

SPORTS

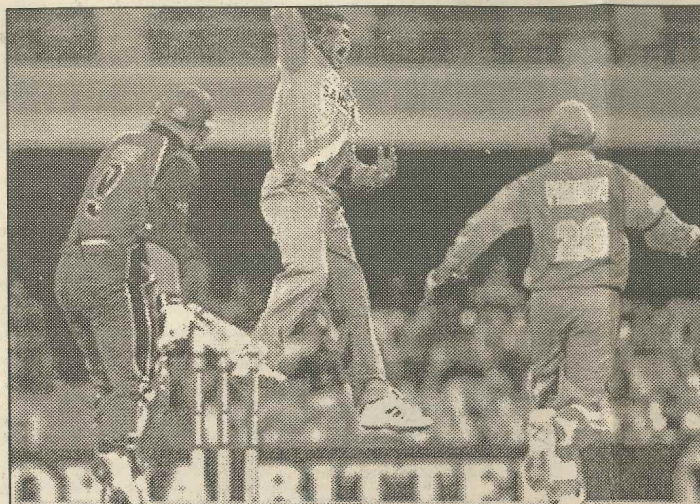
Zimbabwe Fight Back But Boys Win It For India

BRISBANE, 20.

Zimbabwe gave India a bit of a fright before Sourav Ganguly and his boys registered a 24-run win in the VB Triangular Series match at Brisbane on Tuesday. Chasing 256 to win, Zimbabwe went in for a late burst but were dismissed for 231 in the 48th over. The fact that the ball was like a sponge because of a wet outfield did not help the Indian bowlers. But the Zimbabwean batsmen Dion Ebrahim (39 from 30 balls) and Sean Ervine (39 from 27 balls) put a mini-scare into the Indian camp and also ensured that Zimbabwe earned a bonus point.

The other useful contributions for Zimbabwe came from Grant Flower at the top of the order who made 36 and Stuart Carlisle who made a solid 34. The pick of the Indian bowlers was skipper Ganguly who finished with three wickets for 55 runs in his 10 overs. L. Balaji continued with his good form claiming two wickets for just 37 runs in his 9 overs. Earlier, India made heavy weather of batting on a good batting track, finishing with 255/6 at the end of their 50 overs.

Rahul Dravid (84 off 106 balls) and man-of-the-match Yuvraj Singh



India's captain Sourav Ganguly (center) jumps to celebrate with teammate Parthiv Patel after Zimbabwe's captain Heath Streak was bowled by Ganguly for 3 runs in their one day international cricket match, Tuesday, January 20, 2004 in Brisbane.

(69 off 76 balls) bailed India out after they were struggling at 74/3 in the 17th over. A nice little cameo of 22 from as many balls from Rohan

Gavaskar in the fog end of the innings helped India cross the 250 mark. The experiment to open the batting with Parthiv Patel yielded

mixed results with the youngster putting up 41 runs for the opening stand with skipper Ganguly after India decided to bat first.

Aut Open: Venus Williams Surges

MELBOURNE, JAN. 20.

Venus Williams showed no ill effects from her extended layoff, returning at the Australian Open with a 6-2, 6-1 victory Tuesday over American teenager Ashley Harkleroad. Sidelined for almost six months last season because of an abdominal injury, the third-seeded Williams won in her first major since losing the Wimbledon final to sister Serena last July. Williams served at speeds up to 119 mph and won 75 per cent of points on her first serve. She didn't waste any time, between points or on them, producing 27 winners against Harkleroad, ranked No 51 last season. Williams closed in 51 minutes, approaching the net and opting not to jump for Harkleroad's desperate lob on match point. She smiled as she watched it drop behind the baseline.

Volleyball Tourney

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20.

Rajiv Gandhi Memorial knock-out volleyball tournament will be played at the premises of Gandhi Bhavan from 9.00 AM tomorrow.

The acting President, ANTC, Shri Jagannathan will inaugurate the tournament which is being participated by 10 teams, a communication said here.

ICC To Inspect Dutch Venue

KARACHI, JAN. 20.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is sending a delegation to the Netherlands to inspect a venue hosting a Tri-Series between world champions Australia and traditional rivals India and Pakistan, a Pakistani official said today.

Federer, Hewitt Breeze Into Second Round

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, JAN. 20.

World number two Roger Federer sent a defiant message to rivals at the Australian Open on Tuesday by blowing past his first-round opponent and showing he can compete in a Grand Slam event even without a coach. Venus Williams also made a triumphant if rusty return to tournament play after a six-month break by overpowering fellow American Ashley Harkleroad 6-2, 6-1 in a 51-minute, centre-court romp.

Playing in tricky winds, high humidity and temperatures that reached 36.5 degrees centigrade (98 Fahrenheit), Federer was joined by third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, Argentinian eighth seed David Nalbandian and Australia's Lleyton Hewitt in advancing to the Open's second round.

First Indian Entry For World Karting Championship

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

Armaan Ebrahim will represent the country in Junior World Cup Karting Championship to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from Wednesday. Armaan would compete in the 13-18 age group alongside 22 other participants from 18 countries. It would be the first time that a racer from India would be seen in action in a world karting championship, a release from motorsports promoters JK Industries Ltd said here yesterday. In order to prepare for the event, Armaan underwent two short training programmes in the last ten days, the first at Coimbatore followed by a five-day stint in Malaysia.

