

Warne wary of improving England

LONDON, May 23 (Internet report): Shane Warne reckons Australia could be in for a tough time when they come to England for next year's Ashes series.

"England have always been capable of playing some good cricket but we have always seemed to have the edge on them," said Warne. "But England are bouncing back and they might just knock us over."

"I think England are playing some good cricket at the moment."

"They beat Zimbabwe comfortably and their bowlers did a tremendous job. I've got a feeling we'll need to be on our toes next summer." Added Warne, who is spending this summer playing county cricket with Hampshire.

Warne believes England have been gradually improving in recent years, but warned the real test awaits Nasser Hussain and Co with the visit of Jimmy Adams' West Indies side later this summer.

"In my first Ashes trip here we beat them convincingly, four years later it wasn't so easy," he said.

"I think England have become a better and better team. It's always tough to beat someone on their own patch."

"I think their series against the Windies will be a good test for them. It's going to be a fascinating tussle and that will give us all a better feel as to just how far Nasser and the boys have come."

Despite a disappointing start to the season, Warne believes Hampshire could still haul themselves into the reckoning for honours but feels they need to get into the groove quickly.

"He said: 'If you're always losing, which unfortunately Hampshire are doing at the moment, you can easily get into a bit of a rut.'

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 23: Independent Cricket Club and Young Boys Club won their respective matches in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium today.

Independent Cricket Club defeated Bangabandhu Judo Kishore Sangsad by 9 wickets while Young Boys Club beat Rising Star Club by 7 wickets in the second match.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGABANDHU JUDO KISHORE SANGSAD: 64 all out in 20.5 overs (Manm 17, Shoham 13; Prince 4/13, Rubel 2/5, Monsur 2/14).

INDEPENDENT CRICKET CLUB: 65 for one in 11.1 overs (Tofin 25, Rubel 19, Milton 8; Shoham 1/14).

RESULT: Independent Cricket Club won by nine wickets.

RISING STAR CRICKET CLUB: 58 all out in 17.3 overs (Kabir 24, Sabuj 11, Rezaul 9; Shajib 4/10, Masud 2/5, Bipu 2/16).

YOUNG BOYS CLUB: 59 for 3 in 10.2 overs (Bipu 18, Shajib 11, Masud 6; Monirul 1/4, Mijan 1/9).

RESULT: Young Boys Club won by 7 wickets.

Hingis regains top spot

MIAMI, May 23: Swiss teen Martina Hingis climbed back into the world number one ranking past American Lindsay Davenport as the two continued their battle for the top spot in the latest WTA Tour rankings released here Monday, reports AFP.

Hingis skipped last week's event in Rome while Davenport dropped out with an injury to fall 37 points behind Hingis in their duel for the top spot with the next Grand Slam event, the French Open, just one week away.

American Monica Seles, who won in Italy, rose from seventh to third.

Australian Jelena Dokic, who ousted fourth-ranked American Venus Williams at Rome, jumped seven places to 30th.

Top 20 women's tennis players, according to the WTA Tour rankings:

Points	1. Hingis	5.982
2. Davenport	5.945	2.691
3. Seles	2.577	2.542
4. V Williams	2.573	2.501
5. Martine	2.542	2.314
6. Pierce	2.501	1.874
7. Taurzai	2.501	1.871
8. S Williams	2.501	1.869
9. Sanchez-Vicario	1.874	1.789
10. Coetzer	1.871	1.699
11. Testud	1.869	1.686
12. Huber	1.789	1.592
13. Halard-Decugis	1.699	1.491
14. Mauresmo	1.686	1.419
15. Kournikova	1.592	1.405
16. Capriati	1.491	1.265
17. Schett	1.405	1.213
18. Likhovtseva	1.265	1.213
19. Sugiyama	1.213	1.212
20. Van Roost	1.212	

