SPORT

But Zaheer Abbas is backing

foreign coaches, there must be

"If rest of the Test-playing

WA in final

AFP, Perth

Western Australia made certain of reaching the final of an inaugural four-nation one-day cricket tournament here Tuesday night when they thrashed New Zealand side Central Districts.

The Australian outfit outclassed their rivals, winning by 108 runs at the WACA Ground to record their third win in as many games in the Champions Cup.

Their undefeated status makes them favorite for Wednesday's final against South African team KwaZulu Natal.

Batting first after winning the toss. Western Australia whacked 257 for eight in their 50 overs before routing the New Zealanders for 149 in only 32.2 overs.

Western Visitalian captain Justin Langer, Australia's Test number three, recaptured his hest form, smashing 60 from 63 balls.

Two of the side's younger players, Marcus North and Peter Worthington, also clobbered valuable half-centuries.

North crafted 56 from 80 balls, while Worthington's 54 came from only 63 deliveries.

The New Zealanders were unable to develop any momentum with the bat, as only opener Jamie How (39 from 72 balls), skipper Jacob Oram (25 from 27) and Sulzberger (20 from 21) had any answer to the Western Australian attack.

Pace pair Brad Williams (2-22) and Stuart Karppinen (2-40) and spin duo North (2-20) and Brad Hogg (2-33) shared the spoils.

SAFF tourney FROM PAGE 13

the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (10-RARC), a forum initiated by Australia to develop football among some countries of Asia, Africa and Oceania.

India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have been invited from South Asia.

The other countries are-- Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles Islands, Singapore, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, UAE, Yemen and Australia.

The nations who will join the forum will participate in an international football tournament in Perth some time next year.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 13

Extras: (lb-1, w-9, nb-1) Total:(for 3 wkts, 32.2 overs)

Did not bat: Khaled Mashud, Akram Khan, Mohammad Rafique, Mushfigur Rahman, Mohammed Sharif, Manjural Islam.

Fall of wicket: 1-45, 2-120, 3-Bowler OMRW McMillan 0 42 38 Mahwire 0 5.2 0 33 Ervine 0 18 Townshend 0 33 Rogers 3 0 19 Dabengwa

Result: Bangladesh won by 7 wickets

Umpires: J Tapfumaneyi and A Walsh

MSC tick FROM PAGE 13

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Abahani and Mohammedan Sporting Club at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Wednesday: MOHAMMEDAN SC

Rashedul b Morshed Harun c Salim b Morshed Mustadir c Tareq b Arman Tikolo c Azam b Hasan Sanwar c Morshed b Hasan Minhaz c Morshed b Hasan Hayat st Salim b Hasan Mortuza run out Ashique not out Taposh run out Extras: (lb-7, nb-4, w-10) Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 30 Fall of wickets: 1/38, 2/43, 3/55, 4/238, 5/255, 6/275, 7/301,

8/301, 9/301. Bowler Igbal Neevamur 2 it emerged that he has become a Morshed Arman Hussain 0 take up the post of sporting di-Hasan 10 0 64 4 rector. 0 21 Tareq ABAHANI Hussain b Taposh 20 | sporting posters of Tapie in recent Nafees c Mortuza b Taposh 15 | weeks with the slogan "Come back Azam c Tikolo b Taposh Anis c & b Sanwar

Tareg not out 102 | bottom of the first division. Necyamur c Mortuza b Hayat Salim Ibw b Mustadir 14 seille became the first French club Hasan b Mustadir 5 to win the European Cup in 1993 Igbal c Sanwar b Taposh 28 before being deposed as president Arman not out 14 after a match-fixing scandal that Extras: (lb-7, nb-2, w-10) 19 saw the club relegated to the sec-Total (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 247

ond division from the 1994-95 Fall of wickets: 1/20, 2/32, season. 3/41, 4/113, 5/117, 6/153, 7/161, 8/228. Bowler town on Monday and he can Taposh Shaffuddin despite a chequered life which has Ashique Hayat Sanwar Minhaz Mustadir Result: Mohammedan SC won by 54 runs.

PCB wants a foreigner Cricket

REUTERS, Kanashi

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced on Wednesday that it had begun the search for the country's first foreign coach.

Former England batsman Geoffrey Boycott is among candidates to replace Javed Miandad, who was sacked on Tuesday.

"I believe now it has become a universal practice of having a foreign coach. I have no hesitation in saying that the experiment has done wonders for the teams who have gone for it," director of the PCB Munawwar Rana told this news agency.

"The candidates for the job will be shortlisted by the advisory council of the board very soon. But I am not sure if the foreign coach will be appointed before the team leaves for England early next month," he added.

