

Queensland atop alone

BRISBANE, Oct 28: Sheffield Shield holders Queensland moved to the top of the table after cruising to an eight-wicket victory over South Australia today, reports Reuter.

Chasing 164 for victory at the Gabba, Queensland reached their target for the loss of opener Trevor Barshy for 69 and Martin Love for three.

Captain Stuart Law steered his side to victory with an unbeaten 38 in a third-wicket stand of 70 with opener Matthew Hayden, who made 47 not out.

Test bowler Craig McDermott had earlier grabbed five South Australian wickets despite requiring a pain-killing injection for a shoulder strain.

After scoring 276 in reply to Queensland's first innings 356 for nine declared, South Australia's hopes of saving the match disappeared with the dismissal of Test all-rounder Greg Blewett in today's morning session.

Blewett added just one to his overnight 125 before edging a delivery from McDermott to wicketkeeper Wade Secombe. South Australia never recovered and were dismissed for 243.

In Sydney, Test opener Michael Slater punished a depleted Tasmania attack to put New South Wales in a strong position at close of play on the third day.

Slater hammered two sixes and 11 fours in his unbeaten 100 off 108 balls at the Sydney cricket ground.

Tasmania will resume on the final day on eight for one after being set an unlikely victory target of 384 off a minimum of 113 overs.

New South Wales will join Queensland on six points at the top if they can press home their advantage on Sunday.

Moin gets into hot water

W warriors on warpath



PERTH, Oct 28: Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan was given a suspended 750 dollars

(1000 dollars Australian) fine for dissent on a day of frustration for the tourists against Western Australia today, reports Reuter.

Moin was reported by umpires Terry Prue and Ross Emerson for throwing the ball to the ground in anger after having an appeal against Western Australia opener Mike Hussey turned down.

The 20-year-old left-hander went on to score his maiden century in only his third first-class match as the home side reached 337 for five at close on the first day of their four-day match at the WACA ground.

Western Australia cricket manager Tony Mann, acting as match referee, said Moin would be liable to pay the fine if he breached the rules again.

"It is a suspended fine so that should he transgress at any further stage on this tour, or any future tour as is our understanding, that fine will be automatic," said Mann.

Australian Cricket Board commissioner Vic Fisher imposed the penalty.

Pakistan fast bowler Waqar Younis provided the tourists with another cause for concern when he was forced to leave the field with a slight

hamstring strain after an unproductive five-over spell.

Pakistan captain Wasim Akram, who ruled himself out of the match because of a minor shoulder injury, said Younis would probably rest on Sunday, although the strain was not serious.

Hussey scored an impressive 146, including 17 fours, three before Hussey was joined by former Test player Tom Moody, who scored 42 in an 81-run fourth-wicket partnership.

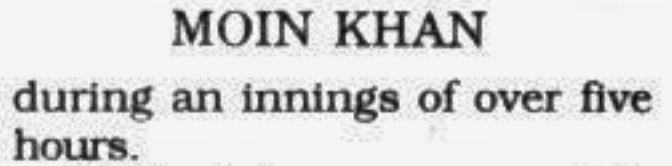
Hussey was then joined by Brad Hogg and they put on 112 before Hussey was eventually caught by Moin off the bowling of Mushtaq Ahmed, who finished the day with three for 100 from 28 overs.

Hogg was unbeaten on 72 at the close.

Pakistan opened their six-week tour on Thursday by beating the Chairman's XI in a limited overs match at Lilac Hill, Western Australia.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on first day of four-day first-class match between Western Australia and Pakistan at WACA ground, today:

Table with columns: W AUSTRALIA: First innings, Lavender c Moin b Rehman 21, Hussey c Moin b Mushtaq 146, Langer c Moin b Mushtaq 5, Martyn c Basit b Mushtaq 1, Moody b Rehman 42, Hogg not out 72, Gilchrist not out 25, Extras: (lb-4, w-1, nb-20) 25. Total: (for five wickets 90 overs) 337. Fall of wickets: 1-60; 2-69; 3-91; 4-172; 5-288. Bowling: O M R W Waqar 5 1 13 0, Nazir 12 0 60 0, Mushtaq 28 4 100 3, Rehman 17 0 92 2, Saqlain 27 7 68 0, Basit 1 1 0 0.



MOIN KHAN

during an innings of over five hours. With his score on 44, Hussey survived a confident appeal for a catch behind the wicket off the bowling of leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, prompting Moin's angry protest.

After winning the toss, Western warriors, as the commercial circle to be known, struggled to 91 for

Trip to a hostile house



PERTH, Oct 28: Australia's legendary fast bowler Dennis Lillee warned Saturday that Pakistan's former captain Salim Malik can expect a "terrible"

time from Australian crowds this summer because he was cleared at home of bribery charges raised by Australian players, reports AFP.

