

Spain squad for Germany friendly

MADRID, Aug 11 (AP): Spain squad for the friendly international against Germany in Hanover next Wednesday, announced by coach Jose Antonio Camacho on Thursday.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Esteban (Oviedo), Cesar (Real Madrid)

Defenders: Abelardo (FC Barcelona), Ivan Campo (Real), Velasco (Celta Vigo), Manuel Pablo (Deportivo La Coruna), Paco (Real Zaragoza)

Midfielders: Gerard, Guardiola (FC Barcelona), Juanfran (Celta Vigo), Victor (Deportivo La Coruna), Rufete (Malaga)

Strikers: Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Dani (FC Barcelona), Guti, Morentes, Raul (Real Madrid)

Hennan tames Sampras

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Aug 11: Britain's Tim Hennan downed a sub-par Pete Sampras for the first time in seven career meetings, taking a 6-3, 6-4 victory in the third round of the 2.95-million-dollar ATP Masters Series here Thursday, reports AFP.

"This was my biggest win. Hennan said. It's my best individual effort. It has been a long time coming. It's great to finally get a victory against him."

Sampras the second seed and a three-time champion here, looked well under tone in the contest against his golf and tennis practise partner.

"He played great and served well," said the disappointed American. "He played some unbelievable passing shots. I was not at my best, but it was just a pain pull that the trainer gave me."

"I let the match slip away after a good start. He was too good for me."

The rivalry began in 1994 in Tokyo when Hennan was a green ATP rookie aged 20. Their most recent prior meeting came in the 1999 Wimbledon semifinals. Coming in, Sampras had won 15 sets against his rival while losing just three.

"I tried to go in positive," Hennan said. "You can't think about the six previous defeats. You cannot dwell on the losses. I took my chances and got the victory, it was very satisfying."

The victory was a massive confidence boost for Hennan, without a title this year from two finals. The Briton has bounced back smartly from a first-round defeat last week in Toronto at another Masters hardcourt event.

Defending champion Sampras, in the past three finals here, went into the contest having won 16 of his last 18 matches with setbacks coming only in the final at Queen's and the Toronto quarterfinals.

Sampras must now decide his programme running up to the US Open, which starts in little more than a fortnight. But he will be regressing his play against his longtime rival.

Panucci heads for Chelsea

LONDON, Aug 11: Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli on Thursday signed Italian international full-back Christian Panucci from Inter Milan on a one-year loan, reports AFP.

The 27-year-old Panucci arrives as a replacement for Dan Petrescu who left for Bradford.

Predominantly a right-back he can also play at centre-back and gives Vialli extra options as he will challenge the likes of Albert Ferrer, Mario Melchiori and Frank Leboeuf for a first team place.

Panucci had apparently been interested in joining up with Fabio Capello, at AS Roma after playing under him at AC Milan and Real Madrid.

But that deal fell through and Chelsea swooped to agree the loan with a view to a permanent transfer if Panucci proves to be a hit at Stamford Bridge.

His top flight career started at Genoa, where he won two European Under-21 Championships with Italy before being signed by AC Milan.

Playing alongside Marcel Desailly his four-year spell there saw him win two Italian titles as well as the European Cup and the European Super Cup.

When Capello left for Real Madrid he took Panucci with him and the defender enjoyed further success in his three seasons in Spain, winning the Spanish title as well as the European Cup for the second time in his career.

He returned to Italy and Milan last year with Inter where he made 31 appearances last season but then fell out with coach Marcello Lippi.

JIMMY FLOYD HASSELBAK - Chelsea (22.5million)

None censured

King report unveiled



CAPE TOWN, Aug 11: Judge Edwin King, head of a commission of inquiry into the match-fixing scandal, submitted an interim report to the South African government Friday, but made no recommendations for disciplinary action, reports AFP.

Presenting the report to Sport and Recreation Minister Ngconde Balfour in Cape Town, King said he was sure measures would be taken to eradicate match-fixing in cricket.

Balfour will in turn present the report to President Thabo Mbeki and Justice Minister Penuell Maduna.

King said that although there were no final recommendations in the report, cricket authorities would be able to convene a hearing on international players Herschelle Gibbs, Henry Williams and Pieter Strydom.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) has scheduled a disciplinary hearing for the three players in Johannesburg on August 19.

King said he saw no reason why the board should not go ahead with the hearing, subject to the proviso, which he said was purely hypothetical, that further evidence could emerge when the commission reconvenes in October.

Gibbs and Williams admitted to the commission in June that they had agreed to an offer of a bribe from disgraced former captain Cronje, while Strydom made an attempt to place a bet on behalf of Cronje during a Test match.

King said he had not yet made any finding on whether Cronje had told the whole truth and should therefore receive indemnity from criminal prosecution.

Balfour made a veiled criticism of Cronje for granting interviews to "selected media" and his intention to write a book.

"While that might be his prerogative, it should be noted that the work of the commission has not yet been finalised," he said.

The interim report will be made public after it has been examined by Mbeki.

Balfour said this would happen within two weeks and later said in an interview that he expected the release of the report before the UCBSA's August 19 disciplinary hearing.