Pakistan will play two Tests in May and then will take part in a tri-nation one-day series in June with England and Australia.

"Geoffrey Boycott could possibly be one of the men to be discussed for the job," Rana added.

The former England captain spent 12 days coaching at the Pakistan National Cricket Academy in Lahore in February and is due to make further visits in May and October.

"Not me but the whole world admits that Boycott is one of the finest men around. His knowledge and observation of the game are second to none," said the chairman of the PCB, Tauqir Zia.

The precedence of Bob Woolmer (England), Duncan Fletcher (Zimbabwe), Dav Whatmore (Australia) and John Wright (New Zealand) taking over at South Africa, England, Sri Lanka and India respectively, has inspired the PCB's decision to hire a foreign

But some former Test cricketers believe it would be a mistake. "The idea would not work in this part of the world because of

the different culture. Communi-

cation between the coach and the

players is the integral part but dumped," he added.

tain and longest serving Pakistan teams have been successful with

coaches in Pakistan who will already down and can't slip fur-

surely deliver if given the same ther even if the foreign coach fails.

backing and authority which laved. The experiment is worth giving a

"There have been successful some reason. Pakistan cricket is

unfortunately most of the Pakistan

said Intikhab Alam, a former cap-

players don't understand English." the idea.

Miandad enjoyed before he was try, he said.

was happening there. This is the

reason they went after me,'

mony of Indian bookmaker Mu-

kesh Gupta, India's Criminal Bu-

reau of Investigation alleged last

November that Ranatunga and de

Silva had either been offered

money or were paid money by

Gupta has claimed that

Ranatunga and de Silva helped

him fix an Indian victory in a test

match held in Lucknow, India, in

national cricket in August. De Silva

played in Sri Lanka's recently

completed 2-1 test series loss to

broke last year when Indian police

tapped phone conversations be-

tween South African skipper Han-

sie Cronje and a bookmaker.

Cronje later admitted that he'd

taken money from an Indian

bookmaker in exchange for pitch

skipper Mohammed Azharuddin

were among several players who

were banned for life. Players from

eight of the 10 test-playing nations

have been or are under investiga-

tion for alleged collusion in match

Cronje and former Indian

and team information.

The match-fixing scandal

Ranatunga retired from inter-

In a report based on the testi-

Ranatunga said.

bookmakers.

England.

BASICS FROM BOYCOTT! A file picture shows former England batsman Geoffrey Boycott (L) showing Pakistani batsman Saleem Elahi how to hold the bat properly during a training session in Lahore in February. Pakistan Cricket Board announced Monday that it had begun search for a foreign coach for the national team and Boycott is a frontrunner for the

Arjuna goes at Board tioning, as I knew something bad

Cricket

AP, Colombo

Former Sri Lanka cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga on Wednesday formally denied charges of matchfixing and accused the national cricket board of attempting to tarnish his image.

"I have explained my position about the so-called match-fixing charges, and I have also said that I am ready to face any ICC (International Cricket Council) inquiry to clear my name," Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka on their 1996 World Cup winning campaign, told The Associated Press.

In a formal denial issued to Desmond Fernando, Sri Lanka's special anti-corruption investigator, Ranatunga said he was innocent and never even dreamed of fixing cricket matches.

"Cricket is everything to me and how can anyone think that I will do something like that," Ranatunga said of an Indian report that alleged a bookmaker had approached him to fix the outcome of a match in 1994.

I am ready to meet any of their charges of financial irregularity. representatives to give any clarifi- An interim board is now looking cation they need."

The ICC's anti-corruption

giants Marseille next Monday after

shareholder in the club and will

Bars and cafes around the

southern French port have been

quick Bernard" as "OM", as the

side are known, struggle near the

With Tapie as president, Mar-

Tapie, or "The Boss" as he is

known in Marseille, is due back in

match-fixing scandal and a busi-

ness empire which has crashed

around his ears.

Football

AFP, Marseille

scheduled to visit Sri Lanka last month to probe into charges of match-fixing against Ranatunga and his former deputy Aravinda de

However, the visit was delayed to allow the cricketers more time to prepare written responses to corruption allegations.

Ranatunga hit out at the Sri



ARJUNA RANATUNGA

Lanka cricket board, which was sacked by the country's powerful ."I have full faith in the ICC and sports minister last week after after the nation's cricket affairs.

