

## ECB rejects players' pay rise notion

LAHORE, Nov 18 (Internet report): Claims that cricketers should be paid more to reduce the temptation of taking payments from bookmakers have been rejected by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

International cricket is in the middle of a crisis, with several leading players alleged to have received payments either for match-fixing or providing inside information on team news and morale.

Former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje has admitted taking money from a bookmaker.

However, England batsman Alec Stewart has strenuously denied claims by an Indian bookie that he was paid 5,000 pounds to provide information.

## A slow but

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type do you prefer?

SB: I don't mind doing both of them and really there is no difference in my preparation.

DSS: We know that you referred a World Cup football match. What made you shift to cricket?

SB: I have never changed to cricket. I've always been a umpire and a referee. I had to stop being an international referee when I reached the age of 46. According to the FIFA age limit rule had to stop at 45. Before then a person could continue up to 50. I still referee at home but at a lower level.

DSS: Who would you rate as the best bowler at the moment?

SB: That is a difficult question... I think Wasim Akram to me is the best in both types of cricket. He does so much with the ball, he's fantastic.

DSS: What does Steve Bucknor like to do when he's not umpiring?

SB: When I'm not umpiring I usually coach football and at nights I enjoy watching television. But most important of all I love talking to kids about life. They must grow up as worthy citizens.

DSS: What is your view about cricket going indoors in light of the Australia-South Africa series?

SB: It is very costly to play indoors. If the facilities are there use them. To play indoors means covering a lot of area. So because of the cost the facilities are limited. That's why there is only one venue in the world. Only Australia can afford to hold such matches once a year. Cricket doesn't pay enough so it's not possible for the other countries to do the same.

DSS: Comment on the decline of the West Indies.

SB: The decline started in the nineties that's when we lost the top players all at once. The rebuilding process was not going on and for a couple of years there was a problem getting the youngsters to fit in readily. Time has been lost in rebuilding. So, today the pace is too slow. It's a trial and error method: some players will stay and some will have to go. That's why West Indies cricket is moving downwards and not upwards. Of late, our Test batting is not doing too well and I fear they won't do well in Australia.

DSS: Which of the three World Cup finals was the best?

SB: Obviously it has to be the one in 1992. I was never thinking of being in a World Cup. At that stage in my career I had only officiated in four Tests and four one-day internationals. So, when I got the opportunity I thought I'd pretty well considered the expectation put upon me. The others weren't difficult because with experience one gets to see things happen over and over again.

DSS: Describe your family.

SB: I have a beautiful family of four daughters and two sons as well as a stepdaughter. The last two girls like to go wherever their father goes. The eldest daughter is 25 and the youngest is only five. My stepdaughter is 17 years old. My wife is very supportive and we travel around the world where cricket is concerned. Though she isn't here in Bangladesh, a month ago she accompanied me to Kenya for the ICC Knockout Tournament. Besides, she has been to a World Cup final, England twice. So we have been cricketers together on numerous occasions.

DSS: Have you any goals to achieve before retiring?

SB: Hopefully, I will be the number one as far as Tests is concerned. I don't know who owns the record in one-dayers. It would be a privilege just to break Dickie Bird's 66 Test match record before I retire.