"There is absolutely no doubt that when the elusive Malik walks out to the middle, he is going to find him-

crowds with his infamous Bodyline tactics during the 1932-33 series, while New Zealand fast bowler Richard Hadlee upset Australians by declaring he had the measure of Australian batsman Dean Jones, the idol of Melbourne crowds.

Malik has been cleared in Pakistan after Australian Test players Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh alleged in sworn statements they were offered bribes during last year's Pakistan-Australia Test series in Pakistan.

The Pakistan Cricket Board sacked Malik from the captaincy, but has since cleared him and stunned the cricket world by including him in the Pakistan team for the three-Test series starting in Brisbane on Thursday week.

Malik has not yet arrived here with other members of the team, who have been in western Australia since Tuesday. Officials say he will probably reach Perth early next week.

Lillee wrote: "I'm sure the sporting public is appalled and confused about the futile war of words between the Australian and Pakistan cricket boards."

"But I can assure that when a sporting hero like Shane Warne ends up, like fellow spinner Tim May and Mark Waugh looking like the bad guy in the notorious bribery scandal, someone is going to pay."

"Malik... has got to be kidding if he thinks he can now blandly walk on to the field without copping an enormous amount of flak."

Lennox buys time

LONDON, Oct 28: Lennox Lewis won a temporary high court order on Friday preventing the World Boxing Council (WBC) from sanctioning a heavyweight title bout between holder Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson, reports Reuter.

Former champion Lewis issued a writ on Wednesday, claiming that he should rightfully be first in line to challenge fellow-Briton Bruno for the title.

At the high court in London it was ordered that the injunction against the WBC should stand until the full hearing on Thursday, November 2.

Becker may miss Paris meet

ESSEN, Germany, Oct 28: Three times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker may miss next week's high class Paris indoor tournament because of his persistent back injury, reports Reuter.

After pulling out of the doubles event at the Essen Open on Friday, the German released a statement saying he was still struggling with the injury and would make a decision about the French event after seeing a doctor.

Becker who was beaten by Dutchman Richard Krajicek in the third round on Thursday is keen to avoid a long lay-off before next month's World Championship in Frankfurt for the top eight players for which he is almost certain to qualify.

The Paris event lost American world number one Andre Agassi on Thursday when he aggravated a chest muscle problem in a defeat by fellow American Malival Washington at the Essen tournament.

Crossing the great divide

BAGHDAD, Oct 28: An Iraqi official paper said on Friday Iraq is to take part in Tehran's gymnastics championship next month, reports Reuter.

"Iraq is taking part in Tehran's gymnastics championship for men," said Al-Iraq daily.

The paper said the Iraqi team was training in readiness for this championships to be held in Iran in the third week of November.

The executive bureau at the Iraqi Olympic Committee has agreed to participate in the championship, said the paper.

This is the first time the two neighbouring countries allow the exchange of athletic teams since the eight-year Iraq-Iran war the two countries fought in 1980.

Tehran is also to attend Baghdad international fair to be held in the Iraqi capital next week.

"Iran's participation will be notable," said Al-Iraq quoting the director general of fairs committee as saying on Thursday.

Relations between the two countries have been wavering since the UN brokered 1988 ceasefire that has failed to heal the scars of the war.

Courier fails to cruise



ESSEN, Germany, Oct 28: Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras marched towards the pinnacle of men's tennis with a straight-sets victory over former Australian and French Open champion Jim Courier on Friday, reports Reuter.

Sampras, who looks certain to dislodge Andre

Agassi from the world number one ranking over the next 10 days, beat his fellow-American 6-2, 7-6 in the quarterfinals of the 1.8 million dollars Essen Open after saving three set-points in the second set.

US Open winner Sampras could regain the top spot he lost to Agassi in April if he wins in Essen on Sunday and picks up enough points from

victories over leading players. After Agassi's third-round defeat here by American Malival Washington and his subsequent withdrawal from next week's Paris Open because of injury, the 24-year-old Sampras should be number one again by November 6 at the latest.

Sampras certainly looked the part on Friday with a superb display against world number eight Courier, whose baseline game contrasts sharply with the serve-and-volley expertise of Sampras.

