



Australian captain Mark Taylor dabs the ball past wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes during a World Series Cup one-day encounter at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday. Australia won the match by 28 runs. — AFP photo

# England wither away again

SYDNEY, Dec 6: An England collapse allowed Australia to secure a comfortable 28-run win in their World Series Cup day-night international on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

England, chasing Australia's 224 for four from 50 overs, reached 100 without loss in the 25th over but the loss of vice-captain Alec Stewart for 48 sparked the touring side's slide.

While Gooch and Thorpe were together England still had high hopes of victory. However, when McDermott then returned to removed Thorpe, well caught by Michael Bevan at deep square leg, and Craig White, bowled for nought, in one over, he tilted the game towards Australia.

Gooch, hitting out, fell to another good catch, this time by McDermott at long-on, to give Warne his one wicket of the innings and seal England's fate.

Taylor and Slater had added 96 for the first-wicket in 24 overs to give Australia a great start, but Udal's arrival in attack helped rein the home side in.

He had Slater caught by Graeme Hick, caught at cover by David Boon for six.

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DAVID BOON ... m-o-m

Hick at deep mid-wicket, the ball after he had reached an attractive 50 off 65 balls and later bowled Mark Waugh, who missed an ambitious sweep.

Taylor gave Hick a return catch off a full-toss, but then Boon and Bevan provided the middle-order impetus which England's innings lacked later.

They ran well between the wickets to add 92 in 103 balls with Boon returning to form with an increasingly confident unbeaten 64 in 64 balls. Bevan

McDermott 9.3 0 34 3

McGrath 9 4 22 1

Warne 10 0 46 1

Law 10 0 52 2

May 10 1 35 2

Extras: (lb-2, w-1) 3

Total: (For four wickets, 50 overs) 224

Fall of wickets: 1-96; 2-106; 3-126; 4-218.

Did not bat: I Healy, S Warne, C McDermott, T May, G McGrath.

fell in the final over, caught by Gooch off Darren Gough for 46 in 59 balls.

England's innings was interrupted three times by male streakers, part of a noisy crowd of 38,602.

A glum Atherton later said: "At 100 for no wicket, we were in the box seat and should have won."

"We batted pretty poorly from the halfway point of their innings, and although they got a decent score, we expected to get it."

Taylor said: "We batted a lot better than we did against Zimbabwe the other night and our spinners bowled well."

"With Steve Waugh out, we are half a bowler short, but I thought our guys covered well for us."

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Series Cup one-day international between Australia and England today:

**AUSTRALIA**  
M Taylor c and b Hick 57  
M Slater c Hick b Udal 50  
M Waugh b Udal 4  
D Boon not out 64  
M Bevan c Gooch b Gough 46  
S Law not out 40  
Extras: (lb-2, w-1) 3  
Total: (For four wickets, 50 overs) 224

Fall of wickets: 1-96; 2-106; 3-126; 4-218.

Did not bat: I Healy, S Warne, C McDermott, T May, G McGrath.

**Bowling:**  
Benjamin 6 0 25 0  
DeFreitas 9 1 43 0  
Gooch 10 0 51 1  
White 5 0 22 0  
Udal 10 1 37 2  
Hick 10 0 44 1

**ENGLAND**  
M Atherton lbw b Law 60  
A Stewart c Law b May 48  
G Hick c Boon b May 6  
G Thorpe c Bevan b McDermott 21  
G Gooch c McDermott b Warne 21  
C White b McDermott 0  
S Rhodes c Warne b Law 8  
P DeFreitas run out 6  
D Gough not out 8  
S Udal b McGrath 4  
J Benjamin b McDermott 0  
Extras: (lb-7, w-6, nb-1) 14  
Total: (48.3 overs) 196

Fall of wickets: 1-100; 2-112; 3-133; 4-147; 5-149; 6-164; 7-180; 8-187; 9-195.

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## Nicol exits

KARACHI, Dec 6: Scotland's Peter Nicol made a surprise early exit from the Pakistan Open squash championship on Monday, reports Reuter.

Nicol, one of the world's most improved players this year, was beaten 15-6, 15-11, 15-5 by Englishman Del Harris in a first round meeting on the second day of the tournament.

Nicol, who had beaten World champion and world number one Jansher Khan of Pakistan earlier this year as he raised his world ranking from 50th to seventh, had no answer to Harris, ranked 19th.

It was a good day for Englishmen, sixth-seed Chris Walker and third-seed Peter Marshall joining Harris in the second round after victories over compatriot Angus Kirkland and Egyptian Amir Wagh respectively.

