

Malaysian Open Susanti, Kusuma singles champs

KUALA LUMPUR, July 9: Indonesia won both singles titles Sunday night in the Malaysian Open badminton championship, with Susanti taking the women's crown and Allan Budi Kusuma winning an all-Indonesian men's final, reports AP.

Kusuma, the Olympic gold medalist and fifth seed here, scored a minor upset with his 15-5, 15-8 triumph over Ardy Wiranata, the 1993 champion and fourth seed. Kusuma collected \$14,000 and Wiranata 8,600 dollars from the total purse of 180,000 dollars.

In the women's final, Susanti, the second seed, trounced top-seeded Bang Soo-hyun of South Korea 11-1, 11-6. The victory was worth \$18,000. Bang received 5,000 dollars.

The top seeds also feel in the women's doubles final as fourth-seeded Julie Bradbury and Joanne Wright of England beat South Koreans Gil Young-ah and Jang Hye-ock 15-10, 15-11. The winners received 9,000 dollars and the Koreans 6,000 dollars.

The men's doubles was to be played later Sunday.

In the mixed doubles final Saturday, South Koreans Kim Dong-moon and Gil Young-ah defeated Tao Xiaoping and Wang Xiaoyuan of China 15-7, 15-9. The winners collected 6,000 dollars and the losers 4,000 dollars.

Earlier on Saturday Indonesian Olympic champion Allan Budi Kusuma beat top seed Heryanto Arbi in a surprise victory to reach the final.

Kusuma won 17-5, 15-4 and in today's final will meet another compatriot, Ardy Wiranata who upset second seed Park Sung-woo of South Korea 15-10, 15-5.

The women's singles final will be between old rivals top seed Bang Soo-hyun of South Korea and defending champion Susanti of Indonesia.

Bang recovered from a game down to beat world champion Ye Zhenyong of China 2-11, 11-8, 11-2 while Susanti routed All-England champion Lim Xiaoqing of Sweden 11-2, 11-1.

Arbi, exhausted and forlorn after the defeat, said a minor hamstring injury hampered his movements.

"I was very tired after the two earlier matches," he said.

Kusuma, who is chasing his first Malaysian Open title, said he knew he had a good chance of upsetting Arbi.

"He looked tired and was slow, his stamina was not good, and I took advantage of the situation," he said.

In the only final played Saturday, South Korean pair of Kim Dong-moon and Gil Young-ah captured the mixed doubles crown with a 15-7, 15-9 victory over Tao Xiaoping and Wang Xiaoyuan of China.

McRae takes control in Indonesia

With two days of the Rally of Indonesia complete, 555 Subaru World Rally team driver Colin McRae established a commanding lead over Mitsubishi's Kenneth Eriksson yesterday, says a press release.

McRae started yesterday's second leg as he finished the first, setting the fastest time in all but one of the five morning stages. Eriksson could do nothing to close McRae's 11 second overnight lead, losing a further 7 seconds before lunchtime as the British driver made light work of the island's punishingly rough roads.

Eriksson lost even further ground during the afternoon. Transmission problems on stage 15 and a puncture on the final stage 19 left him more

than two minutes behind McRae when the Rally reached its overnight halt in Parapat, 180km south of Medan.

Once again yesterday the intense heat, oppressive humidity and rough roads took their toll on the competitors — of the 57 cars that started the even 26 have now retired.

Finland's Tommi Makinen started drive still suffering the effects of heat exhaustion. Nevertheless, he quickly recovered his form, closing the gap on Eriksson to less than two minutes — despite puncturing a tyre on stage 17.

For reigning Asian-Pacific Rally champion Possum Bourne the rally started badly with confirmation of a one minute penalty at the end of yesterday's stage six. Nevertheless, the New Zealander drove steadily throughout the day, gradually clawing back time on those above him and finishing in overall 4th place.

Local hero MP Hutomo extended his lead over Japan's Kenjiro Shinozuka during the morning but wheel damage on stage 14 lost him more than 10 minutes — throwing him back from 5th to 15th place.

Hutomo's fellow countryman Tony Hardianto fared better, finishing the day in 6th position.

Another missing in Special Olympics

NEW HAVEN, USA, July 9: A second participant in the 1995 Special Olympics world games has gone missing, and authorities said Saturday he may be seeking asylum in the United States, reports AP.