"The old board was after me chief, Sir Paul Condon, was because I had criticised its func-

worthy of the challenge," said 58-

where they belong," he said in

reference to the chronic infighting

going on at the once-great club.

fixing or corruption.

like many of his generation he is a former member of the Young Communists but with the Socialist party he launched a meteoric po-

But his jail sentence put an end

Tapie launched his own cycling team "La Vie Clair" in 1983 that won the Tour de France in both 1985 and 1986 before launching the venture that was to be his downfall, taking over Marseille in

The club won the French league for four consecutive years. from 1989 to 1992, and finished first in 1993, only to have the title stripped after the match-fixing scandal which rocked French football.

bribed players from Valenciennes to lose their league match to allow the southern French club to wrap up the title and to give them an easy match days before the 1993

He started public life as a which led to 250,000 francs (33,500 singer but made a fortune in the dollars) being found buried in the Tashriq garden belonging to relatives of Azim love Marseille expect of me and I gling companies, including Ger- one of the Valenciennes players, Christophe Robert.

Donald doubtful for fourth Test

likely to sideline South African fast bowler Allan Donald from the fourth Test against the West Indies in Antigua starting on Friday.

upper right hamstring ducking a bouncer in his innings of 37, his highest Test score.

before the start of play in Antigua.

moment. Donald, with 320 Test wickets. is his side's main strike bowler and is vital to South Africa's chances of winning the series against the

unfit, the chances are good that Andre Nel will make his Test debut. He had a good match against the West Indian Board XI a week and a half ago, bowling at a lively pace whilst extracting good bounce. Another factor in his favour is his strength and ability to bowl long spells.

Other possibilities include the middle.

BCCSL to be looked into

Financial scandals within Sri Lanka's richest sports body, the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCSL), will be investigated, Sports Minister Lakshman Kiriella said Tuesday.

last week and appointed a team of formr players to run the board, said there had bee irreularites ad malpractices within the oranisaion

malpractice in the cricket board, Kiriella told parliament.

night. It will take time, but I can assure you that I will not allow politicians to get involved in it." With an estimated 800 million

rupees (9.45 million dollars) in liquid assets, the BCCSL is the richest sports body in the country. However, it has been plagued by a power struggle for its leader-

Young Cricketers

FROM PAGE 13

on Wednesday. Opener Tinku scored 62 off 52 balls as Young Cricketers, chasing Bima's 213 in 50 overs, reached home in 43.4 overs.

Among others, middle order Iftekhar Ahmed chipped in with a run-a-ball 55.

SCOREBOARD

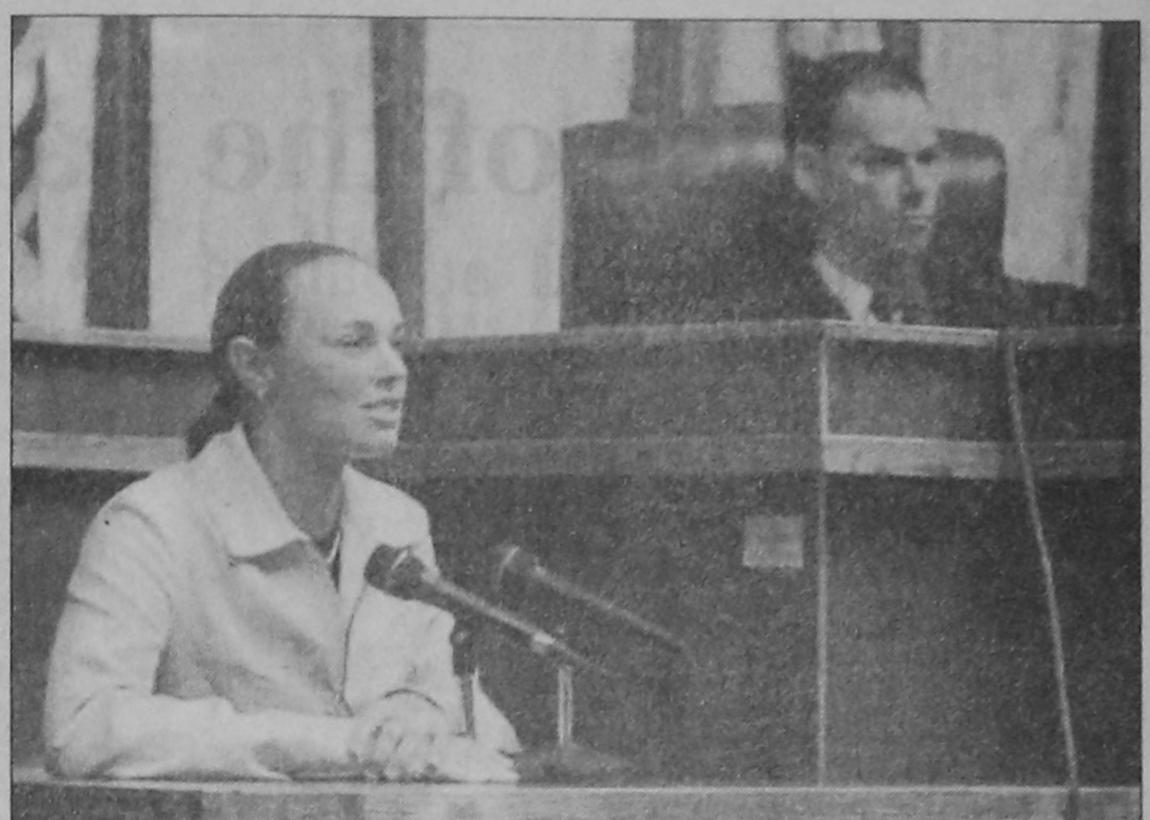
Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Sadharan Bima and Young Cricketers at the BKSP ground in Savar on Wednesday. SADHARAN BIMA