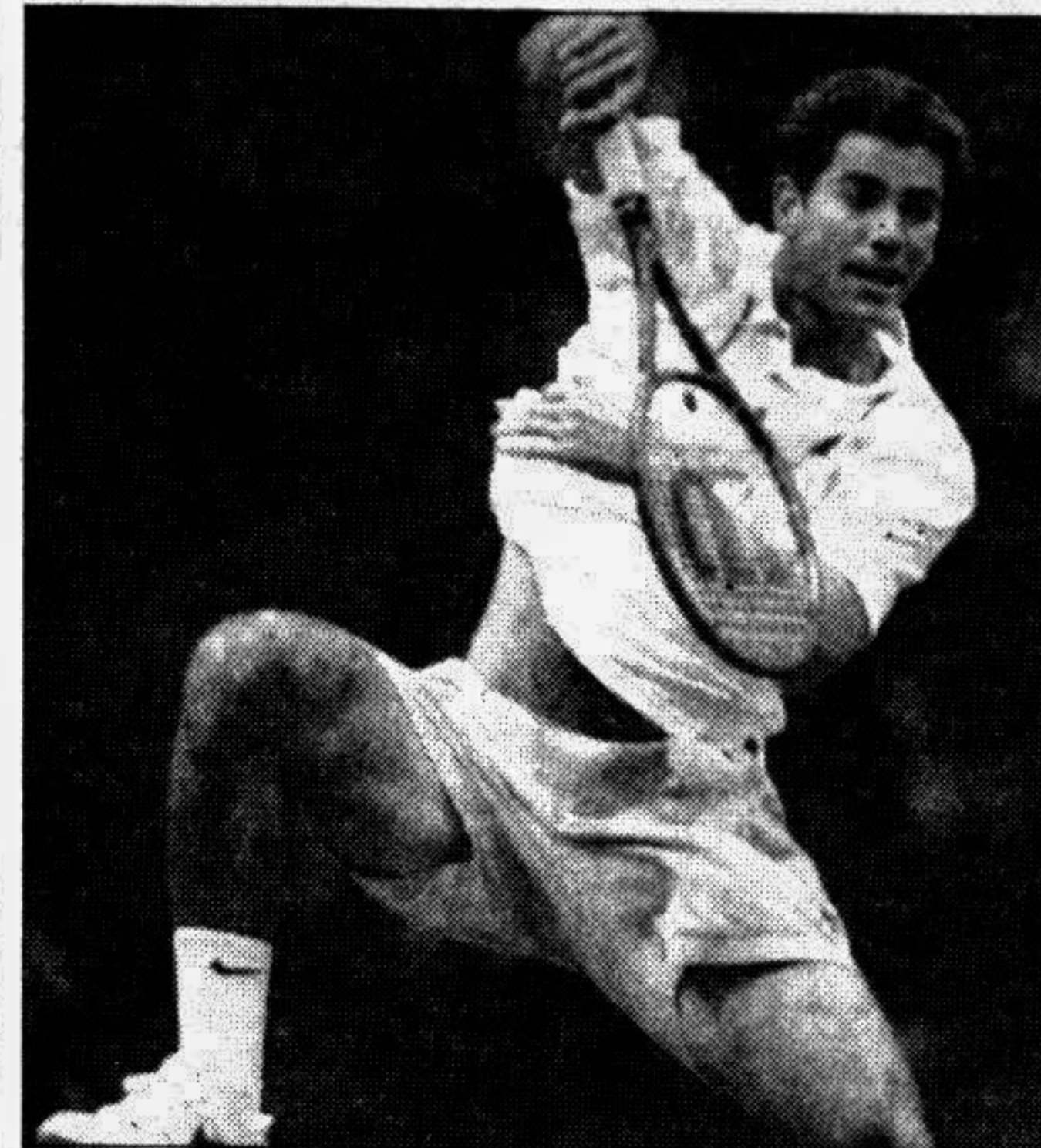
Sampras also showed patience against Courier — himself a former number one — when he was unable to use his powerful serve and crisp volleying, he waited at the baseline and overcame his compatriot with superior groundstrokes.

Sampras broke Courier's serve in the third and fifth games and clinched the first set with an ace after just 34 minutes.

Courier managed to lift his game in the second set and looked like squaring the match as he moved 5-0 ahead in the tie-break.

But Courier lay on his back on the court in despair after Sampras saved three set-points and clawed his way back to reach match-point at 7-6. He clinched the match at the first attempt.

In the first quarterfinal, Washington followed up his victory over Agassi with a 7-5, 6-2 success against Swedish ninth seed Thomas Enqvist.



World number two Pete Sampras of the United States in an acrobatic action during his quarterfinal match against compatriot Jim Courier at the Essen Open on Oct 27. Sampras beat Courier 6-2, 7-6. — AFP/UNB photo

Stage set for Sampras



PARIS, Oct 28: The chances of Pete Sampras winning the lucrative Paris Open for the first time next week and recapturing his world number one ranking appeared to be improving by the hour when the draw for the 2.25 million dollar event was made in the French capital on Friday, reports AFP.

Sampras emerged as a 'hotter than hot' favourite after his main rival Andre Agassi, last year's winner, led a series of last-minute defections.