Juan Carlos Balbuena, 20, of the Dominican Republic, disappeared from the Yale University Stadium early Friday and has not been seen since then, said David Phelps, a spokeswoman for Special Olympics international.



Two familiar foes at the court, top seed Steffi Graf of Germany (L) and second seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, are all smiling with the Wimbledon trophy on July 8. Steffi Graf won the title for the sixth time defeating Sanchez-Vicario 4-6, 6-1 and 7-5 in the final. — AFP/UNB photo

Graf yet to call it a day

LONDON, July 9: Steffi Graf side-stepped rumours she is contemplating retirement after the most exhausting Wimbledon final of her career against Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Graf, who came into the tournament nursing back and wrist injuries, admitted the two-hour struggle to secure her sixth Wimbledon singles title had left her close to collapse in the final set.

But the 26-year-old German, choosing her words carefully, indicated she would return to defend her title at the All England Club next June.

"I do hope to be back next year. I really count on that," she said, dismissing reports that her back condition was threatening to curtail her career.

"I'm maybe cutting down a little bit on tournaments, but I hope the back's not going to be in my way."

"It's been very exhausting the last few weeks and I intend to take some time off. Then I'm going to try and work more on my physical condition and build up to the US Open."

Graf teased reporters after her semifinal win over Jana Novotna on Thursday, saying she would be announcing something significant in 10 days time.

She shed no further light on the matter on Saturday, but knows it would be the ultimate irony if she decided to call a halt just as Monica Seles is poised to return to the tournament scene after an absence of more than two years.

Since the infamous knife attack in Hamburg in April 1993, Graf has won six Grand Slam titles and now has a total of 17, one short of joining contemporary greats Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert on 18 major titles.

The latest triumph, though, was only settled deep into the third set

after Sanchez-Vicario had served with the score at 5-5.

Graf ultimately broke for 6-5, but only after 20 minutes of top quality tennis which elevated the final to a position among the best of recent times.

"Never in my whole life have I played such a long game with so many high quality points," said Graf, "I was so tired at the end of it."

"I think it was a final that will stand out for many years."

At the end, there was even a kiss for a mystery admirer in the crowd who Graf revealed had been supporting her at Wimbledon for "eight or nine years."

"I don't know how he makes it, but you can always hear him out of the crowd...His voice is very specific," said Graf. He just screams to me 'Come on Steffi, but he never mentions his name.'"

The name Graf must be becoming painful for Sanchez-Vicario, also beaten by the German world number one in the French Open Final in June.

The Spaniard made a lighthearted grab for the trophy at the post-match ceremony and whispered to Graf, "You could have given me that one."

Donations, needless to say, are not in Graf's vocabulary if her back holds up. Her rivals may also have to wait longer than expected to hear the word retirement.

Graf at a glance

The full list of Steffi Graf's 17 Grand Slam victories are as follows:

- 1987: French Open
- 1988: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1989: Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1990: Australian Open
- 1991: Wimbledon
- 1992: Wimbledon
- 1993: French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1994: Australian Open
- 1995: French Open, Wimbledon.

Seles may end self-exile

NEW HAVEN, USA, July 9: Former world number one Monica Seles, off the tennis tour for more than two years after being stabbed, said Saturday she plans to play at the US Open but has made no final decision, reports AP.

"I'm planning to compete at the US Open but have not decided yet," Seles said. "I'm ready physically and emotionally. I hope to return and play at the US Open."

Seles, who was stabbed in the back while resting during a match in Germany in 1993, said she will decide whether or not to make her comeback in New York after a July 29 exhibition match against Martina Navratilova.

"I will be able to evaluate my game and I will see how it goes from there," Seles said.

Seles, who has been replaced at the top of the WTA rankings by new Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf, is not worried about playing as a wildcard entry as she recovers from her layoff. A WTA bid to give her special seeding was rejected.

"I always wanted to come back, I guess the security will be much tighter when I will play," said Seles, who promises she will not be looking over her shoulder for attackers.

"I will accept the decision," Seles said. Even if I need only a wildcard I will take it. You have to move forward, let me play as it is."

Seles said she has had to recover from the emotional shock of the attack and undergo months of practice to try and regain her past form.

"I feel fine. The only unpleasant thing is that I am bed-ridden," Yordanov told the same radio station, adding he could freely move his hands and legs.