Mofiz c Tinku b Shahnewaz Ahmed c Magsi b Shahnewaz Moin c Towhid b Al-Amin Tariq c Iftekhar b Sohel Chopra st Tinku b Magsi Rezwan run out Saiful b Sohel Tashriq c Adil b Towhid Tushar c Iftekhar b Towhid Zakir st Tinku b Towhid Azim not out Extras: (b-1, lb-7, nb-1, w-13) Total: (All out in 50 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1/26, 2/44, 3/86, 4/97, 5/105, 6/137, 7/144, 8/205, 9/212. Bowler OMRW Shahnewaz 37 0 50 Al-Amin 10 0 43 Magsi Shamsul Sohel Towhid YOUNG CRICKETERS Sajid b Azim Tinku lbw b Tashriq 62 Iftekhar c Mofiz b Rezwan 55 Adil c Rezwan b Azim 43 Magsi not out 20 Towhid not out Extras: (w-7)

Total: (For 4 wkts in 43.4 overs) 214 Fall of wickets: 1/89, 2/108, 3/182, 4/205. OM Bowler R Tushar 14 0 15 Zakir 0 38 Moin 0 31 Chopra 0 53 10 Rezwan 10 1 32 Result: Young Cricketers won

by six wickets.



Swiss tennis superstar Martina Hingis (L) testifies before the Miami Dade Criminal Courthouse on Monday.

The price of stalking Hingis

Tennis

AP, Miami

A man who said he fell in love with tennis star Martina Hingis and followed her to tournaments around the world despite her pleas to stay away has been convicted of stalking.

Dubravko Rajcevic, a 46-yearold Croatian-born naval architect from Australia, was found guilty Tuesday of stalking and three counts of trespassing at the 2000 Ericsson Open near Miami. He faces up to four years in prison.

Rajcevic initially showed no reaction when the verdict was read, then gave a half-smile. After the jury left the courtroom, Rajcevic blurted questions at Judge Kevin

"Why no black people on my jury? All the black people were eliminated from my jury," Rajcevic said. The judge told him to discuss that with his lawyer, Frank Emas granted Abrams' request for a psychologist to visit Rajcevic

in jail before sentencing on April

12. But Rajcevic said he would not

cooperate. "I don't need that type of help," Rajcevic said. "I need legal help, not psychological Earlier Tuesday, Rajcevic told jurors that he was convinced the 20-year-old Swiss player once

loved him, but had probably found someone else while he was time he getting a divorce. He be- he left office because it was imdetained for the trial.

one year," Rajcevic said. "She's liver flowers. young, beautiful, famous. In one year she's probably found some- said Rajcevic followed Hingis

in the world, was not in the stop. Under the law, he said one courtroom Tuesday. The safety of warning was enough. tennis stars has taken on a higher profile since 1993, when a professed fan of Steffi Graf stabbed for over a year," he said. Monica Seles during a tournament

in Germany. Rajcevic concluded he was delusional but mentally competent to stand trial.

with Hingis after seeing her on television while at home in Aus-



DUBRAVKO RAJCEVIC

tralia in 1999, at about the same gan sending her faxes and letters portant that at least one person "Yes, I believe she was in love expressing his admiration for her "very close to Mr Clinton" did not with me, but I've been in jail for and travelled to her home to de- receive a pardon.

