "Ntini and Elworthy kept the pressure on the Indians, and Gibbs and Kirsten ensured we did not slip in the end," he said.

bowled Rahul Dravid for eight in the space of six deliveries. Elworthy, the fourth quick bowler in the attack, did not lag behind as he trapped Robin Singh leg-before and clean bowled wicketkeeper Saba Karim in one over.

SCOREBOARD Full scoreboard of the opening match of the Coca-Cola Sharjah Cup between India and South Africa on Wednesday: INDIA 164 all out in 45.2 overs (Ajay Jadedja 43 not out, Javagal Srinath 30, Saurav Ganguly 27, Sunil Joshi 24, Steve Elworthy 3/17, Makhaya Ntini 3/36, Jacques Kallis 2/43)



ELWORTHY ... m-o-m Kallis, opening the bowling with Pollock, had Ganguly caught at mid-on and then

Result: South Africa won by 10 wickets. Man-of-the-match: Steve Elworthy.

Pandit Para M'singh cricket champs

MYMENSINGH, Mar 23: Pandit Para Club emerged as undefeated champions in the Beg Rim Premier Division Cricket League beating Gulkibari Krira Chakra by 5 wickets in their last match here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

National off-spinner Fahim Muntasir's all-round show guided Pandit Para Club to victory. He took two wickets and later scored 30 runs in the low-scoring match.

Al-Amin was the most successful bowler for Pandit Para claiming three for 19 while Sumit and Munna took two wickets each. In reply, Pandit Para reached 147 for five in 26.3 overs with Moni adding 43 runs.

Nat'l tennis in Cox's Bazar

The UCBL National Tennis Circuit-1, organised by Cox's Bazar Officers' Club in cooperation with Bangladesh Tennis Federation (BTF), begins at the Cox's Bazar Club court on April 7, reports BSS.

IOC, FIFA undecided

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Mar 23: The IOC and FIFA, soccer's world governing body, remained on a collision course on Wednesday over nandrolone, reports Reuters.