"I have the wish and the will to get back to international soccer. I am sure Sporting will be correct in fulfilling its contractual obligations," he said.

"I'm gone over that," she said. "I'm still a little bit nervous but it's OK."

Seles also said she wants to play again in Germany despite a decision there to release her attacker.

"It's very hard to understand the German laws, but I love Germany and I want to play again there," Seles said.

Seles wearing a blue and white tennis dress, smiled throughout her session at the Special Olympics and said she is relaxed about facing Navratilova, who retired from WTA singles play last year.

"There will be no pressure," Seles said. "Tennis is my life. It's my pleasure."

Yordanov hopeful of his return

SOFIA, July 9: Bulgarian World Cup midfielder Ivailo Yordanov said on Saturday that he was confident of returning to play for Sporting Lisbon after suffering back and chest injuries in a road accident, reports Reuters.

Neurosurgeon Manol Vanev told Seven Day radio that Yordanov had not suffered any damage to his central nervous system following the accident on a mountain road in northern Bulgaria.

"I feel fine. The only unpleasant thing is that I am bed-ridden," Yordanov told the same radio station, adding he could freely move his hands and legs.

"I have the wish and the will to get back to international soccer. I am sure Sporting will be correct in fulfilling its contractual obligations," he said.



Monica Seles, the self-exiled former world number one tennis player, giving instructions to a girl during a clinic of the 1995 Special Olympics World Games in New Haven on July 8.

Young Aussie cricketers in bad patch

NEATH, Wales, July 9: Matthew Maynard and Tony Cottee hit out for Glamorgan against Young Australia here on Saturday after David Hemp had notched up 88 in this three-day match, reports AP.

Cottee made his fifth first class century of the season with 16 fours and a six off 165 balls after he had teamed up with Maynard at 206 for 4 and added 137.

Glamorgan eventually ended their innings on 362-6 declared.

Maynard hit a splendid 56 in his role as acting captain, but Hemp also played a major part as he raised Glamorgan from 54 for 2 by hitting 14 fours and a six.

When Glamorgan declared, Cottee was unbeaten on 123 having notched a further five boundaries including one six.

Young Australia fielded enthusiastically but, as was noted at Taunton in their previous match, their bowling is not as good as their batting.

Mark Harrity had opened with a wicket in the third over of the morning before Shaun Young bowled economically for his 1 for 15 from 13 overs.

The Young Aussies were left with eight overs to negotiate and they lost opener Martin Love in the seventh of those, caught by Cottee of Robert Croft, while reaching 22 by the close.

Lotus-Kamal cricket results

The Lotus-Kamal Second Division qualifying cricket league resumed yesterday after a five-day recess due to inclement weather.

Young Ones Club recorded an emphatic 110-run win over Shawkom's CC at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

Powered by a polished 51 from Asad and a blistering unbeaten 48 off 26 balls by Moni, Young Ones compiled an impressive 196 for seven in the stipulated 35 overs.

Fuad and Russel took two wickets apiece for Shawkom's.

Set to score 197, Shawkom's CC were bundled out for a paltry 89 in 25.1 overs.

Yameen of Young Ones was the wrecker-in-chief claiming five for 15 while Moni completed a superb all-round show by grabbing three for 10.

At the City Club ground, Kagojita Social Club handed a crushing eight wickets defeat on Rakhim Sangha.

Sent in to bat Rakhim Sangha were all out for a meagre 73 in 24.4 overs.

Rauful Islam was the pick among the Kagojita bowlers with a haul of four for 16.

In reply, Kagojita Social Club rattled up the required 74 in only 15 overs losing two wickets.

Babu and Rose remained not out on 30 and 22 respectively.

In the day's other match, Banani Youth Club defeated Srijoni Cricketers by 12 runs at the Jagannath Hall ground.

Battling first, Banani Youth could muster 112 before being all out in 32.2 overs.

Rashid scored highest 34.

Rana took four for 13 while Milo bagged three for 21 among the Srijoni Sangha bowlers.

In reply, Srijoni scored just 100 before being bundled out in 25.2 overs.

Abeed of Banani Youth Club had three for 20 while Akbar and Milo took two wickets apiece.

Srinath in superb form

LONDON, July 9: Middlesex boosted their English County Championship hopes by collecting 24 points as they beat Gloucestershire by an innings and 11 runs inside three days on Saturday, reports AP.

