

Clark again WA coach

REUTERS, Perth

Former Test bowler Wayne Clark has been appointed as coach of Western Australia for a second time.

Clark signed a one-year-deal with the Warriors after they sacked their former coach, ex-test batsmen Mike Veletta.

Clark, who was sacked himself by Yorkshire last season, coached Western Australia for six seasons between 1994 and 2001, winning two first-class and two one-day titles.

Hoggard scare for England

REUTERS, London

England fast bowler Matthew Hoggard limped off with a knee injury after sending down just three deliveries for Yorkshire against Worcestershire in a C&G Trophy match on Wednesday.

Hoggard, who is now a doubt for the second Test against Zimbabwe next week, will have a scan on the injury on Thursday. He removed Graeme Hick at New Road before leaving the field.

Yorkshire captain Anthony McGrath, who made his England debut in the first test, missed his county's cup game with a side strain.

Kenyan athlete caught in doping net

AFP, Paris

Kenyan athlete Pamela Chepchumba, sixth in the World Cross Country Women's Championships in Switzerland in March, has failed a drugs test for the endurance-booster EPO.

International Association of Athletics Federations communications director Nick Davis said Wednesday Chepchumba was the first Kenyan to fail a drugs test.

John Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000m champion, was banned for four years after winning his fifth world cross country title in 1992 for refusing to take an out-of-competition drugs test.

Dhumketu

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Ayub (16) and Osman (12).

Josephites also scored a comprehensive 69-31 points victory over Eagles in the other fixture of the day.

Josephite took an impressive 33-10 points lead at the breather.

Leo caged maximum 20 points for the winners.

A fish out

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"I have only become aware of Sabura's plight after reading the newspapers today. This is distressing for the whole country because she is a very bright prospect. We can not ruin her career because of a tug of war between Ansars and BJMC," said Rahman.

"I expect to have a discussion with the BJMC Chairman and the Director General of Ansars today. What happened to Sabura should-n't have happened. I can assure you that these things will not be repeated," said the local sports boss.

Though Rahman promised a quick end to the crisis, a solution, if any, would still be too late for Sabura's aspirations in the age-group meet which ends today at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur.

PCB names

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Bangladesh, granted Test status in 2000, will play Tests in Karachi, Multan and Peshawar.

Bangladesh has been flayed for their disappointing performance at international level, having lost 18 of their 19 Tests and failing to win a one-day since their shock defeat of Pakistan at the World Cup in 1999.

Bangladesh's only tour to Pakistan resulted in their one-sided innings defeat in the Asian Test Championship match in Multan two years ago.

Impressive wins

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winners will qualify for the semifinals.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Narayanganj vs Jhenidah

Venue: Comilla Stadium

JHENIDAH: 159 for 8 in 50 overs (Rahman 58, Rashid 19; Zia 3-29, Pappu 2-18, Sajid 2-36)

NARAYANGANJ: 160 for 5 in 48.4 overs (Shahriar 54, Zia 48, Pappu 25; Shakil 2-20, Nasir 2-22)

Result: Narayanganj won by 5 wickets.

Rajshahi vs Satkhira

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

SATKHIRA: 65 all out in 19.3 overs (Prince 11; Mushfiq 4-25, Shahajjada 5-29)

RAJSHAH: 66 for 1 in 14 overs Omi 12, Siddik 34 not out)

Result: Rajshahi won by 9 wicket.

Imran goes to the rescue



AFP, Karachi

Pakistan cricket legend Imran Khan said Wednesday he would coach young blood to lift national cricket and urged the country to follow Australia's shining example.

"After Pakistan's disappointing performance in the World Cup, a lot of my friends asked me to help Pakistan cricket and despite my commitments in politics I have agreed to help with coaching," Imran said speaking at a launch of regional cricket clinics.

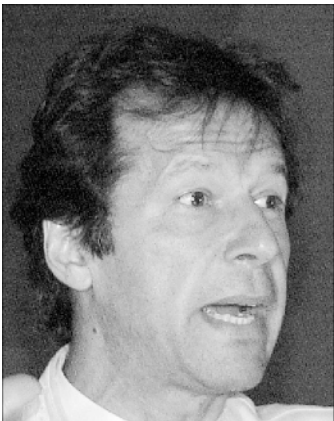
"I want to pay back what this country has given me," said Imran, a Pakistani MP who leads the Movement for Justice party.

Pakistan, one of the pre-tournament favourites, failed to go beyond the first round in the World Cup in southern Africa in February-March this year, which was won by Australia.

In a massive overhaul, Pakistan dumped eight senior players - including captain Waqar Younis, his long-time pace partner, Wasim

Akram, Saeed Anwar and Inzamamul Haq.