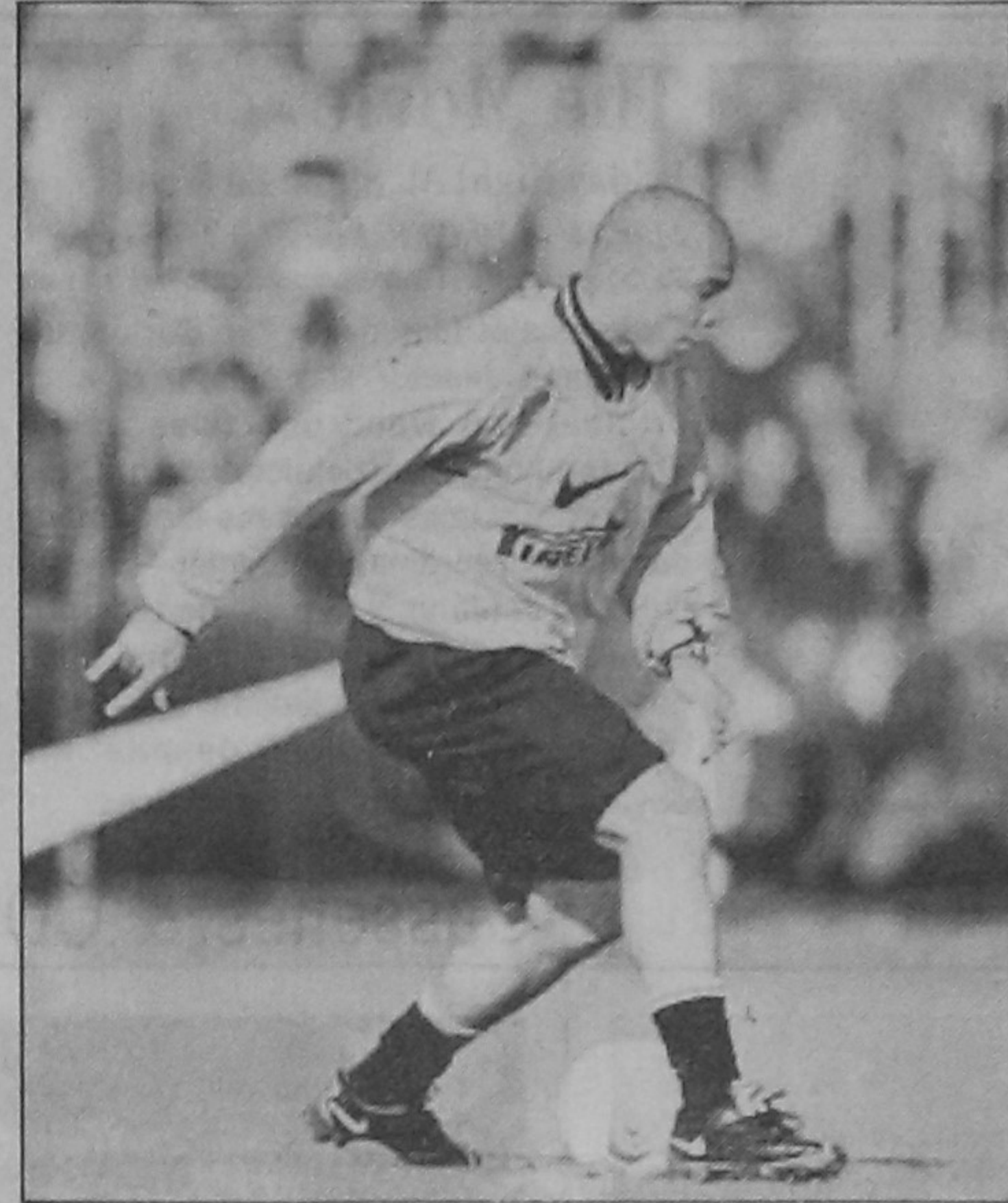
INTERESTING STATS

Table with 5 columns: MARGIN, WINNER, LOSER, VENUE, DATE. Lists highest margins of victory for 10-wicket matches.

Croatia squad to face Germany

ZAGREB, Mar 23 (AFP): Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic named the following squad on Wednesday for the friendly match here with Germany on March 29.

TEAM Goalkeepers: Stipe Pletikosa (Hajduk Split), Zeljko Pavlovic (LASK Linz/Aut) Defenders: Danijel Saric (Dynamo Zagreb), Boris Zivkovic (Bayer Leverkusen/Ger), Igor Stimac (West Ham United/Eng), Dario Sincic (Inter Milan/Ita), Robert Kovac (Bayer Leverkusen/Ger), Stjepan Tomas (Dynamo Zagreb)



Inter Milan superstar Ronaldo in practice at the club's training base in Appiano Gentile on March 22.

Ronaldo will be playing soon

ROME, Mar 23: Inter Milan and Brazil's former world player of the year Ronaldo, who underwent knee surgery in Paris last November, trained with the team on Wednesday and declared that he would be back in action soon, reports AFP.

The 23-year-old, who has suffered from loss of form and injuries since his nightmarish performance in the 1998 World Cup final, played against the youth team for 15 minutes scoring twice. "You will see me playing in Serie A soon. I just need a little more time," he said.

WTT returning to New York

NEW YORK, Mar 23: Patrick McEnroe is bringing World Team Tennis back to the New York area after an absence of 22 years by launching the New York Hamptons this summer on Long Island, reports Reuters.

McEnroe, 34, will be a player-owner of the team. A winner of 16 doubles titles on the men's tour, including the French Open with Jim Grabb in 1989, McEnroe plans to compete in doubles.

The addition of the Hamptons team brings the current number of teams in the WTT to nine, including another new franchise in Hartford, Connecticut. The Hartford Fox Force Teams play seven home and seven away matches. "I'm especially thrilled that we have a player that is an owner," said WTT co-founder Billie Jean King. "I'd like to think Patrick for stepping up and going forward. I couldn't be happier, bringing tennis back to Long Island is terrific."

AFP FOOTBALL BRIEFS



LONDON, Mar 23: Manchester United coach Sir Alex Ferguson on Wednesday hit back at critics of the Premiership champions by claiming that they are all jealous of the club's success, reports.

the top and we're a soft target. "You have to put all the criticism of this club down to jealousy. United have produced more players who have played for their country, more world-class players and more players who have won the European Footballer of the Year than any other team in this country, so we must be doing something right."



ALEX FERGUSON ing very strange is that since we won the European Cup, the hatred has increased. "In Great Britain, that's the climate you're in. That's the price you pay for success and we've just to get on and handle that."

Olympic football Commission made their recommendation to world governing body FIFA here on Wednesday.

FIFA's Executive Committee will make the final decision on Friday morning. Other matters regarding the Olympic tournament due to be discussed is the proposal to allow clubs to release players five days before the tournament, which begins on September 13, instead of fourteen.

However, European clubs have failed to opt a reduction in the number of players over 23 allowed to play in the final phase. The number permitted will remain at three despite protests made by top European clubs who are unhappy at releasing key players during the early months of next season and had threatened not to release them.