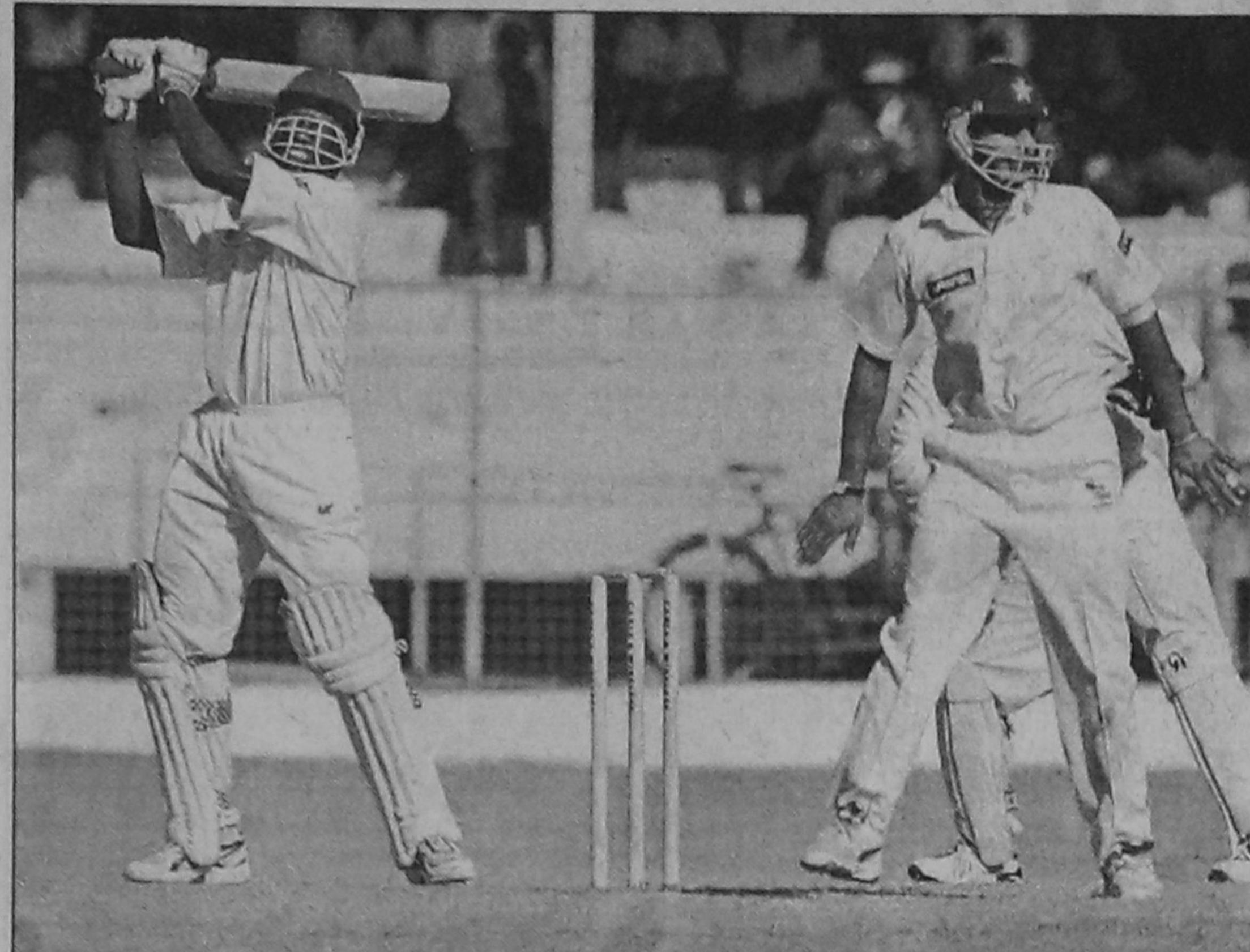
Rivaldo willing to stay

BARCELONA, May 23: Barcelona's European footballer of the year Rivaldo said on Monday if it was up to him he would stay at the Catalonian club, reports AFP.

"If it depended on me, I would stay," Rivaldo told a press conference.

The talented Brazilian suffered friction with coach Louis Van Gaal but following his resignation he is free to continue his time there. President Josep Lluis Nunez also resigned.

"We'll see if I appreciate the new coach and if he wants me to stay. Everything depends on the next coach and the next president."



West Indies' Wavel Hinds, who was adjudged man-of-the-match, drives one on way to his match-saving half century in the second innings against Pakistan in the second Test at Bridgetown on May 22.

— AFP photo

Bayern's megastar search



COLOGNE, Germany, May 23: Bayern Munich have announced they will throw their customary

financial caution to the wind and use their large operating profit to sign up a big name star, reports AFP.

We want an absolute cracker - for everyone. For the fans and for us," Bayern's vice president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

"We'll be looking at that once we get the team basics worked out. If not Bayern Munich then who else?"

First Bayern need to get their

defence stable after the mid-season departure of Lothar Matthaeus to New York and Markus Babbel to English premier league side Liverpool.

The 23-year-old Frenchman Willy Sagnol of Monaco is part of that solution. He arrived in Munich Monday for a physical and will sign a four year contract.

German international Christian Worms from Borussia Dortmund and Kaiserslautern's Ciriaco Sforza are the other two names Bayern are angling at.

An alternative to Worms if Dortmund don't play ball would be 25-year-old Slovenian international Alexander Knave.

That would leave around 40 million marks left over to buy in a superstar, someone to get the turnstiles clicking in Bavaria's capital and get football fans talking.

"This time round we staggered over the finish line thanks to Unterhaching," Bayern manager Uli Hoeneß said after Bayern won the German title on goal difference Saturday when Unterhaching inflicted a surprise 2-0 defeat on Bayer Leverkusen.

"It's difficult to give a precise diagnosis, but he won't be able to put his foot on the floor for at least four or five days, and he won't be able to start training again for another eight to 10 days," said Campello. "Vasco da Gama team doctor Alexandre Campello told AFP Monday.

Romanio, 34, who has scored 52 goals in 71 national appearances, was a World Cup winner with Brazil in 1994, and was hoping to make his comeback to the Brazilian squad in the friendly matches.

Campello said he had studied the x-rays of the injury with Jose Luis Runco - the Brazilian manager, and decided that Romanio was not fit enough to play in Wales or England.

"We will probably have to spend lots more money than expected. I am going to have to come to terms with that while I am on holiday."

Hoeneß is a valiant defender of tight spending and sensible budgets which, unlike many other leading European clubs, has kept Bayern financially healthy and well in the black.

He recognises however that to win the Champions League - the only title to elude Bayern in

the last few years - something extra is needed. There has been no sign yet though which international star Bayern is looking at buying.

Romario out of action

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 23:

Veteran Brazilian striker, Romario, will be out of action for the next eight to 10 days because of injury. Vasco da Gama team doctor Alexandre Campello told AFP Monday.

The Brazilian legend injured his heel during Sunday's match against CR Flamengo, just before the player was due to head to 23-year-old left-arm seamer Kristian Adams, as well as handing recalls to David Fulton and Matthew Walker.

Surrey included wicket-keeper Jonathan Batty in place of the resting Alec Stewart and also found a place for Carl Greenidge in their final 11.

Adams conceded boundaries in his second and third overs to both Ward and Butcher who then on-drove him for another four.

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