Resuming on 410 for two at Bristol, Middlesex were bowled out for 441 — a lead of 233 as Javagal Srinath took six for eight from 8.4 overs. Mike Gatting made 108 and England test discard Mark Ramprakash 133.

But Gloucestershire were then found themselves dismissed for 222 in their second innings as only Mark Alleyne (69) showed much resistance.

Worcestershire completed their fifth win in six championship games when they beat Durham by 10 wickets at Darlington.

Phil Newport claimed match figures of nine for 72, including a spell of three for one in 25 balls as Durham were dismissed for 255 after following on 233 behind on 191. Manoj Prabhakar made 59 in both innings for the hosts.

Needing 23 for victory, Tim Curtis (23) helped speed Worcestershire to 25 for no wicket off nine legitimate deliveries and two wides.

Sri Lankan Test star Aravinda de Silva followed his first innings 255 with a flamboyant 116 for Kent at Maidstone, but it could not save their clash with Derbyshire from ending in a draw.

Derbyshire were set 328 to win in a minimum of 48 overs but could only manage 168 for the loss of four wickets.

De Silva became only the fourth Kent player to score a century and a double century in the same match.

The fixture produced a total of 1,587 runs, an aggregate record for matches involving Derbyshire.

Championship leaders Northamptonshire avoided the follow on

Wasim Akram fired out Richard Montgomerie to leave Northants 29 for one at the close.

The visitors had resumed their first innings on 212 for five but were still four runs short of the follow on target when their last wicket pair came together.

Neil Mallender and Paul Taylor, however, scrambled six runs before Mallender was bowled by Ian Austin leaving Lancashire with a first-innings lead of 147.

A century partnership between Mark Butcher (59) and Darren Bicknell (50 no) helped Surrey reach 123 for two — an overall lead of 67 — against Essex at the Oval.

It was slow stuff, though, as Butcher took 81 balls to reach his second half century of the match and then spent a further 55 balls hitting his next nine before being caught by Darren Robinson off Mark Ilett.

Earlier Ronnie Irani had helped Essex take their score on to 493, and a first innings lead of 59, with the third first class century of his career.

Australian Test batsman Michael Bevan hit his second in consecutive matches as Yorkshire having started the third day still 204 behind at 225 for two overhauled Hampshire's first innings total of 429 at Southampton.

Bevan scored 107 in just over four hours before being bowled by Cardigan Connor with the score on 411. Yorkshire advanced to 431 for eight before captain David Byas, who himself hit 62, declared.

By the close Hampshire had reached 166 for three with opening batsman Paul Terry on 76 not out.



Srinath ... 6 for 8 against Lancashire at Old Trafford, but face an improbable victory target of 128. Lancashire declared on 280 for nine in their second innings before

Pitch paves way for WI?

BIRMINGHAM, England, July 9: England captain Mike Atherton branded the Edgbaston pitch as terrible after seeing his side crash to defeat by an innings and 64 runs in the third Test against West Indies Saturday, reports AP.

Atherton's men — 147 all out in the first innings — finished on 89 for nine second time around, with the injured Alec Stewart unable to bat as West Indies took a 2-1 lead in the six-match series.

"The pitch was totally unsuited to our requirements," said Atherton afterwards. "The players tried hard and tried their best, but the pitch was diabolical."

"It was difficult to play their quick bowlers, who are 6ft 6in and 6ft 8in, and were banging it into the middle of the wicket. You're not sure whether it's coming stump-high or chin-high."

"The pitch was totally ill-suited to our type of attack. It's not a matter of finding some 6ft 8in men. It's trying to get the groundsmen to prepare a suitable pitch for Test match cricket."

"You want a Test match to last five days. People will be disappointed. They have bought tickets for Saturday and the fourth day, and it's wasted money."

"Obviously, when you're playing at home you want the groundsmen to try to help you out as well. Wherever you go in the world, pitches tend to try to favour the home side — that's

the point of home advantage.

"Unfortunately here neither designs were met. The pitch allowed the game to finish in two and a half days, which was totally unsuited to the home side."

"To my knowledge, what the England management asked for out of the pitch was even bounce and some turn at then end. Unless I was seeing things, I didn't see either of that here."

It was England's second lowest total against the West Indies in this country, despite a brave knock of 41 from emergency opener Robin Smith, who had hit 46 in the first innings.