"Pakistan has a lot of talent but we need to harness that talent like they do in Australia, which has



IMRAN KHAN

enabled them to rule the cricket world," said Imran, whose 362 wickets in 88 Tests and 182 in 175 one-dayers made him a leading fast bowler in the 1970s and 1980s.

"A player in Australia is ready for

international cricket once he comes out of their academies and first class competitions, which is not there in our part of the world," said the all-rounder who led Pakistan to their only World Cup title in Australia in 1992.

The coaching clinics, conducted under the auspices of the Pakistan Cricket Board and soft drink giants Pepsi, will be held at more than a dozen venues.

"Cricket is so very much popular in Pakistan that every boy wants to don the green cap but you need to work hard," he said.

PCB chief executive Rameez Raja said a new first-class structure was among the many steps taken by the board to improve Pakistani cricket.

"It is nice to have a person like Imran Khan's stature on board, and through these regional clinics and competitive first class competitions we will set a strong foundation," said Raja, himself a former captain.

Pakistan holds two major domestic first class tournaments, which are dominated by sponsored teams not cities.

Serena, Henin

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But afterwards Hantuchova had to run the gauntlet of questions about her diet and justify her pencil-slim frame, which has given rise to claims she suffers from anorexia - something she strenuously denied.

"I am really blessed in that I can eat whatever I want. I just burn more calories than I've got in my body," said Hantuchova, saying she has no eating problems.

Harkleroad, playing with a strapped elbow because of tendinitis, jumped for joy as she broke the Slovak's serve to win through 7-6, 4-6, 9-7 in 3hr 08min and set up a meeting with the winner of the tie between Spaniard Magui Sema and Israel's Anna Pistolesi.

Hantuchova, who reached the fourth round here last year and went on to reach the Wimbledon and US Open quarterfinals, slammed down three times as many winners as her opponent, but gave an error-strewn performance with 108 unforced errors and seven double faults.

Former Australian Open champion Kafelnikov, the 17th seed, meanwhile said he was considering his future after his 3hr 55min loss.

"It's a disappointment to lose, the fact is I might not be back next year," said Kafelnikov who saved a match point in the fourth set to force the fifth set.

"Unfortunately it wasn't to be I was thinking just to get through somehow. I knew that match was important to me.

"He was a mystery man to me I'd never seen him play one shot," added Kafelnikov of his opponent who goes on to meet Spanish qualifier Galo Blanco, who defeated Argentine Mariano Puerta 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, in the third round.

Meanwhile in other second round action, Japanese 16th seed Ai Sugiyama beat Sandra Kleinova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-0 and now meets 18th seeded American Meghann Shaughnessy.

Switzerland's Patty Schnyder, seeded 19, got past French hope Stephanie Cohen-Aloro 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) and next meets Greek 14th seed Eleni Daniilidou, who beat Italy's Tathiana Garbin 6-0, 4-6, 6-2.

Under-16 soccer

FROM PAGE 13

will receive Taka 7,000. Besides, there will be cash awards for the best player, best goalkeeper and leading scorer of the meet.

Interested divisional teams have been asked to complete the entry formalities by June 5.

Warne acted 'honestly'

AFP, Sydney

Banned Australian spin bowler Shane Warne could have played in early Cricket World Cup matches last February but chose instead to admit having tested positive for a banned drug, an official said Wednesday.

The chief executive of the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA), John Mendoza, told a Senate hearing in Canberra that Warne was woken at his hotel in South Africa on February 10 to learn he had returned a positive drug test.

"He elected to notify his team management within a very short period of time of ASDA waking him up in his hotel in South Africa," Mendoza said.

"He alone, in consultation, as I understand, with the senior management of the team, decided to remove himself and return to Australia to undertake the hearing," he said.

"They were entirely his choices."

Under Australian regulations, Warne had the right to remain silent on the positive test for a banned diuretic until a second urine sample was tested, meaning he could have played in opening World Cup matches.

Instead, he chose to return immediately to Australia where he faced the Australian Cricket Board anti-doping committee.

Warne, 33, was subsequently banned from playing cricket for 12 months after the second test proved positive.

"He has rights under the Act which could have meant he could have stayed in South Africa, he could have played several competitions," Mendoza said.

"But he, in my view quite wisely, elected to forego those rights and remove himself from the team so the team could get on with the business of what it was to do in South Africa."

Australia went on to win the World Cup.

Darwin approved

AFP, Darwin

Darwin's Marrara Oval on Wednesday received formal approval ahead of July's first-ever cricket Test between Australia and Bangladesh.