## Youhana

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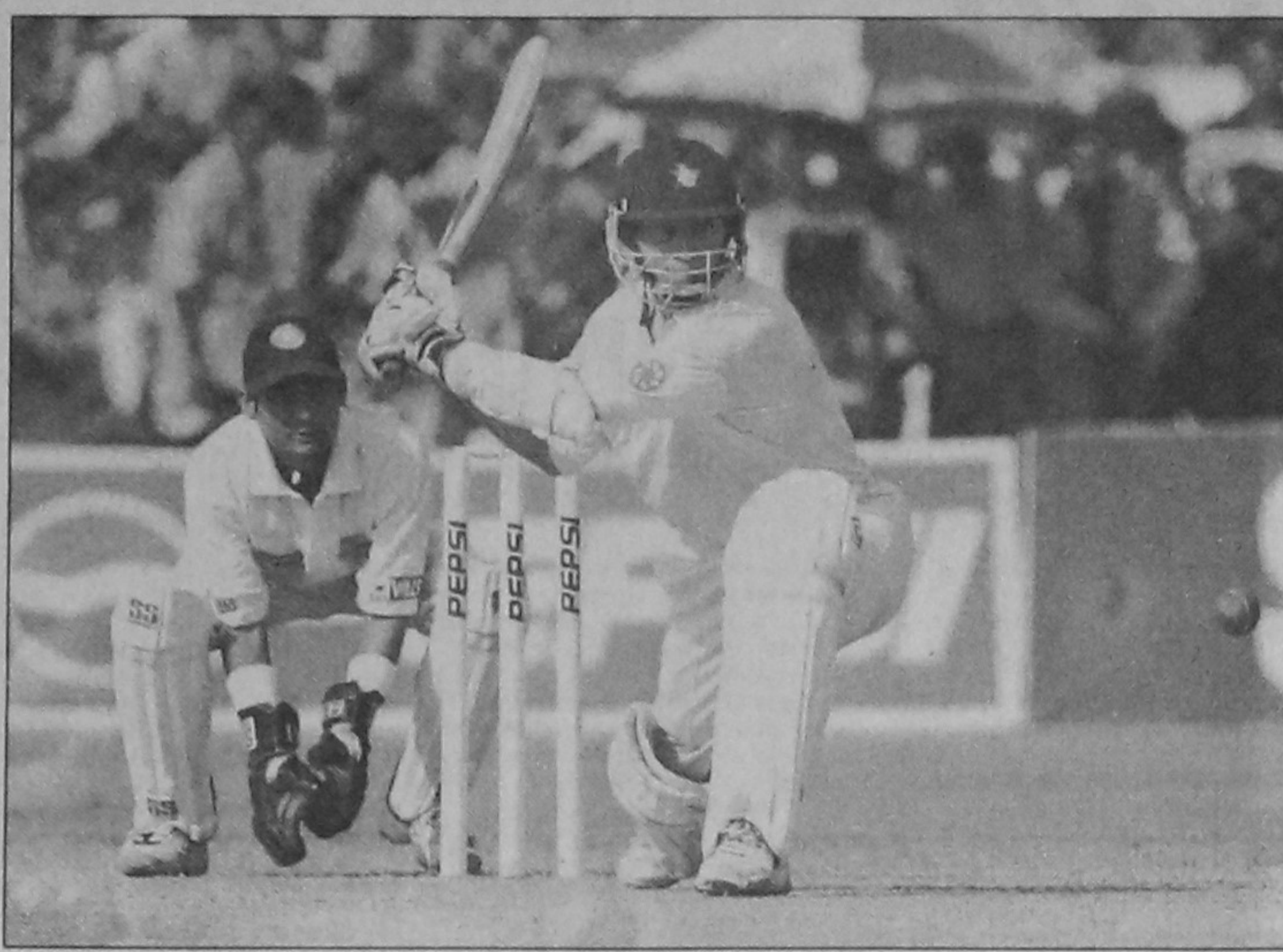
Atherton 73, Marcus Trescothick 71, Saqlain Mushtaq 8-164.

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 119-2)

Anwar lbw b Hick 40  
Afidi c Gough b Giles 52  
Elahi b White 44  
Inzamam b Giles 63  
Youhana not out  
Abbas c Hick b White 77  
Moin lbw b Caddick 2  
Razzak lbw b White 17  
Akram c White b Giles 1  
Saqlain not out 14  
Extras: (lb-1; lb-5; nb-7) 13  
Total: (For 8 wickets in 126 overs) 333

To bat: M Ahmed.  
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-101, 3-199, 4-203, 5-210, 6-236, 7-272, 8-273.