Walker, ranked seventh in the world, took less than half an hour to beat Kirkland while Marshall, after dropping the opening game, confirmed his place in the second round with a solid recovery. He will now meet another Englishman, Paul Gregory.

Veteran New Zealander Ross Norman, seeded eighth, was taken to five games by Canadian qualifier Jonathan Power before winning in exactly an hour.

Jansher, favourite to retain the title, handed out a 15-3, 15-7, 15-7 drubbing to Stephen Meads. The Englishman was no match for the sharp mobility of the world champion.

Rodney Eyles of Australia, who lost to Jansher in the Qatar Open final at the weekend, drubbed Pakistani qualifier Zubair Jahan Khan 17-14, 15-7, 15-8 but former world champion Rodney Martin, the fifth seed, took four games to overcome fellow-Australian Byron Davies, a qualifier.

BANGKOK, Dec 6: Indonesian players look certain to dominate the 300,000 dollars World Grand Prix badminton finals starting on Wednesday, with Ardy Wiranata heading the men's singles and Susi Susanti the women's, reports Reuter.

Besides Wiranata, a key member of Indonesia's winning 1994 Thomas Cup side, no less than six Indonesian men have qualified for the finals, the tournament with the biggest cash share-out in the history of badminton.

They include Asian Games gold medalist Heryanto Arbi, Thailand open champion Joko Suprianto and Barcelona Olympics gold medalist Allan Budi Kusuma.

In the singles, players have been divided into four round-robin groups after which the top two of each group will advance to the next round.

**GROUPS:**  
**Men's Singles:**  
Group A — Joko Suprianto (Indonesia), Dong Jiong (China), Fund Permadi (Indonesia), Jeroen Van Dijk (Netherlands).  
Group B — Ardy Wiranata (Indonesia), Paul-Eric Hoyer-Larsen (Denmark), Lioe Tiong Ping (Indonesia), Sompol Kukasemkitj (Thailand).  
Group C — Heryanto Arbi (Indonesia), Hermanwan Susanto (Indonesia), Jens Olsson (Sweden), Hu Zhilian (China).  
Group D — Thomas Stuer-Lauridsen (Denmark), Allan Budi Kusuma (Indonesia), Sun Jun (China), Vacharaphan Khamthong (Thailand).

**Women's Singles:**  
Group A — Susi Susanti (Indonesia), Liu Yohong (China), Pornsawan Palngevech (Thailand).  
Group B — Lim Xiaoping (Sweden), Han Jingna (China), Mia Audina (Indonesia).  
Group C — Ye Zhaoying (China), Christine Magnusson (Sweden), Julianti Sentosa (Indonesia).  
Group D — Camilla Martin (Denmark), Ra Kyung Min (South Korea), Somharuethai Charoensiri (Thailand).

STOCKHOLM, Dec 6: Sweden's six-man Davis Cup Committee has resigned en masse, plunging Swedish tennis into turmoil just hours after their team had won the Davis Cup in Russia, reports Reuter.

The Daily Svenska Dagbladet said on Monday that the Committee, responsible for many of the country's training programmes, was resigning in protest at the Swedish Tennis Federation's heavy-handed tactics.

Davis Cup Committee members said the federation had ruled that new Davis Cup captain Carl-Axel Hageskog should report directly to the federation rather than the Davis Cup Committee.

Swedish newspapers said the split between Sweden's two most powerful tennis bodies had been papered over until the Davis Cup final was over. Sweden beat Russia 4-1 at the weekend to take the cup for the first time since its golden years in the 1980s.

Thomas Eklund, one of the committee, said the federation had decided to abolish the committee, which was set up in 1989 to try to restore Sweden's position as a top tennis nation.

The federation's board has seen us as a threat because we were too knowledgeable about tennis," Svenska Dagbladet quoted Eklund as saying. He added that Davis Cup Committee chairman Ingvar Carlsson had been singled out for harsh treatment.

The Davis Cup committee was also critical of the way Hageskog was appointed, saying he was the committee's candidate but the tennis federation had ruled he should not report to the committee.

Sweden's national coach Martin Bohm resigned last month after the federation refused to accept a Davis Cup Committee recommendation to make him Davis Cup coach. He is now personal coach for players Nicklas Kulti and Mikael Tillstrom.

Long-serving Swedish captain Jon-Anders Sjogren, who is retiring after the weekend's victory, said he was saddened by the Davis Cup Committee's decision to quit.