OTHER NEWS

Indian Navy To

Commission Warship Soon

VISAKHAPATNAM, JAN. 20.

The Indian Navy will commission a Corvette class warship, Karmukh, on February 4 at Kolkata while a fast attack craft will be commissioned in March. A fast attack craft has been already commissioned at Goa on January 14, Eastern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice Admiral OP Bansal said here. Speaking to newsmen, Bansal said that the Navy would send its

EKM submarine to Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) for refit works. The HSL and Russia had signed an agreement to provide technical assistance for the refitting project. On the Navy's indigenisation programme, Bansal said that the work done by Navy was commendable. Some of the items which were few in number and not economically viable would not be indigenised. Gaskets and fasteners which

were required in large numbers were being manufactured in the Dockyard itself. The country was doing well in sonars, torpedoes, anti-ship missiles, communication and electronic warfare, he added. Bansal said that self reliance had become the buzzword for the Navy and it would be inducting Surface-to-Air Missile on its ships. On the export of indigenous arms, he said that the export policy was a hurdle.

India, Pakistan To Discuss Kashmir, Siachen In Forthcoming Talks

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 20.

India and Pakistan have agreed to start discussions on eight issues, including Kashmir, Siachen and introduction of new confidence-building measures, Pakistani media has quoted European sources as saying. No formal agenda has been drawn up for the first round of dialogue to be held in New Delhi, possibly in the third week of February, The News quoted diplomatic sources in Brussels, Belgium as saying.

Apart from the above two issues, the other subjects likely to be discussed are peace and security; Wuller Barrage and Tulbul Navigation Project; the Sir Creek issue; terrorism and drug trafficking; economic and commercial cooperation; and, promotion of friendly exchanges.

The level at which the first round of dialogue will take place is yet to be decided. Pakistan wants that the negotiations start at the foreign secretary level, while India is insisting on a step-by-step approach and that dialogue commence from the joint secretary level. According to the report, both countries may resolve their differences by

The foreign offices of India and Pakistan are under strict instructions from their respective leaders that they should avoid touching the "areas of discord at the outset by trying to encourage the issues of concord". A European diplomat said the foreign offices of India and Pakistan are trying to resolve the minor difference of opinion related to the level of initiating composite dialogue and the latest telephonic contact between Shri Sinha and Kasuri was part of the efforts to resolve the difference of perception related to the mechanism for the official talks beginning next month.

A European diplomat confirmed that both the confidants of Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee and President Musharraf - Indian National Security Adviser, Shri Barjesh Mishra and Pakistani secretary for National Security Council, Tariq Aziz are in regular contact with each other and both the countries seem to be determined to thwart any attempt by religious extremists aimed at sabotaging the peace process.

Meanwhile, five European contributor states to the United Nations Military Ob-

Outsourcing Benefits

India, US: Sinha

WASHINGTON, JAN. 20.

Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha defended American firms' outsourcing of jobs to his country and said that the issue had been blown out of proportion. Noting that it was "really unfortunate" that Americans had lost their jobs due to outsourcing, Shri Sinha said that if the issue was considered in the overall perspective, both India and the US had accrued benefits.

The minister, who began a three-day visit to the US Monday, was answering questions on outsourcing from American business leaders at a luncheon meeting. The meeting was hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the Willard Hotel in downtown Washington D.C.

The meeting was attended by about 40 people, including former US ambassadors to India Frank Wisner and Thomas Pickering and members of the US-India Business Council (USIBC). The event was, however, not open to the media. Shri Sinha tried to assuage the feelings of

ASEAN Prepares Plan For Eco Integration

YOGYAKARTA, JAN. 20.

Southeast Asian nations are finalizing a 'road map' for integrating 11 industry sectors. The move is an attempt to compete better with other regional trade powers, according to Indonesia's Trade Minister Rini Suwandi. ASEAN Economic Ministers were on the last day of a two-day informal meeting to discuss ways to speed up economic integration in their grouping of some 530 million people. They will meet in Singapore to talk about the road map, including the targets and timeframe.

American businessmen and said India was not affecting the US economy or jobs. He said it had been India's own experience that restrictive trade policies could harm the nation's interests and its global competitiveness, according to officials who were present at the event.

Overall, moving jobs to countries such as China or India - where labour costs are cheaper - helps companies break into lucrative foreign markets and hire skilled employees in countries at a fraction of the cost to American companies. This is a two-way benefit, Shri Sinha explained.

Later, a delegation of the US India Political Action Committee, led by its Executive Director Sanjay Puri, called on Sinha at the Willard Hotel, to apprise him of the work it is doing in cultivating bipartisan lawmakers on Capitol Hill to improve US-India relations. According to officials in the Indian embassy, Sinha is slated to meet Secretary of State Colin Powell to brief him about the latest turn of events in India-Pakistan ties.

No Hike In Railway Fares

This Fiscal: Nitish

Kisan TV..

(Contd from page 1)

transmitters of Doordarshan

Office Bearers Elected

BMS Reshuffled

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20. The State Committee of

Chairman Of UN Rights Commission