Bowler O M R W  
Gough 14 4 40 0  
Caddick 20 3 55 1  
Giles 48 15 97 3  
Salisbury 20 2 52 0  
Hick 6 0 35 1  
White 18 4 48 3



Zimbabwe's Stuart Carlisle is about to play a sweep shot on the first day of the first Test against India in New Delhi yesterday.

## Even going at Delhi



NEW DELHI, Nov 18: Zimbabwe rode on inexplicable defensive tactics by India to score 232-5 in the opening day of the first cricket Test at the Feroz Shah Kotla here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Alistair Campbell and Stuart Carlisle hit half-centuries during a 120-run stand for the third wicket after Zimbabwe, electing to take first strike, were reduced to 15-2 within the first hour.

Andy Flower then clipped in with 55 not out, sharing an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 77 with captain Heath Streak, who returned unbeaten on 25.

Pace spearhead Javagal Srinath claimed three wickets, but the Indians missed a fifth specialist bowler after surprisingly opting to play an extra batsman in Venkatesh Laxman on the slow pitch.

The omission of the season's find, left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan, stood out as the tourists wriggled out of trouble after Srinath had removed openers Grant Flower and Gavin Rennie in his first five overs.

With star spinner Anil Kumble not available due to injury, skipper Saurav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar were forced to fill in as part-time bowlers.

Zimbabwe, on the other hand, went in with five bowlers, including leg-spinners in Paul Strang and Brian Murphy on a wicket that is expected to

crumble later in the match.

It appeared a good toss to lose for the Indians as Srinath and his new ball partner Ajit Agarkar seamed the ball around in hazy conditions to keep Zimbabwe scoreless for 33 deliveries.

Grant Flower failed to get off the mark when he was bowled by a big in-swing from Srinath, who then forced Rennie to edge a catch to debutant wicketkeeper Vijay Dahiya.

Carlisle and Campbell consolidated the innings by staying together till just before the tea interval.

Left-hander Campbell, with a century in the four opener under his belt, continued his good form to make 70.

He also became the third Zimbabwean after the Flower brothers, Andy and Grant, to complete 2,000 Test runs soon after he reached his half-century.

Carlisle, who survived a loud shout for leg-before off the first ball he faced, and a dropped catch by Shiv Sundar Das before he had scored, was finally dismissed 20 minutes before tea for 58.

It was left to part-timer Tendulkar to break the partnership, inducing Carlisle to drive uppishly into the covers where Sunil Joshi gleefully accepted the catch.

India struck two quick blows soon after tea to reduce Zimbabwe from a healthy 154-3 to 15-5.

Srinath forced Campbell to

edge a catch to Laxman at second slip, while Joshi had Gully Whittall caught at gully by Rahul Dravid for no score.

But Andy Flower and Streak put together another rescue act to leave the honours even after the first day.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first cricket Test between India and Zimbabwe at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Saturday

ZIMBABWE				
G Flower b Srinath	0			
G Rennie c Dahiya b Srinath	13			
Carlisle c Joshi b Tendulkar	58			
A Flower not out	70			
G Whittall c Dravid b Joshi	0			
Streak not out	25			
Extras: (lb-2; lb-6; nb-2; w-1)	11			
Total: (For 5 wickets in 90 overs)	232			
To bat: P Strang, B Murphy, H Olonga, B Strang.				
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-15, 3-135, 4-154, 5-155				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Srinath	16	6	39	3
Agarkar	20	9	46	0
Ganguly	3	0	19	0
Joshi	24	7	58	1
Tendulkar	12	3	34	1
Kartik	15	4	28	0

INDIA: Saurav Ganguly, Sadagopan Ramesh, Shiv Sundar Das, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatesh Laxman, Vijay Dahiya, Sunil Joshi, Murali Kartik, Javagal Srinath, Ajit Agarkar.

Umpires: Srinivas Venkatesh-vaghavan (India) and John Hampshire (England).

## Hodge whacks Windies



MELBOURNE, Nov 18: The West Indian tourists were made to pay the full price by Victoria for their.

abysmal first innings on the second day of a four-day cricket game at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Saturday, reports AFP.