Wanted a new woman winner

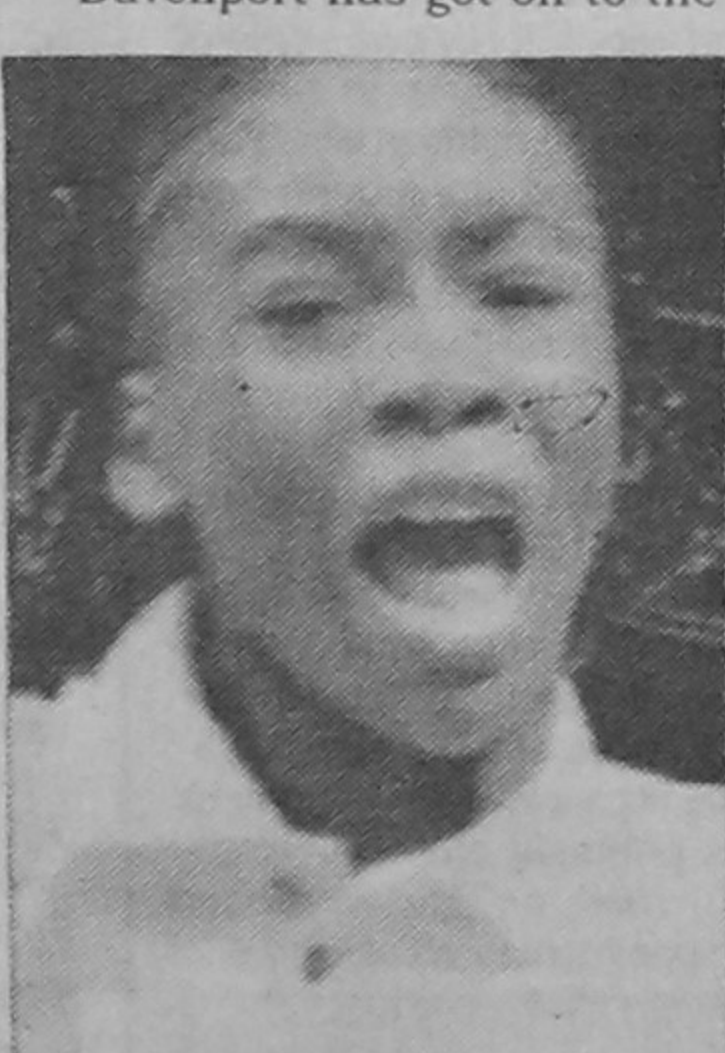
MIAMI, Florida, Mar 23 (AFP): It has a new name, a new designation and, supposedly, a new home. So it's only appropriate that the Tennis Masters Series event which begins here on Thursday has a new women's champion as well.

Hings and second-ranked American Lindsay Davenport, the Australian Open champion. Davenport is 191 points behind Hings but has beaten her five times in a row, most recently last Saturday at the Masters Series event in Indian Wells, California. Hings has been atop the rankings since August 9.

Serena Williams, the fifth seed, returns to the site where she lost to sister Venus, 1-6, 6-4, 4-6, in last year's highly-anticipated final. She lost to Pierce in a quarterfinal last week.



VENUS WILLIAMS best start of her career with a 19-1 record and has reached six consecutive finals, going back to last season. If she can advance farther than Hings in the 96-woman field, Davenport can take the top spot.



Davenport has got off to the start of her career with a 19-1 record and has reached six consecutive finals, going back to last season. If she can advance farther than Hings in the 96-woman field, Davenport can take the top spot.

A champion here in 1990, 1995 and 1996, Agassi hopes to turnaround after he was ousted in the first round earlier this month at Scottsdale, Arizona, and Indian Wells. Sampras hopes to bounce back as well.

Sampras, a two-time champion, also was hampered by a strained hip flexor suffered in a semifinal loss to Agassi at the Australian Open which forced him out of the first round of the Davis Cup. Overall, the 12-time Grand Slam champion has compiled a 9-2 record this season.

Belarussian president's warning

MINSK, Mar 23: Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko threatened on Tuesday to fire bureaucrats in charge of the small ex-Soviet republic's sports if Belarussian teams falter at the 2000 Olympics, reports Reuters.

"I want to warn you that after the Olympics, if they are not successful, you will all carefully pack up and find new jobs," Lukashenko, who also heads Belarussian Olympic Committee, told officials at a meeting broadcast in part on state television.

Lukashenko, a keen ice hockey player who personally oversees construction of new sports complexes in his country of 10 million, has frequently lamented Belarussian's dearth of sporting triumphs in the world arena. "We can't put up with this anymore," he said.

Queen's visit a trial



SYDNEY, Mar 23: Olympic security chiefs used Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Sydney to test their preparations for the 2000 Games, installing tracking devices on the royal cars and trying out communication links, reports AFP.

SYDNEY, Mar 23: Olympic security chiefs used Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Sydney to test their preparations for the 2000 Games, installing tracking devices on the royal cars and trying out communication links, reports AFP.

The conference briefed future Olympic cities and cities intending to bid of the 32 programs and 157 projects that comprise the Sydney Olympics security overlay. McKinnon said the conference had been a success, especially with international recognition of the Sydney Olympics risk management model, particularly by the White House Senate judiciary committee.

Sanchez back to boyhood club as coach

MEXICO CITY, Mar 23: Former Mexican striking legend Hugo Sanchez on Wednesday agreed to coach Universidad Mexico the club he joined as an 11-year-old, reports AFP.

War against dopers heats up

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Mar 23: One of every three athletes will have had an unannounced out-of-competition test before they arrive in Sydney for the 2000 Olympics, the head of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

agency took its first concrete steps in the battle to end the use of performance-enhancing substances in sport. "We are pursuing an active campaign of unannounced out-of-competition testing between now and Sydney," Pound said.

of something like 5,000 tests. "By the time we get to the Games, one out of two athletes will have been tested in an unannounced out-of-competition circumstance."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes crossword puzzle grid, clues, and solutions.