# Seeds sail into ITF semis

Bok Martjn and Dennis Scheppingen of the Netherlands, Dimitri Muzyka of Ukraine and Selvam Veerasingam of Malaysia qualified for the semifinals in the masters' leg tournament of the Gold Leaf ITF Thailand-Bangladesh Satellite Circuit at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday, reports BSS.

The International Tennis Federation has sanctioned the three-leg circuit to Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh to be participated by under-14 boys and girls of some South Asian countries and Myanmar for the first time.

The first leg was held in Colombo, the second leg is now going on in Madras and the third leg will be held in Dhaka from December 10 to 14.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and hosts Bangladesh are taking part in the circuit. The Pakistan and Sri Lankan teams will arrive on December 9 to take part in the meet organised by the Bangladesh Tennis Federation.

The top seed Bok scored an easy 6-4, 6-2 win over Michael Noel of the United States to reach the semi-finals. He earlier beat Thomas Orvald 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 to qualify for the quarters.

The Rajshahi leg champion Bok, will take on Dimitri Muzyka of Ukraine in the first semi-final on Friday at 2 pm. Muzyka overcame Glenn Wilson of New Zealand 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 in another quarterfinal encounter.

The second seed Dennis Scheppingen of the Netherlands marched into the last four outplaying Owen Casey of Ireland 6-2, 6-1. Casey took part in the circuit in Dhaka in 1992.

Dennis will face Selvam Veerasingam of Malaysia in the other semi-final on the same day at 2 pm. Veerasingam scored a 6-4, 3-0 win over Nick Baglin of Britain. The Malaysian took the first 6-4 and was leading 3-0 in the second before his British opponent was forced to retire.

In the doubles, top seed Martin Bok and Dennis Scheppingen of the Netherlands and Glenn Wilson of New Zealand and Gerrit Steenkamp of Russia entered the final.

The Bok-Dennis pair defeated Thomas Orvald and Devin Bowen of the United States 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the semi-finals.

In the other semifinal, Wilsoy-Steenkamp beat Dimitri Muzyka of Ukraine and Michael Joel of the United States 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

The final will be held on Saturday at 2 pm.

**ITF CENTRAL ASIAN CIRCUT DEC 10**  
Meanwhile, the first ITF Central Asian Circuit tennis tournament begins on December 10.

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# Graf will play in Aussie Open

MELBOURNE, Dec 6: Steffi Graf will defend her Australian Open tennis crown here next month despite being plagued by a back problem, tournament director Paul McNamee said Monday, reports AFP.

McNamee said he had contacted Graf's manager Phil di Picciotto to seek assurances that she would be available.

"At this stage it's of no concern," McNamee said. "I spoke with her personal manager and he says that she is having treatment on her back and at this stage everything is okay."

McNamee feared Graf, a four-time winner of the tournament, may not play in the Open after learning she had a foot injury.

But after contracting Di Picciotto, he was told the 25-year-old's major concern was a recurring back injury.

"She's got enough time off between now and the tournament to get plenty of treatment and I would be surprised if she didn't get on top of it," he said.

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 6: South Africa have been confirmed as hosts of the next African Nations' Cup finals, the Confederation of African Football said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

South Africa takes over from Kenya, who announced their withdrawal as hosts slats last month for financial reasons.

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**Burns takes second place**

Richard Burns finished second to Kenneth Eriksson in the Rally of Thailand, the sixth and final round of the 1994 Asia-Pacific Championship.

The 555 Subaru Impreza was only 34 seconds adrift of the Mitsubishi when the cars returned to Phrae but with two of the seven planned stages cancelled, time ran out for Burns, says a press release yesterday.

Behind the two Europeans, Australian Ed Ordynski finished third in his first drive in the Group A Mitsubishi ahead of Karamjit Singh in the Malaysian-built Proton. Singh admitted afterwards that he had never driven so fast in his life. Fifth-placed finisher at Phrae was Pornsawan Sirtiwatt in a Mitsubishi, the leading Thai driver who like many of the local competitors had enjoyed competing with the leading international drivers.

Pornsawan Bourne was one of the first people to congratulate Richard Burns when he crossed the ramp in his 555 Subaru Impreza at the rally finish.

The next event for the 555 Subaru World Rally Team will be the opening round of the 1995 World Rally Championship at Monte Carlo in January.

**Stich's gesture**

STUTTGART, Dec 6: German tennis star Michael Stich deposited 500,000 German marks (320,000 dollars) from his own winnings to establish a foundation for child AIDS sufferers here Monday, reports AFP.

The Stich Foundation will help ease the suffering of the children, said the world number nine. "Give them something to wipe away their tears and make them laugh."

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