

PHOTO: AFP

Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar gestures after being bowled during an exhibition match with underprivileged children in Bangalore yesterday.

USTA doing no favours

AFP, New York

Denying any notion at American bias in their re-scheduling decisions, the US Tennis Association said popularity was a bigger factor than nationality in helping US players Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick.

Non-Americans spoke out, mostly in Spanish, after Thursday's start of a four-match in four-day endurance fight to the final for the US Open men's title while Roddick and Agassi were enjoying rest days.

"It's frustrating, but at least it's the same for everybody. At least it's the same for all the non-Americans," Spain's Carlos Moya said after being ousted by Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui.

Agassi and Roddick were the only men able to finish fourth-round matches during three days of rain that allowed only bits and pieces of matches to be finished, mainly because they were on Arthur Ashe Stadium, the top drying priority to show off stars for US television.

Other courts did not receive such special attention and as a result, the men who are not backed by the host nation are squirming in an unprecedented grind for best-of-five matches.

"Everyone was upset," said Argentina's fifth-seeded Guillermo Coria, who gets to play a rested Agassi next.

Mukti's moment

FROM PAGE 13

But he felt very proud because his club had added another title to the other major domestic trophies -- Premier Division League, Federation Cup under his supervision.

"My team didn't play as I had expected. I think we could have won outright if the referee had not made mistakes."

He was referring to linesman Ramkrishna Gosh who raised his flag to declare Papeh Mahmud offside in the tenth minute of the extra-time. But it was clear that Papeh had sprang the offside trap with the ball.

Alfaz was adjudged man-of-the-match. Mohammedan coach Abul Hossain said that his team lost the final because of poor finishing. "It was shocking what my players did in the tiebreaker."

Red cards: Arman (Muktijodha) Yellow cards: Jewel, Riyad, Joy, Salisu, Pappu, Faisal and Farhad (Mohammedan), Ghansa and Nono (Muktijodha).

TEAMS MUKTIJODHA: Aminul, Hasan Al Mamun, Rajani, Sujon, Papeh, Matiur (Nono), Prodip (Lajuk), Ghansa, Arman, Moni (Belal) and Alfaz.

MOHAMMEDAN: Nizam (Bijon), Jewel, Masud Rana, Riyad, Titoo, Joy, Salisu, Pappu (Nakib), Faisal (Anwar), Kanchan and Farhad. Referee: Mansoor Azad.

SCORECARD

FROM PAGE 13

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Gul (15, 2, 58, 4), Shabbir (23, 6, 68, 4), Ali (6, 1, 12, 1), Saqlain (2.3, 0, 9, 1).

Note: A. Kapali, when on 16, retired hurt with Bangladesh 71-4 and resumed his innings again at 77-5.

PAKISTAN: Second innings Butt c sub (Mashrafe) b Manjural (18), Hafeez c sub (Mashrafe) b Manjural (18), Hameed c sub (Mashrafe) b Mahmud (18), Inzamam not out (53), Younis run out (0), Adil c Bashir b Rafique (8), Latif lbw b Mahmud (5), Saqlain not out (3), Extras: (lb-4, w-2) (6).

Total: (For six wkts in 53.3 overs) 148. Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-62, 3-78, 4-81, 5-99, 6-132.

To bat: Shabbir Ahmed, Umer Gul, Yasir Ali.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Manjural (16, 2, 50, 2), Baisya (6, 0, 27, 0), Mahmud (16, 6, 33, 2), Rafique (15.3, 3, 34, 1).

Toss: Bangladesh Umpires: Asoka de Silva (SRI) and Russell Tiffin (ZIM)

PCB to convince

FROM PAGE 13 Drought as foreign teams have refused to tour the country following two suicide bomb blasts in Karachi during Test series in May and June last year.

Pakistan was forced to play two of its home series matches against the West Indies and Australia at neutral venues last year as both teams refused to tour the country.

The first blast on May 8 outside a hotel where the New Zealand team was staying forced them to pack their bags and cut the tour short by one Test.

However, New Zealand are set to compensate for that match by touring Pakistan in November this year when they will play five one-day games.

New Zealand has yet to finalise the itinerary of the tour but have already refused to play in Karachi.

Federer fails, Clijsters cruises



REUTERS, New York

Wimbledon champion Roger Federer's US Open run juddered to a halt on Thursday when he was bounced by his Argentine bogeyman but Kim Clijsters was in fine form as rain clouds finally cleared from Flushing Meadows.

Federer, seeded second here on the back of his grass court grand slam triumph, fell once again to Argentine David Nalbandian, this time 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the fourth round.

The stocky 21-year-old from Cordoba has now beaten Federer all five times they have met on the Tour -- three times this year and twice in 2002.

"I like playing against him, what can I say?" he laughed. "I like his game... I don't know exactly why."

Clijsters reached her first US Open semifinal with a comprehensive 6-1, 6-4 victory over France's Amelie Mauresmo.