The Australian Cricket Board said the ground had received official International Cricket Council accreditation ahead of the Top End Tour in July and August.

Marrara Oval will host international matches for the first time when Australia plays Bangladesh in a Test match from July 18 to 22 and one-day international on August 6.

The north Queensland city of Cairns will host the second Test and two other one-day games.

Sweet revenge for Hide

BBC ONLINE, London

Former WBO world champion Herbie Hide knocked out Joseph Chingangu inside the first round at Dagenham's Goresbrook Leisure Centre.

Hide got his revenge on the 36-year-old Zambian, who had beaten him in two rounds in September 2001.

It was a crucial victory for Norwich fighter Hide, who has now punched his way back into the British heavyweight shake-up.

This time it was Hide who showed little regard for the niceties, picking up two warnings before bringing the fight to a premature end after just two minutes and 33 seconds.

Wenger, Real talking?



AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid were reported Wednesday to have offered Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger a three-year contract worth 12 million euros (14 million dollars).

Wenger admitted Tuesday he had talks with Madrid officials but said he had two years left on his contract with the English Premiership side and was not going anywhere.

But the ABC daily said Wednesday sources close to the club claim a deal is in place over three years.

The paper said it was the fifth time Wenger had met Madrid officials and insiders claim the club are waiting on the Frenchman to make a decision.

Arsenal said Tuesday they were "not perturbed" by rumours that Wenger held talks with Real Madrid club president Florentino Perez, director of sport Jorge Valdano in a private room at the Plaza Athenae Hotel in Paris last

week.

"Arsene himself has reiterated his commitment to the club on a number of occasions and we see no reason to pass further comment on the subject," the club said.

Wenger admitted he saw "a lot



ARSENE WENGER

of people on Friday" and pointedly did not deny the meeting but the Madrid officials denied having met

him.

Wenger might be put off by lack of control over transfers as signings for the Spanish giants are overseen by Valdano.

Current Madrid coach Vicente del Bosque has pleaded for a central defender for the last three years only to see the club sign forwards Luis Figo, Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo.

But Real would be keen to snap up Gunners' captain Patrick Vieira if Wenger went to Madrid.

Del Bosque, yet to be offered a new deal for next season, told the As daily he was not surprised to read that Madrid had been in contact with Wenger.

"It's normal. But I'm confident of signing a new deal," he said.

Del Bosque has twice landed the Champions League and La Liga once since taking over from John Toshack three years ago but he did not deny he feared the sack if Real failed to clinch the title this year.

"I don't know what will happen," he said.

Real Madrid are one point behind Real Sociedad with three games to go.

Confederations Cup

Brazil pick one R



AFP, Rio di Janeiro

World champions Brazil have selected Ronaldinho but will leave Ronaldo and Rivaldo out for the Confederations Cup tournament in France next month, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said Tuesday.

Ronaldinho, who plays club football for Paris St Germain, will lead the attack with Bayern Munich's Ze Roberto getting a call-up in midfield, according to the list of foreign-based players named by Parreira for the June 18-29 event.

Roma captain Emerson, who was cruelly ruled out of last year's World Cup by an injury on the eve of the finals, is also selected.

However World Footballer of the Year Ronaldo will be rested as he will be contesting the Spanish club season for Real Madrid until late June.

"We are leaving out several

players who need to have a holiday, like the players at Real Madrid who are playing until June 22," said Parreira, who dismissed sugges-



RONALDINHO

tions the tournament was not a major event.

"The Confederations Cup will be a good chance to prepare for the 2006 World Cup qualifiers," he said.

"Every time Brazil step on to the

field, it's to play well, to win and to be champions."

The Confederations Cup will also include hosts and holders France, the United States, Turkey, Japan, Colombia, New Zealand and Cameroon.

(LIST OF THE 11 FOREIGN-BASED PLAYERS SELECTED FOR THE CONFEDERATIONS CUP)

Goalkeeper: Dida (AC Milan/ITA)

Defenders: Belletti (Villarreal/SPA), Fabio Aurelio (Valencia/SPA), Juan (Bayer Leverkusen/GER), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen/GER), Roque Junior (AC Milan/ITA)

Midfielders: Eduardo Costa (Bordeaux/FRA), Emerson (AS Roma/ITA), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich/GER)

Strikers: Adriano (Parma/ITA), Ronaldinho (Paris St Germain/FRA)

Ono Asia's best



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Japan and Feyenoord midfielder Shinji Ono has been crowned Asian footballer of the year for 2002 after a glittering 12 months at club and international level.

Ono saw off stiff competition from compatriot Junichi Inamoto, South Korean World Cup star Ahn Jung-hwan and China's English-based midfielder Li Tie to pick up the Asian Football Confederation award.