After Friday's debacle when they were dismissed for 167, the Windies' bowlers were in the firing line as Victoria surged toward a huge first innings lead.

At the close of the second day, Victoria were 304 for three — leading the Windies' first innings total by 137 runs.

The tourists remained on the ground for several minutes after play, probably wondering just how they were going to match Australia in next week's opening Brisbane Test after watching Brad Hodge (134 not out) and Jason Arnerberger (99) belt them to all parts of the MCG.

It was a dire lead up to the Test with dropped catches and an impotent bowling attack against a Victorian batting lineup which has struggled on the domestic scene this season.

A deflating moment came late in the day when the Windies took the second new ball against Hodge and rookie Michael Klinger (38 not out).

After just a few overs, skipper Jimmy Adams had only two slips waiting for edges while employing a defensive deep backward square leg and deep fine leg for a bowler of the class of world-record holder Courtney Walsh.

The tourists at least began well when Nixon McLean (1-78)

## Dokic now a Yugoslav

BELGRADE, Nov 18: Australia's Olympic women's tennis semifinalist Jelena Dokic officially received Yugoslav citizenship and a new passport Friday, reports AFP.

Yugoslav Interior Minister Zoran Djindjic pulled out a brand new blue Yugoslav passport from his pocket at the ceremony in the federal government building.

This means a lot to me, the passport that my family and I have been eagerly awaiting for all these years we've lived in Australia," said a smiling Dokic, as she, and her mother Ljiljana were given the passports.

The 17-year-old, who was born in the Croatian town of Osijek, fled with her parents to Yugoslavia in 1991 after the war started in Croatia, before emigrating to Australia in 1994 and has since become an Australian citizen.

dismissed nervous opener Shivan Craig (one) minutes into the second morning.

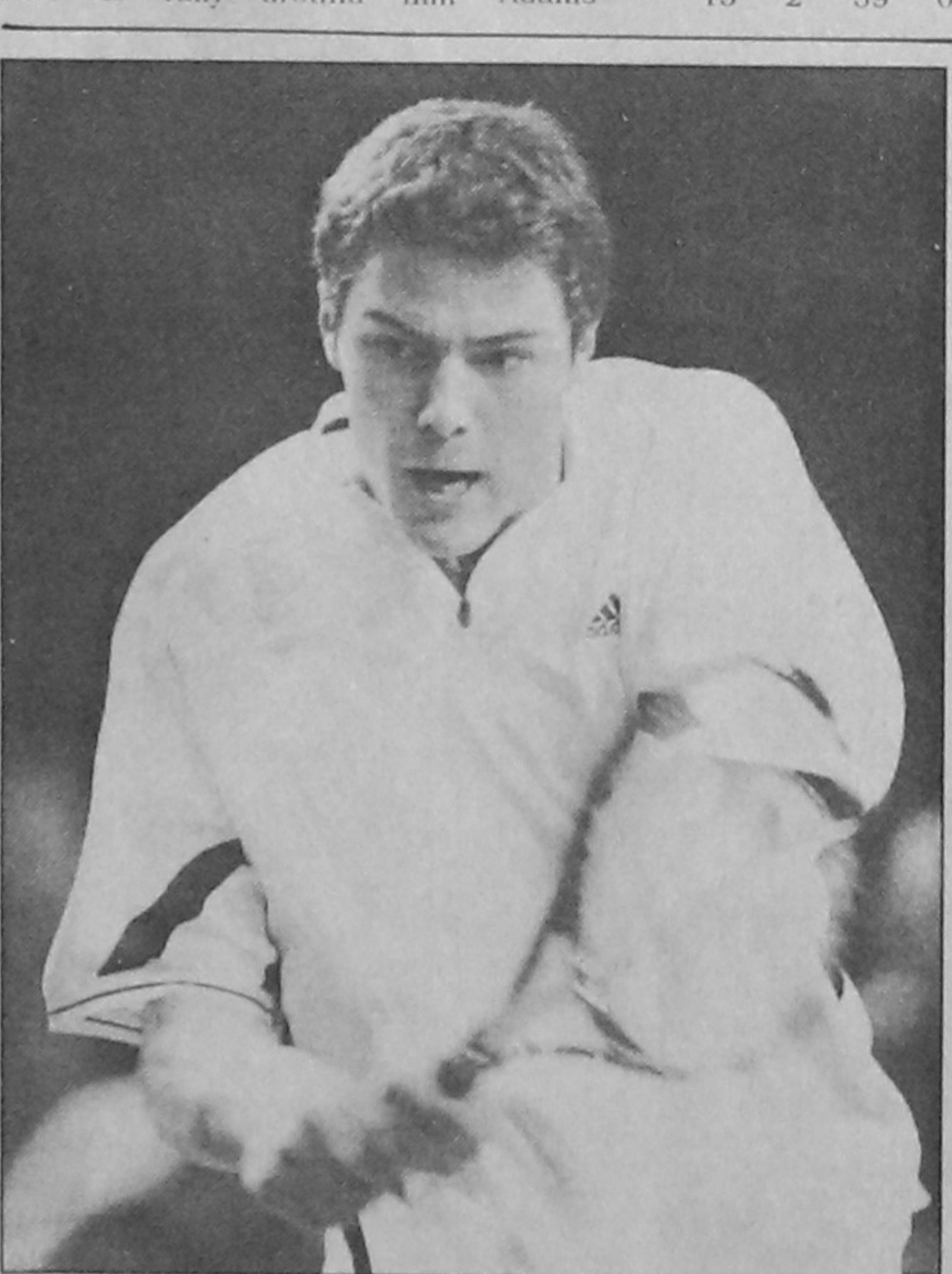
That was about it for the Windies, who then allowed Matthew Mott (18) an early life before Arnerberger and Hodge began their run spree.