The Belgian top seed will face former champion and third seed Lindsay Davenport for a place in Saturday's final after the American ousted Argentine Paola Suarez 6-4, 6-0.

"It's definitely a great feeling," Clijsters grinned.

Her fellow Belgian and second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne was also feeling great having booked her spot in the last four with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Anastasia Myskina.

Myskina had earlier in the day completed her fourth round victory against Mary Pierce.

also played earlier on Thursday, completing a 6-7, 7-5, 6-2 win over seed Ai Sugiyama.

Like Myskina, Schiavone could not duplicate that form later in the day and sixth seeded Capriati won 6-1 6-3 in straightforward fashion.

"I played tough... I had a lot of energy out there," Capriati said.

"Even though I am here in the US Open, I don't feel I have any of the pressure," she added, looking ahead to the semis.

"I've just got to go out there and give it all I've got."

Australia's Lleyton Hewitt underlined his revival in form, beating Thai Paradorn Srichaphan 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in a fourth round clash.

The 2001 U.S. Open champion has endured a poor grand slam year and this result gave him his best run at a major in 2003.

"It took me a few games to get into it but then I really started working it well," Hewitt said.

Her next seeds third seed Juan Carlos Ferrero after the Spaniard beat American Todd Martin 6-2, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3.

Federer, who also lost to Nalbandian in the final of the junior event here in 1998, slowly lost his way on a dank center court, bowing out in two hours 50 minutes.



DAVID NALBANDIAN

"I guess I am struggling against him," Federer smiled wryly. "I don't know what to comment on this."

"I am trying to figure out how to beat him. He likes my game, that's all I can say about it."

Thirteenth seed Nalbandian, himself a finalist at Wimbledon last year, was also at a loss to explain his hold over the stylish Swiss player.

The Russian seventh seed won that contest, which spanned four days, 7-6, 6-1 but was no match for Henin-Hardenne under the floodlights.

French Open champion Henin-Hardenne will face Jennifer Capriati in the last four after the American also beat a "second-hand" opponent.

Italy's Francesca Schiavone had



KIM CLIJSTERS

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Star WHIZZ KID COMPETITION 198. Tick the correct answers, post to The Daily Star. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm Sept 12, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards.

Dyson to work on players' attitude



REUTERS, Colombo

New Sri Lanka coach John Dyson will not be imposing a style of play on his squad but will try to develop a winning attitude.

The Australian, who arrived on Monday at the start of an 18-month contract said on Thursday he had a talented group of players to choose from in readiness for tours by England later this year and Australia early in 2004.

"I won't be imposing a style of play, but I want to develop an attitude where we play to win all the time, as opposed to perhaps playing to save the game," Dyson told reporters.

"We can learn from the transformation of attitude in the Australia team since the 1980s. Under Steve Waugh, a super-positive captain, they now look to win at all times no matter how deep in trouble they may be."

"With that approach they win much more than they lose," said Dyson, shortly to be joined by compatriot Shane Duff, who along with

two physiotherapists, will complete an all-Australian backroom team. "This will be a long-term process. There is no magician who can come in to hypnotise the players and start a winning run. But I am very excited as Sri Lanka have a very talented pool of players."

Dyson's arrival in Colombo coincided with the players completing phase one of their pre-season training, an exhausting four-week fitness regime.

"The players look in terrific shape and are now busting to get in the nets after such a hectic schedule last year means that the players should be refreshed and rejuvenated by the time that England arrive in November."

England are scheduled to play three tests in Galle, Kandy and Colombo.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. ACROSS 40 Writer got a call, 41 Means device, 5 Dennis Miller specially, 8 Willie's supplier, 12 Will Smith biopic, 13 Count material, 14 Uncouth DSG role, 15 Job's accessory, 17 Information off, 18 Cue DOWN 20 Festive, 21 Dog-patch's founder, 22 Beat, 26 Rhino's cousin, 29 Indispensable, 30 Past, 31 Author Haley, 32 Ventilate, 33 Gossip, 34 Bit deg., 35 Ump's call, 36 Year-end periods, 37 Obvious, 39 Actor Mineo.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 and letters S, V, M, L, O, L, M, E, V, N, K, H, L, P, V, B, Z, L, O, V, B, U, R, H, R, S, K, I, W, Z, I, M, K, W, L, N, H, P, H, U, V, S, S, H, M, I, R, Z, W, H, P, T, H, R, K, U, I, M, V, T, H.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ELECTRICIAN FINALLY COMES IN AT FOUR O'CLOCK A.M. WIFE ASKS, "WIRE YOU INSULATE?" Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals R. 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 puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Kirsten's angry story



AFP, London

Gary Kirsten revealed on Thursday that he had to give century-making teammate Herschelle Gibbs a dressing down as their second wicket partnership of 227 piled on the agony for England on the first day of the fifth and final Test at The Oval.