Balfour said he was con-

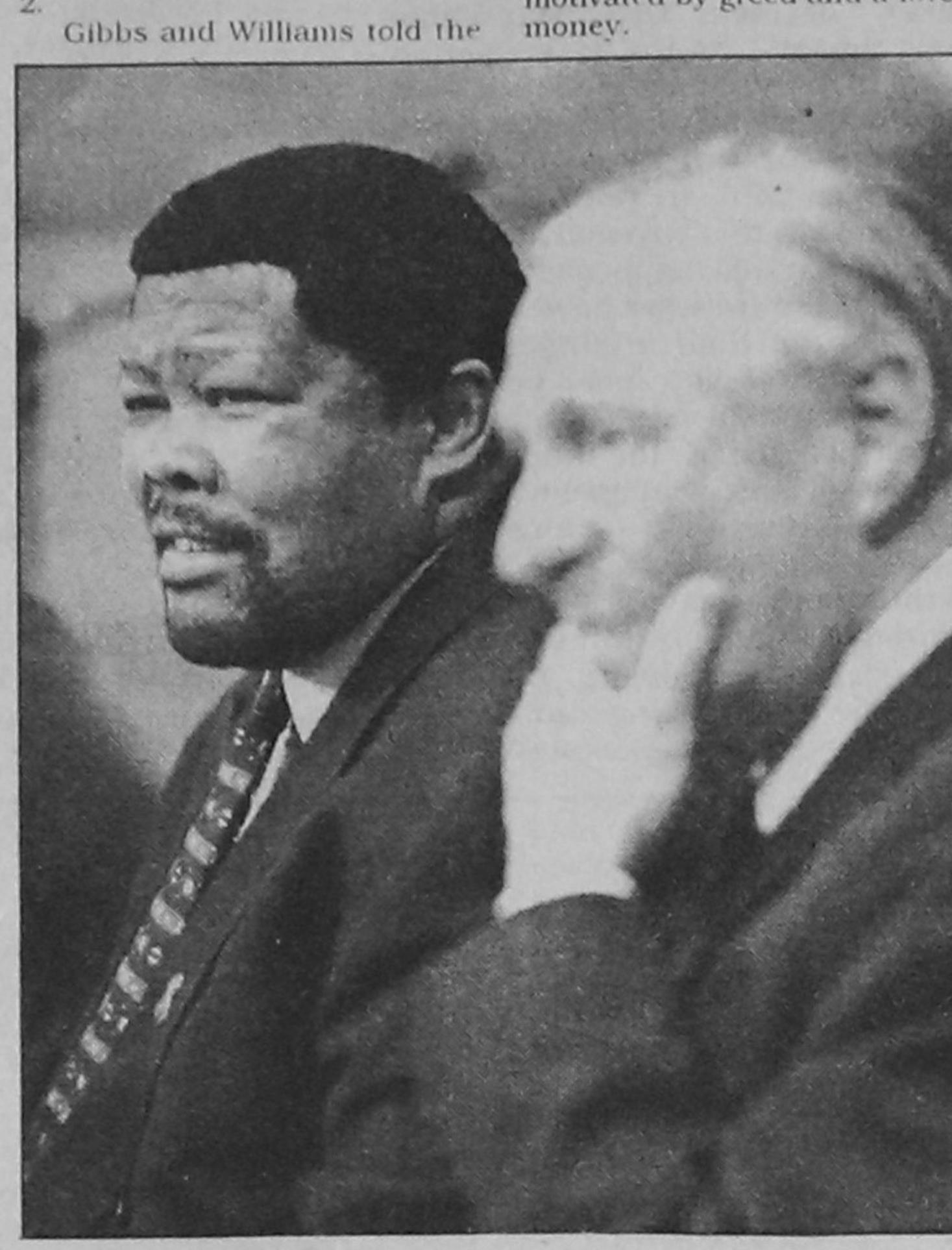
vinced that South African cricket was not corrupt.

Negotiations which had taken place with the Indian government would enable two of the King Commission investigating team, headed by state prosecutor Shamila Batohi, to travel to India to hear tape recordings of conversations between Cronje and bookmakers, he said.

King said it was "probable" that some witnesses who had already given evidence would be recalled when the commission reconvened. He said he expected the next hearings to last about two weeks, adding that as a result of the first hearings he had asked for the terms of reference of the commission to be broadened.

The commission ended its first stage of hearings on June 27 and will resume on October 2.

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South African Sports Minister Ngconde Balfour (L) listens to a query from a reporter during a press conference after Judge Edwin King (R) handed over his interim report into match-fixing to the former in Cape Town yesterday.

—AFP photo

Figo promises wonderful things

MADRID, Aug 11: Portuguese international Luis Figo, who became the world's most expensive player when he joined European champions Real Madrid for 55.5 million dollars this summer, claimed Thursday that he had not yet reached his peak, reports AFP.

Figo has admitted to the commission that he received thousands of dollars from gamblers and bookmakers on five separate occasions between 1996 and 2000.

He has already resigned himself to a life-long ban from first class cricket and instead is busy negotiating television and book deals, and is reported to be working on a movie deal.

The initial shock by the South African public at Cronje's confessions to dealing with bookmakers has given way to anger as the one-time cricketing idol has revealed himself to be manipulating and deceitful, motivated by greed and a love of money.

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