



PHOTO: AFP

Spaniard Carlos Moya in action against Czech Petr Luxa at the Bangkok Open on September 24.

Positive change

FROM PAGE 13 He took the Lankans to World Cup glory, managed Lancashire for some time and is now on a mission to rescue Bangladesh from depths of despair.

In the past, we have had two legendary cricketers like Gordon Greenidge and Eddie Barlow as coach. During the tenure of Gordon Greenidge our forward journey began. We won the ICC Trophy for the very first time and had a highly successful World Cup'99. When Greenidge departed our performance curve went down again.

Eddie Barlow did a superb job during his time. He was a great motivator and a proper guardian for the players. His unfortunate illness was one of the biggest setbacks for our cricket.

When Barlow left, we were in deep waters. Suddenly everybody started criticising us. Our Test status was under threat. But with Dav on our side, we are beginning to see light. Dav won't be here forever. When that day comes, will our performance go down again?

There are so many things to learn from coaches like Dav. Why don't we take those things in our hearts and try to implement them? Dav's influence will only benefit our infrastructure and the standard of local coaches and the more we can take from him, the more learned we will become.

That way we will have a confident national team in future which can function like a programmed device and our performance won't continue to be up and down.

(The writer is a former Bangladesh cricket captain)

Anderson

FROM PAGE 13 Englishman to claim a one-day hat-trick during the series against Pakistan.

Anderson also impressed on his Test debut against Zimbabwe at Lord's where he collected five wickets.

England are playing two Tests and three one-dayers on the Bangladesh tour, which runs from October 12 to November 12.

They then play Sri Lanka in three one-day internationals before a three Test series from November 18 to December 22.

Moya stays on course



AFP, Bangkok

Carlos Moya took Iberian revenge on Brian Vahaly Thursday, advancing at the 550,000-dollar Thailand Open over the American who this spring upset Spanish compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero.

While there's no more than friendship between Spain's two top tennis rivals, Moya and Bangkok's top seed Ferrero, the 7-5, 6-4 second-round victory over Vahaly served notice that Moya is fit again after some travel aches.

The former top-ranked player from the island of Mallorca arrived in Asia for some sightseeing suffering physically after a tough Davis Cup weekend at home.

But two matches into his campaign for the inaugural title at the Impact arena, Moya is again looking formidable.

"I had a fever and sore throat when I got here, the only time I've left the hotel was to come for the matches. But I'm feeling much better now."

World No.1 Ferrero was playing later for a place in the quarterfinals, taking on Russian-American Alex Bogomolov, while Thai ace Paradorn Srichaphan was aiming to provide a bit less drama after a narrow victory on Wednesday.

The fourth seed, winner of two titles this season, had to recover from a 0-6 first set loss to beat Vladimir Voltchkov in the first round.

He was hoping to have an easier time against Dane Kenneth Carlsen in front of a packed house Thursday.

Against Vahaly, a winner over Ferrero this spring in California, Moya had to work for his one-hour, 26-minute victory, saving a set point before going up in an early break in the second on his way to the win.

He was able to immediately recover after losing serve early in the match.

"The start was tough for me, but I knew on this court you can make many breaks because it's not so fast.

"I knew sooner or later that I'd start to play well, I also broke him straight back."

Flying Finn Jarkko Nieminen, the fifth seed, posted his first quarter-final

showing since Long Island in August, ripping up Czech Bohdan Ulihrach 6-4, 6-2.

"I was serving well and felt confidence in my game," said the man from the north, the only player from his nation on the ATP. "I felt more comfortable on the court than in my first match."

There were more victories for seeds at a tournament which has been without upsets.

Ivan Ljubicic, seeded sixth, used his experience to defeat teenage Croatian compatriot Mario Ancic 6-1, 6-4.

"Baby Goran," a protégé of national tennis hero Goran Ivanisevic, was displeased with his lack of consistency. But the 24-year-old Ljubicic was only fearing his future matches.

"He's only 19, I've got five more years on the tour than him," said Ljubicic.

"He doesn't have to worry about his future - Mario's time will come."

American No. 8 Taylor Dent maintained the indoor status quo as he stopped France's Thierry Ascione 6-1, 6-2.

Aussies to help Lanka



REUTERS, Colombo

Australia have agreed to play two extra one-day internationals on next year's tour of Sri Lanka to help ease the host board's financial crisis, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said on Thursday.

The world champions were scheduled to play three one-dayers during their six-week tour of the island in February and March, but this has been increased to five one-dayers after a request from the Sri Lanka board.

SLC announced a 900,000-dollar loss in the last financial year and officials said the two extra matches would raise 800,000 dollars.

"Australia understood our financial position and it was very decent

of them to agree to this request," Mohan de Silva, the secretary of the SLC, told reporters.

In return, Sri Lanka have agreed to play Test matches against Australia in Darwin and Cairns next year.