The pair hooked and drove with confidence and Arnerberger looked certain to reach his century until he provided Brian Lara with a comfortable catch at first slip off the bowling of Mervyn Dillon (1-75) minutes before tea.

The dismissal cost Arnerberger a deserved hundred but Hodge was more fortunate as he reached his highest first-class score during an unbeaten 204-ball knock which included 13 boundaries.

Walsh (1-44) was rested during most of the 121-run stand between Arnerberger and Hodge but the 38-year-old was unable to stem the Victorian flow when he took the new ball before stumps.

Walsh will certainly prove dangerous in the Test series but he needs his bowling partners to rally around him



Marat Safin of Russia plays backhand against Spaniard Alex Corretja during Masters Series quarterfinal in Paris on November 17.

## ACC Trophy HK, Malaysia enter semis

DUBAI, November 18: Hong Kong and Malaysia booked their places in the semifinals of the Asian Cricket Council Trophy here on Saturday, reports AFP.

Hong Kong sped to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over Kuwait to clinch top spot in Group A with an unblemished record while Malaysia beat Singapore by three wickets to finish runners-up in the group.

Kuwait were completely outclassed by Hong Kong who wrapped up the game after dismissing their opponents for 128 in the 35th over.

Only opener Mohammed Nawaz put up any semblance of a fight with a quickfire 55. The only other Kuwait batsman to reach double figures was Saud Qamar who made 12.

Off-spinner Jawaid Iqbal was Hong Kong's most successful bowler taking three for 29. Hong Kong then knocked off the required runs in quick fashion with opener Saleem Malik claiming his third successive half-century with a blistering knock of 58 which comprised six boundaries and two sixes.

"Everything is going to plan. We have achieved our first goal of qualifying for the semi-finals. The next target is to qualify for the Asia Cup," said Hong Kong captain Stewart Brew.

The two finalists at this eight-nation tournament will join Test-playing nations India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the Asia Cup next April in Karachi.

Malaysia completed a fairy-tale comeback when they restricted Singapore to 196 for nine and then scored 200 for seven in the 45th over.