Gibbs, who was eventually dismissed for 183, hit three successive boundaries at one stage as the tourists went looking for a 3-1 series victory.

But veteran left-hander Kirsten, who made 90, warned the opener not to throw away all the good work.

"Herschelle hit three in a row and I had a go at him because he was getting loose and I thought he was able to get 200," said Kirsten after South Africa had finished the day on 362 for four.

"I told him to wait for the right ball to hit and take it easy," added Kirsten, a Western Province teammate of Gibbs.

"It's a great batting wicket. There's not much sideways movement for the bowlers."

Gibbs, 29, whose innings was his 10th Test century, admitted that the conditions were just too good to resist.

"I got to 100 and I just wanted to unleash and play the way I want to play. It is such a good wicket that you can latch on to the short stuff," he said after his initial hundred contained an extraordinary 86 runs in boundaries.

"If it's there to be hit, it has got to be hit," he said.

Gibbs eventually bowled by left-arm spinner Ashley Giles after he missed an attempted slog.

But Gibbs, whose innings was his highest against England, insisted: "It was the first ball that turned and to his credit he bowled it a little slower."

Giles, recalled after being dropped for South Africa's 191 run fourth Test win at Headingley, was England's most successful bowler with two for 75 from 21 overs.

"We've got a lot to do to win this game but it's still not out of the question," Giles admitted.

"It's a good cricket wicket. Hopefully our guys will make runs like their guys have and fill their boots."

"It was a difficult day. But you either get on with it, do the job properly or turn your back, walk off and do something else for a living."

Meanwhile Kirsten, who has gone back on his original plans to retire, said that despite the loss of Neil McKenzie off the last ball of the day, South Africa were still confident of wrapping up victory.

"We are still in a good position. The boys are very motivated."

But Gibbs warned: "We need another 200 runs tomorrow (Friday) and we'll take it from there. But the match will last five days."

South Africa, chasing their first Test series win in England since

Radcliffe ready to roll

AFP, London

The fastest ever woman over the marathon distance Paula Radcliffe said Friday she was excited at the prospect of running her first race since winning the London Marathon in April.

The 29-year-old Briton missed last month's World Championships after failing to meet her high standards of fitness following a shin injury and then a bout of bronchitis but is set to run in a 10 kilometres run in Richmond Park this Sunday where she set a European record for the distance last year.

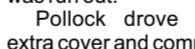
"I don't feel nervous," she said on Friday.

"If anything I feel excited as this is the longest time in my career I've gone without racing."

The Commonwealth champion over 5,000 metres and European champion over 10,000 is to then contest the 5km London Woman's Challenge on September 14, round London's Hyde Park, which means she will miss the IAAF Grand Prix finals weekend in Monaco, as part of her preparation for a likely tilt at the world half marathon later this year.

Radcliffe will face tough opposition in the second of the London races with Ethiopia's double Olympic champion Deraratu Tulu, Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan and the former fastest woman marathon runner and recently crowned world champion Catherine Ndereba of Kenya all set to run.

Pollock's Oval joy Ailing Ramchand seeks BCCI's help



CRICINFO, undated

GS Ramchand, the former Indian captain, has been discharged from the Intensive Care Unit of the Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai after recovering sufficiently from heart complications. Ramchand had been admitted to the hospital on Monday.

Speaking to Rediff.com, Leela Ramchand, Parthab's wife, admitted that while his condition had improved, financial considerations had also played a part in forcing the move from the ICU.

"He is still very weak," she said. "But had to be shifted out of the ICU as we cannot afford it."

Leela Ramchand also said that she had approached the BCCI for financial assistance.

"I sent a request to Mr Sharad Diwadkar (executive secretary of the BCCI) today (Thursday) requesting for help. I have sent all required medical documents and I hope to get help at the earliest."

FROM PAGE 13 Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-290, 3-345, 4-362, 5-365, 6-385, 7-419, 8-421, 9-432.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Bicknell (20, 3, 71, 2), Anderson (25, 6, 86, 2), Harmison (27, 8, 73, 0), Giles (29, 3, 102, 2), Flintoff (19, 4, 88, 1), Vaughan (5, 0, 24, 0), Butcher (3, 0, 18, 0).

ENGLAND: First innings Trescothick not out (12), Vaughan c Gibbs b Pollock (23), Butcher not out (14), Extras: (nb-2) (2).

Total: (For 1 wkt in 14 overs) 51. Fall of wickets: 1-28. To bat: G Thorpe, E Smith, A Stewart, A Flintoff, A Giles, M Bicknell, S Harmison, J Anderson.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Pollock (6, 2, 17, 1), Ntini (4, 0, 20, 0), Hall (3, 2, 8, 0), Kallis (1, 0, 6, 0).

Toss: South Africa Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS) and Srinivasaraghavan Venkatraghavan (IND).

Extras: (b-12, lb-10, w-4, nb-5) (31). Total: (All out in 128 overs, 542) 484.