"We have now also agreed to visit next June and July to play in the Northern Territories," added de Silva.

Sri Lanka's cricket board faces an uncertain financial future because of falling revenues and an unresolved 11 million-dollar damages claim in Singapore.

WSG Nimbus, a sports rights broker and broadcaster, is suing the SLC for the sudden cancellation of a three-year broadcasting contract in 2001.

A Singapore tribunal ruled in June that WSG Nimbus were due damages after the "wrongful termination" of their 27.1-million-dollar contract.

On Tuesday SLC ended another

television dispute when they signed a one-tour contract with Taj Television, a Dubai-based broadcaster, for England's tour of Sri Lanka next month.

Australia last toured Sri Lanka in September 1999, losing the rain-affected three-Test series 1-0.

REVISED SCHEDULE

Feb 14: Arrival

Feb 20: First one-day international Dambulla (D/N)

Feb 22: Second one-day international Dambulla (D/N)

Feb 25: Third one-day international Colombo (D/N)

Feb 27: Fourth one-day international Colombo (D/N)

Feb 29: Fifth one-day international Colombo

Mar 8-12: First Test Galle

Mar 16-20: Second Test Kandy

Mar 24-28: Third Test Colombo

Mar 29: Departure

Martina hints at Olympics swansong

AFP, Leipzig

Tennis legend Martina Navratilova is determined to crown her career with an Olympic Games gold medal.

"It was 50-50 over whether or not I would play next year," said the American who is playing in the doubles at the WTA tournament here.

"But I am certainly considering starting the Games in Athens because I have never played in the Olympics."

The 46-year-old Navratilova has won 18 Grand Slam singles titles in her career as well as 31 in doubles and nine in mixed doubles.

Enter Martyn

FROM PAGE 13 considered."

Meanwhile, fast bowler Glenn McGrath could be fit to lead Australia attack against Zimbabwe next month and his side was boosted by the news that his recovery from ankle surgery was going better than expected and that he was on course to be fit in time for the match.

"There is no reason to cross him off the list for selection yet," Errol Alcott, Australia's physiotherapist said.

"He is coming along well, has been bowling in the local park without problems and I am pretty optimistic he will be right."

McGrath needs just five more Test wickets to reach fourth on the all-time list of bowlers.

"He will be continually reviewed before the first Test. He has been bowling in the nets for the past week," said the spokesman.

It will be the first time Zimbabwe have played a Test match in Australia.

Sunil, Geoffrey

FROM PAGE 13

their meeting with the ICC, he said.

"The ICC and the boards probably do not have the same courage of conviction," he added.

Gavaskar was talking to reporters after participating in a new television show along with former England opener Geoffrey Boycott and India captain Saurav Ganguly.

Boycott said too many one-dayers were eroding interest in that form of the game.

"We are going to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs," he said.

"For the administration, it is an easy and cheap way of running the game."

Gavaskar's committee rule on playing conditions for international matches but it is the national boards which decide how many one-dayers their sides should play.

Inzamam

FROM PAGE 13

resign (as captain) but I think he still has a lot more to give to the team," Sohail said.

The selectors have also included two spin bowlers in the squad left spinner Mushtaq Ahmed and off spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

The five matches against South Africa will be played from October 3 in Lahore, Faisalabad and Rawalpindi.

The South Africans reversed an earlier decision to cancel the tour on security grounds when Karachi and Peshawar were excluded from the list of venues.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Yousef Youhana, Younis Khan, Abdul Razzak, Shoaib Malik, Rashid Latif, Mohammad Sami, Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Shabbir Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Faisal Iqbal, Salman Butt.



PHOTO: AFP

Venezuela's Maria Vento Kabchi makes backhand return against Silvia Farina Elia of Italy during their match at the Leipzig Open on September 24. Kabchi won 7-5, 6-3.

Hantuchova humbled



REUTERS, Leipzig

Former world number 10 Daniela Hantuchova, whose slide down the rankings has coincided with her much-publicised weight loss, suffered another setback when she lost in the Leipzig Grand Prix second round on Wednesday.

The fifth-seeded Slovakian, who has not won three matches in a tournament since the Australian Open in January, led 5-2 in the final set before going down 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 to Patty Schnyder of Switzerland.

Two other seeds went out in Wednesday's second round, Italy's eighth-seeded Silvia Farina Elia losing 7-5, 6-3 to Venezuela's Maria Vento-Kabchi and fourth seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria beaten 6-4, 6-4 by Czech qualifier Sandra Kleinova.

Hantuchova was visibly dismayed after her defeat, although her game was often at a high level

and she was unfortunate to meet an on-form and unpredictable opponent intent on regaining a place in the world's top 20.

"She's just short on confidence and is still emotional," said Hantuchova's coach Nigel Sears. "But she's playing well and just needs to feel that. This was a good performance, she just needs to win. Whoever won this match was going to take a lot from it."

Sears added that Hantuchova has been regaining weight.