Prosecutor Christopher Calkin around the world even though she Hingis, the top-ranked player and others repeatedly told him to "It certainly does not require

somebody to tell someone to stop Rajcevic said many people

close to Hingis told him she didn't Psychologists who evaluated want a relationship with him, but he said he never heard that from her. Hingis testified just the opposite Monday, saying she told him Rajcevic said he fell in love in person and by phone to stay

"I told him he should get out of my life, I didn't want to talk with him anymore, I wouldn't want to spend any time with him," Hingis testified about their face-to-face meeting through a fence after the 1999 French Open. Defence attorney Frank

Abrams said Rajcevic never threatened Hingis and argued that his client was only trying to romance a woman beyond his reach. "The pursuit, no matter how

implausible, cannot be punished," he said. Rajcevic has claimed he is close friends with former US President Bill Clinton, former Secretary of

State Madeleine Albright, former Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh. Rajcevic said he was glad

Clinton didn't pardon him when

Safin's injury worries Russia

Tennis

The back injury of reigning US Open champion Marat Safin is clouding his squad's prospects in the Davis Cup quarterfinal match against Sweden, which is due to

start in Malmo on Friday. The injury, which hit 21-yearold Safin during his Dubai Open semifinal victory against Sweden's Thomas Johansson last month and forced him to concede the final to Juan Carlos Ferrero, may prevent him from playing in the Davis Cup showdown.

Russia's national skipper Shamil Tarpishchev teamed Safin on Safin's participation in the with the 27-year-old Sydney match would be made hours be-Olympics winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the 18-year-old Mikhail Yuzhny and Andrei Stolyarov, who prove its Davis Cup head-to-head is only ranked 122nd in the world. record with the Swedes, who are Slovakia.

33 Sci-fi

villain

34 Ruin the

veneer

36 Cheats at

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cern about Safin's possible absence in the Sweden match, adding that it could significantly reduce Russia's chances to book a semifinal berth.

"If Marat (Safin) was at his

peak I would say we were the favourites in the match in Malmo," Tarpishchev told local press. "But if he fails to overcome the

injury we would be forced to put in Yuzhny and Stolyarov." "In that case I would say we

have not more than a 30-percent chance of going through," he added.

fore the quarterfinal start. However, Russia will try to im-

Tarpishchev expressed con- currently 3-0 ahead in past

Sweden recorded their first victory over the Soviet squad in 1975. The Scandinavian outfit also beat Russia in the first round in 1982 and in the final match of the 1994 Davis Cup campaign. Kafelnikoy, who gave Russia a

3-2 victory over the Slovak Repub-

lic in this year's opening round tie in Bratislava, said earlier in his interview with local media that he was confident Russia's Davis Cup team was capable of going all the way this year. The Olympic champion added that he will retire from the sport if

Russia's skipper said a decision he can lead Russia to victory in the world's greatest annual tennis team competition this year. "I will do my best to win the

Davis Cup this season," Kafelnikov said after Russia's victory against

By Eugen	e Sheffer	1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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CRYPTOQUIP

HOW EYRRWD CPUNG YCWDJBWUH ETJH OM,1

POG JY

DTOONOR BPHW Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SIGN IN PET SHOP READS: "GET YOUR CAT FOOD HERE -EIGHTY-FOUR CENTS PURR CAN." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals N

PRPNO.

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another, If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzie. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Tapie, Marseille re-unite

year-old Tapie. I will do everything necessary to take up the post on Monday. I feel sure that there will be a con-Bernard Tapie is set for an emovergence of energies now with just tional return to French football one aim. To put Marseille back



BERNARD TAPIE

count on a rapturous reception - household name in France where European Cup final, which they his irrepressible charm has won 1-0 against Italian giants AC seen him serve time in jail for the pushed him to the forefront of Milan. public life on many fronts.

"I'm aware of what those who late 70s buying and selling strug-

shall do everything to prove myself man sportswear giant Adidas.

litical career that led him through local, regional, national and finally European politics.

to his political involvement. 1986.

Marseille were found to have

Allegations began to leak out,



during the record-breaking ninth wicket stand of 132 with Shaun Pollock in South Africa's first innings of the third Test in Barba-According to team physiotherapist Craig Smith, Donald first started feeling tightness in his

"When it came to our turn to bowl on Saturday, his hamstring got progressively tighter as the game wore on, particularly after the lunch interval," Smith said. Donald did not bowl in the

West Indian second innings and the time for recuperation is brief South Africa coach Graham Ford said on Monday that the outlook was not that great at the

West Indies. If Donald does end up being

Roger Telemachus and Justin Kemp. Telemachus only joined the squad last Thursday and it would be a big ask to include him in the Test line-up without any time in

AFP, Colombo

Kiriella, who sacked the BCCS

thatwouldbe systematically investigated. "There are many financial

"But we can't change it over-