On Wednesday, Malaysia had scored a come-from-behind five-run win over Kuwait with victory coming in the very last over of a tense match. That win kept alive their hopes and they ensured a semi-final win with victory over Singapore Saturday.

Hosts the United Arab Emirates are set to clinch top spot in Group B. The UAE have one game remaining against lowly Japan, Sunday. Nepal are favourites to beat the Maldives and take runners-up spot in this group.

If the form book holds good, the first semi-final will be between Hong Kong and Nepal while UAE take on Malaysia in the other.

## Safin, Kuerten reach last four

PARIS, Nov 18: US Open winner Marat Safin and French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, the world's top two ranked tennis players, secured spots in the semifinals of the 2.95 million dollars Paris Masters tournament on Friday, reports AP.

"This is a big chance for me to become No. 1," Safin, the world's top-ranked player and No. 2 seed in the Paris tournament, said after winning his quarterfinal match against eighth-seeded Spaniard Alex Corretja 7-6 (5), 6-3.

After a 16-week run as leader of the Champions Race, Brazil's Kuerten lost the top spot last week when Safin took the St. Petersburg title.

With only 20 points separating the two players ahead of the prestigious year-end Masters Cup championship in Portugal, both men need the Paris title in their bid to finish the year as the world's best player.

Safin next meets No. 12 seed Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, following the Spaniard's win over Frenchman Fabrice Santoro 6-4, 6-7 (10), 7-5, in a three-hour quarterfinal.

Top-seeded Kuerten faces No. 13 seed Mark Philippoussis in the semifinals after defeating Spain's Albert Costa 6-3, 6-4 in the quarters on Friday.

## Seles marches into semis

NEW YORK, Nov 18: Monica Seles, flashing the form that made her No. 1 in the world early in her career, pounded out a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Amanda Coetzer on Friday to claim a spot in the semifinals of the 2 million dollar Chase Championships, reports AP.

On Saturday, the third-seeded Seles will face the winner of Friday night's quarterfinal between two teenagers, 17-year-old Kim Clijsters of Belgium and 19-year-old Elena Dementieva of Russia.

Saturday's other semifinal will pit doubles partners Martina Hingis and Anna Kournikova against each other.

Seles is a three-time winner of this season-ending tournament, but has not captured the title since 1992. Against Coetzer, she showed a game that was reminiscent of those heady, winning days.

The two raced along the baseline, trading long-range laser shots that pounded the court just inside the lines. Seles, playing from just inside the baseline, as she did nearly a decade ago, was a little sharper, hit a little harder and controlled most of the rallies.

Coetzer kept Seles close, but never could quite close the gap.

After beginning the match by serving a love game, Seles broke the South African's serve at 15 when she rifled a backhand winner down the line to take a 3-1 lead. The two then traded service breaks in the seventh and eighth games before Seles served for the opening set.

On the first set point, Coetzer hit a service return that was so clean that Seles applauded.



South Africa's Lance Klusener is bowled by Shayne O'Connor of New Zealand on the second day of the first day of the first Test at Bloemfontein yesterday.

## Proteas going strong



BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Nov 18: Mark Boucher and Nicky Boje hammered a tiring New Zealand

attack as South Africa regained control on the second day of the first Test at Springbok Park on Saturday, reports AFP.

South Africa reached 436 for eight at tea. Boucher (76) and Boje (43) put on 79 in 68 minutes for the seventh wicket to repel a New Zealand fightback.

The New Zealand pace bowlers brought their side back into the match when they took three wickets and slowed down the scoring rate before Boucher and Boje came together.

After dominating the first day, when they reached 270 for three, South Africa were made to work hard early Saturday.

The start of play was delayed by 90 minutes because of a wet outfield. Jacques Kallis was out for 160. Neil McKenzie (55) and Lance Klusener (9) followed.

Kallis added only seven runs to his overnight 153. He seemed unlucky to be given out caught behind by Indian umpire Arun Javaprakash when he was beaten by a ball from left-arm fast bowler Shayne O'Connor.