"It has been increasing, which is good, though it needs to increase more," the Englishman said.

World number 13 Hantuchova, hitting her groundstrokes well for most of the match, missed a forehand volley with the court wide open when serving for victory at 5-3 in the final set.

Although she got to within two points of closing it out, she could advance no further.

Schnyder's swinging left-handed serve was often a potent weapon on the fast carpet surface, especially

when directed against the limited reach of Hantuchova's double-handed backhand.

The unseeded Swiss also attacked well, particularly from the forehand side, and especially for a player who claims not to like quicker surfaces.

Div I TT

FROM PAGE 13

Sanskritik Samity, Swamibagh Boys, North South University, New Colony Krira Chakra (Red), Sports World Recreation Club and Khwaja Printing.

GROUP B: Cynthia Club, Purbachal Parishad, Ghope Krira Chakra, Madhumita Krira Sangha, Combined Sporting Club, Mohammadpur Boys, Swamibagh TTS (Table Tennis Sangstha), Jagarani Table Tennis Club, Management Net, Mansoor Sporting Club, Bangladesh Boys, New Colony Krira Chakra (Green) and Durbar Krira and Samajik Sangha.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Moving truck 4 Trifling sum 7 Infant hound's trail 11 Grouch 13 Have 14 Baseball family name 15 Santa Calif. 16 Energy 17 Shred 18 Scythe stroke 20 Obligation 22 Clattering dance 24 "Never on Sunday" locale 28 Affluent 32 Fancy spread 33 Cupid's forte 34 Have a bug 36 Paddock parent 37 Demon-ess 39 Navy builders 41 Long pit 43 Altar phrase 44 Paraphernalia 46 Self-evident truth 50 Bloodhound's trail 53 Pirouette pivot 55 Cogito-sum link 56 Lady of Spain 57 Scoundrel 58 Ledger 59 Consider 60 LBJ beagle 61 Witness DOWN 1 Tapers? 2 "... maids all in—" 3 Houston acronym 4 Dip in gravy 5 Unpaid 6 Loosen, in a way 7 Areas near the plate 8 Porter's cousin 9 Slithery squeeze 10 One side of the Urals (Abbr.) 12 Castle-storming device 19 Dobbin's dinner 21 Lingerie 23 Shell-game need 25 One of HOMES 26 Give a hoot 27 Sight-seers? 28 Fountain treat 29 Actor Sharif 30 Alaskan city 31 Insult (Sl.) 35 Wahine's gift 38 Expert 40 Pallid name 42 Plane opening 45 Profligate 47 Rainbow 48 Watch, as 45-Down might 49 Double agent 50 Peculiar 51 Buck's mate 52 "A Chorus Line" song 54 Mess up

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-61 and letters Z, B, N, J, D, T, Z, B, R, B, M, N, E, G, R, Z, B, Y, U, D, D, G, U, D, J, G, V, F, M, T, D, F, K, Z, E, O.

CRYPTOQUIP Z B N J D T Z B R B M N E G R Z B Y U D D G U D J G V F M T D F K Z E O

ABYCBGVV OVJN? Saturday's Cryptogram: AFTER LOBSTERS ARE CAUGHT, I WONDER IF THEY'RE USED BY A CLAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: J equals P The Cryptogram 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.

Rivals bury hatchet



AFP, Leipzig

US Open champion Justin Henin-Hardenne has said that she has no axe to grind with compatriot and world number one Kim Clijsters following comments made by Clijsters' father at the US Open.

"There are no more problems between me and Kim," insisted Henin-Hardenne, "I was disappointed about the comments (by Clijsters' father), but they belong in the past."

"I rate Kim highly, she is a worthy number one."

Clijsters' father, Leo, sparked the row by casting doubts on how Henin-Hardenne had added some much-needed muscle to her physique during the winter break.

That followed comments by Clijsters herself suggesting that Henin-Hardenne was not adverse to using injury breaks to her advantage during games.

Clijsters, from the Flemish-

speaking region of Belgium, was generally regarded as the better player of the two last year but Henin-Hardenne, a French speaker from Wallonia, has had the upper hand this year including back-to-back wins in the French and US Open finals.

Clijsters, 20, backed up the claims of Henin-Hardenne and added that the Belgian duo were now on friendly terms.

"We are good friends," she said. "The topic has been blown out of proportion."

Despite the pair putting aside their problems off the court the rivalry on it will be as fierce as ever at the WTA tournament here this week where the pair are seeded to meet in Sunday's final.

Meanwhile, Henin-Hardenne has her sights set on taking the number one spot

"I am raring to go," said Henin.

"Of course I want to be the number one in the world but I will not put myself under pressure."



PHOTO: AFP

Dutchman Martin Verkerk hits a return during his second round match against Australian Scott Draper at the Heineken Open in Shanghai yesterday. Verkerk had to retire due to a stomach muscle problem with the at score 7-6, 0-1.