Atherton added: "They were two fantastic innings. Although he only made 41 Saturday, it was worth a 100 in anybody's book. There are not many people in the world who would have played an innings like that."

West Indies captain Richie Richardson was understandably not as critical as his opposite number of the pitch.

He said: "We thought it looked quite interesting. We couldn't quite figure out what was happening. There was a lot of pace and bounce, and our bowlers exploited it."



MIKE ATHERTON

Jensen puzzled

NEW HAVEN, USA, July 9: Murphy Jensen turned up here Saturday at a Special Olympics youth clinic, wondering why everyone had made such a fuss about his disappearance from a mixed doubles match at Wimbledon, reports AP.

"I defaulted because I lost track of time and was late for work, Jensen said. "It's not like I swore at an official or mooned the Queen of England."

Jensen was defaulted out of the Grand Slam event in London on Monday and made no public appearances until here. The 1993 French Open doubles co-champion said the furor over his absence was blown out of proportion.

"This is the most amazing thing," he said. "I've gotten more press for being late for a match than winning the French Open. It's frightening."

"As far as all the speculation, that was all wrong. The British press was a joke. I have yet to see an article that was close to the truth."

Jensen said his tale was much less lurid than stories he was trying to

Indonesia aims to revive old glory

JAKARTA, July 9: Indonesia aims to recover badminton glory this week in the US 170,000 dollars Indonesian Open after being battered in last month's disappointing defeat in Switzerland, reports Reuters.

The international badminton championship, featuring 400 players and officials from 19 countries including China, Malaysia, South Korea, England and Denmark, starts on Wednesday and runs until Sunday.

Both the men and women's world number one singles players, Indonesia's Hariyanto Arbi and South Korea's Bang Soo-Hyun, will compete along with the second-ranked Women's singles player Susi Susanti of Indonesia.

Favourite Indonesia lost to China 1-3 in the last round of the Sudirman Cup mixed team championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, last month when Susanti lost the number one position she had denied Bang since 1992.

Karsono, chairman of the event's organising committee, said that with 81 players Indonesia would be the favourite.

Schultz a visionary

COLORADO SPRING, Colorado, July 9: The US Olympic Committee needs to concentrate on modifying rules and developing a joint fund over the next five years, Dick Schultz, the committee's new executive director, said Friday, reports AP.

Schultz said the committee also wants to get more Americans on Olympic decision making bodies, without appearing "like the ugly American."

And, he said there may be a place in Olympic sports for professional baseball players.

Schultz, who had been head of the NCAA, was appointed June 23 to lead the US Olympic Committee into the 21st century. He now oversees the day to day operations of a far-flung organisation with a \$400 million budget and two Olympic games on its doorstep.

Critics of Schultz's appointment cited his age of 65, some actions during his NCAA tenure that slashed non-revenue sports at colleges and his abrupt departure from that job and the charges he lied about an improper student loan while athletic director at Virginia.

Schultz Defended his NCAA role Friday, saying colleges cut the funding, not the NCAA. He said it's hard, for college presidents to justify subsidising sports when they don't have money to fill teaching positions.

He recommended setting up a fund to subsidise Olympic sports for schools and conferences.

"If an institution wanted to start an Olympic sport, like team handball, there would be money to get the programme off the ground," he said.

If a programme such as wrestling were in danger of being dropped, the school could apply for a grant. The money would be provided by the NCAA and the USOC.

He also said the USOC needs to work with the NCAA on rules to make it easier for athletes to train.

"A lot of work has been done in that area, but a lot needs to be done," he said.

Schultz said his NCAA background will make it easier to work out those problems.

some excitement.

"If not from the standpoint of having dream-team participation, but for the welfare of the sport," he said.

Schultz said he tried to turn down the executive director's job, but decided to take it after the United States was awarded two Olympics in the next seven years. He said it is a rare opportunity to showcase American athletes.

The Olympic Games celebrate their 100th anniversary in Atlanta next summer. Salt Lake City will be host to the 2002 Winter Games.

Tyson gets permission

LAS VEGAS, July 9: Mike Tyson has received permission to raise a block wall in front of his 3.7 million dollar mansion from 6 feet (1.8 metres) to 10-feet (3 metres), reports AP.

Clark County officials gave their approval despite objections from 75 residents who live near the former heavyweight champion's palatial home on the city's southeast side.