He will receive the trophy on June 4 when Feyenoord face Urawa Reds, Ono's former club, in a friendly in Saitama, Japan.

Ono becomes the third Japanese player after Masami Ihara (1995) and Hidetoshi Nakata (1997 and 1998) to scoop the most prestigious award in Asian football since the awards were inaugurated in 1994.

He also becomes the first person to win both the AFC Player of the Year and AFC Young Player of the Year titles, having won the latter in 1998.

The 23-year-old helped Feyenoord win the UEFA Cup in 2002, which made him only the second Asian to win a major European title after Korean Cha Bum-Kun.



SHINJI ONO

Cha won the same trophy with German clubs Eintracht Frankfurt (1979/80) and Bayer Leverkusen (1987/88).

Ono's other achievements during a sterling year included helping Japan to the second round of the World Cup, and leading his club to third place in the 2001/02 Dutch league and First Group Stage of the 2002/03 UEFA Champions League.

Meanwhile, Dutchman Guus Hiddink was named AFC Coach of the Year for his historic role in leading South Korea to the semi-finals of last year's World Cup.

South Korea eventually finished fourth, the best ever performance by an Asian side at the World Cup.

Hiddink made Korea arguably the fittest team in the World Cup and ensured they peaked at the right moment to beat European giants Spain, Italy, Portugal and Poland on their way to the last four.

Lee Chun-soo, an important member of Hiddink's World Cup squad, pocketed another title for South Korea when he bagged the AFC Young Player of the Year title, following in the footsteps of past winners such as Ono and Iran's Mehdi Mahdavi, now with German club Hamburg.

South Korea were meanwhile named AFC National Team of the Year for their World Cup heroics.

Seles nearing end?



AFP, Paris

Facing up to her earliest ever Grand Slam exit Tuesday three-time French Open champion Monica Seles conceded that she was fighting a losing battle to stay on the court.

The 29-year-old, who fought her way back following an absence of over two years after being stabbed in the back by a fanatical Steffi Graf fan in Germany ten years ago, slumped 6-4, 6-0 in just under an hour to hard-hitting Russian Nadia Petrova on Tuesday.

It was the second time in two weeks that the American veteran went down to 76th-ranked Petrova after retiring in Rome two weeks ago with a left foot injury which she admits has become unbearable.

After one battle to return to the court, surgery is something Seles is loath to consider at this stage in her career.

"Realistically I know I'm in the later stages of my career. I don't have the luxury of taking five or six months off," she said.

"At the same time I don't want to have the surgery to put a screw in my foot, I am trying everything."

"I mean you think five months off, surgery, that's another three months of training."

Lyndsay (Davenport) has done it. She's two years younger than I am. It could be done but I just don't think I would have that uphill challenge in me to do it.

"This year really since January has been very difficult. It's been a struggle. I think I do have to give it a break and then reassess what I want to do after how my foot responds to it. It's one of these things, it's your bone there's not much you can do just got to give it time."

Seles, one of only two women ever to win a hat-trick of titles here between 1990-1992 before being attacked, has never done worse than a quarterfinal finish in her ten previous appearances at Roland Garros.

The American 12th seed had led 4-3 in the opening set but the 20-year-old Russian upped the tempo to win every game that followed.

Yugoslav-born Seles has collected 53 WTA titles and nine Grand Slams in her 14-year career, but only one Major crown since returning from her stabbing ordeal

eight years ago - the 1996 Australian Open.

But she ruled out making a rash decision on her future.

"I'm a positive person. I'll try not to give up. I mean, I've faced worse stuff."

"This is not the way I would like to leave. I do think if I'm healthy I

can play good tennis and I won't give up. I'm hard-headed but I understand that I just have to give it time."

"I wasn't coming here with too many expectations - obviously my wish to play is not matching my performance and I just have to accept that," said Seles.



MONICA SELES

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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1 Alfred E.s mag	43 Congress output		2 Alda or Ladd	23 Spacecraft compartment
4 Head of 'st	44 Lean and sinewy		3 Frisbee system	25 Bell Labs computer
7 "The Thin Man" pet	46 Family sub-division		4 Received poet	26 What "the poor dog had"
11 Settled	50 Carving stone		6 Gentleman's gentleman	27 Scrutinizes
13 Eggs	53 Lunmox proposition		55 Nevada city	28 Desire
14 Fairy-tale	56 Eastern foie		7 Dr. Evil's mistress	29 Across-
16 Up to, poetically	57 Night flier		8 Hot tub	30 Antiquing apparatus
17 Castle material	58 Take to the lake		9 Hoavy weight	31 Cunning one
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