Wicketkeeper Adam Parore did not join in the appeal and Kallis seemed astonished when he was given out. Replays indicated he had not edged the ball.

Kallis batted for 345 minutes, faced 289 balls and hit 26 fours in his career-best innings.

McKenzie reached his maiden Test fifty before he was caught behind off Martin. He hit 11 boundaries in his three-hour innings and faced 134 balls.

Boje lifted the tempo of the innings by hammering 43 off 57 balls with six fours and a six, while Boucher blossomed after a cautious start in making his 76 off 121 balls with eight fours.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the

second day of the first Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Springbok Park on Saturday.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 270/3)

Dippenaar c Astle b O'Connor 0  
Kirsten c Astle b Martin 31  
Kallis c Parore b O'Connor 160  
Cullinan b Walker 29  
McKenzie c Parore b Martin 55  
Boucher lbw b Walker 76  
Klusener b O'Connor 9  
Boje c Tulley b Astle 43  
Pollock not out 13  
Donald not out 0  
Extras: (lb-5; lb-7; nb-8) 20  
Total: (For 8 wickets in 136 overs) 436

To bat: M Vuni.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-97, 3-164, 4-279, 5-304, 6-330, 7-409, 8-429

Bowler	O	M	R	W
O'Connor	27	4	79	3
Tulley	23	6	69	0
Martin	22	4	89	2
Walker	27	4	92	2
Astle	24	5	57	1
McMillan	13	2	38	0

## Lamb labels it as libellous



LAHORE, 18: England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Chief Executive Tim Lamb on Saturday said

India's action in publicising names of nine foreign cricketers in a match-fixing probe amounted to defamation, reports AFP.

"It is unfortunate that India made public the names of foreign players," said Lamb, who is here to attend a meeting of the International Cricket Council's finance committee.

"I am not a lawyer but had this been done in the UK a defamation case would have been filed," he told reporters.

Lamb also said the ECB was justified in not suspending former captain Alec Stewart.

"There is absolutely no basis for suspending Alec Stewart on only unsubstantiated allegations, not sustainable in law," he said.

Stewart was among nine foreign players named in an Indian match-fixing probe report released earlier this month.

Indian bookie Mukesh Kumar Gupta had told Crime Branch of India that he paid Stewart 5,000 pounds sterling to provide information relating to a match on England's tour of India in 1992-93.

West Indian Brian Lara, Australia's Mark Waugh and Dean Jones, South Africa's Hansie Cronje, Pakistan's Salim Malik, New Zealanders Martin Crowe and Sri Lankans Aravinda de Silva and Arjuna Ranatunge were other foreign players named in the CBI report.

"I want to clarify ECB Chairman Lord Ian MacLaurin's

radio interview on Friday in which he clearly mentioned that Stewart's case is closed for the time being and it's investigated by ICC body," Lamb said.

ICC formed an anti-corruption unit to investigate match-fixing allegations that has rocked the game since former South African captain Cronje admitted to taking money from bookmakers several times.

"In the specific case of Stewart no interview will take place until after the end of this series," Lamb said.

The cricketer was questioned by ECB officials after the release of the Indian report.

"Stewart is cleared and if the tour management decides so, he can act as captain if Nasser Hussain pulls out due to injury," he said. Hussain passed a fitness test before the Test after suffering a back problem.

Lamb said ECB did pass on to police the allegations made in 1998 by former England all-rounder Chris Lewis against three English players. "We did the best thing and police found no evidence in that."

"ICC is determined to root out this malice and we must rebuild the game's image and move forward," Lamb said.

ICC's finance committee will discuss here Saturday and Sunday the organisation's budget for the next year.

## Capriati to fill in for Rubin

NEW YORK, Nov 18: Jennifer Capriati was named to replace injured Chanda Rubin on the United States' Fed Cup team here Friday with the Americans set to face Belgium in a semifinal matchup Wednesday at Las Vegas, reports AFP.

"Sir Condon has said that all the players named in the report will be interviewed in the due course of time but at the moment the body is re-examining

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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