Agassi, who crashed to compatriot Malival Washington in the Essen Open, later confirmed that he had suffered a recurrence of the chest muscle injury which curtailed his appearance in the United States' successful Davis Cup semifinal against Sweden last month. He immediately flew home to Las Vegas for intensive treatment and withdrew from the Paris tournament.

Other absentees next week include dangerous Russian number-one Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who is nursing a knee injury, and Michael Stich, whose season ended earlier this month when he was stretched off court in Vienna after badly twisting

his ankle. Meanwhile three-time champion and third-seed Boris Becker has made it clear that he will only play after undergoing a strenuous fitness test in Paris on Monday.

Becker, a third-round loser in Essen who has been suffering from a nagging back injury, has made it clear that, although he dearly wants to earn points and book a place in the ATP Championship finals in Frankfurt, he does not want to aggravate the injury and find himself out of action for a long period.

"Unfortunately at this stage of the season injuries often play a major role in tournament draws," admitted French federation president Christian Bimes. "But I am sure there will be plenty of exciting tennis for the spectators."

As it stands, French Open champion Thomas Muster is now seeded to play Sampras in the final — but the Austrian's baseline power and accuracy, so effective on clay, may be less decisive on the taraxel court specially built inside the grass-walled Bercy Stadium.

Sampras' first serious test should come from last year's finalist Marc Rosset of Switzerland in the quarter-

finals while his scheduled semifinal opponent is expected to be Michael Chang — providing the Chinese-American can see off the ever-dangerous Jim Courier.

In the other half of the draw, big-serving Goran Ivanisevic, the 1993 winner, will be desperately trying to salvage a disappointing season with a major victory.

But the volatile Croatian's campaign could be undermined by news this week that he has split with his Australian coach of four and a half years Bob Brett. Although he dearly wants to earn points and book a place in the ATP Championship finals in Frankfurt, he does not want to aggravate the injury and find himself out of action for a long period.

As for French hopes, Paris Mayor Jean Tiberi did the home players few favours as he drew their names out of the hat.

In form 26-year-old Arnaud Boetsch, winner at Toulouse and semifinalist at Ostrava this month, was given a tough first-round clash against Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman to be followed by a showdown with... Sampras.

Meanwhile in a battle of generations, experienced Guy Forget faces up-and-coming wild-card compatriot Jerome Galonard in the first-round with the winner moving into a second-round clash against Muster.

Monica on a mission



OAKLAND, California, Oct 28: Just three months back on the women's tennis tour after nearly two and a half years off due to her 1993 on-court stabbing, Monica Seles says she is ready to assume a leadership role in the sport, reports Reuter.

"During my time off I looked back at what Billie Jean (King) and Martina (Navratilova) had done and then I looked at what my generation has done — Steffi (Graf), Gabriela (Sabatini) and (Arantxa) Sanchez-Vicario — and it is not much," Seles said.

"We've been taking a lot but not giving back so much. Hopefully, all of the top players will. So in 20 years we can all look back at what our generation did well."

Beginning on Monday, the 21-year-old Seles will play her third tournament since her comeback here at the 430,000 Bank of the West Classic.

Co-world number one Seles, who won the tournament in 1990 and '92, will be opposed by number eight Magdalena Maleeva, ninth-ranked Lindsay Davenport and number 12 Mary Joe Fernandez.

Venus Williams, the 15-year-old Californian rising star, will return to the tournament. In her professional debut at the tournament last year, Williams pushed then number one Sanchez-Vicario to three sets.

Seles may want to take over the leadership mantle from Navratilova and King, but it appears she still has some to do some mending with other players.

Never a popular player in the locker room before the

stabbing, Seles says that not everyone greeted her return with open arms.

While she was warmly congratulated by the likes of Sabatini, Martina Hingis and Iva Majoli after she won the Canadian Open in August, Seles said some top players haven't even bothered to nod in her direction.

"A small percentage of the players won't even say 'Hi', but most are supportive," Seles said. "It just surprised me that some wouldn't even say 'Hi'. I don't even need to

hear a big 'welcome back, just say 'Hi'."

"What's the big deal if we have to play each other? It's not going to change my outlook on life."

The players' coldness toward Seles may be the result of the controversy over her co-ranking with Graf, or because she is being painted by the media as the saviour of women's tennis.

"I was hoping the ranking issue was over," Seles said. "The way I've played has helped. I told the WTA I would come back either way."

Seles will be co-ranked

number one with Graf for her first six tournaments and will not fall under the WTA's normal ranking divisor rules until she plays 14 events. During Wimbledon, many top players disagreed with the divisor waiver.

"I've always said with the issue that it was the best for Steffi and the worst for (number two) Arantxa. Everyone moved down except (Graf). What's done is done. I told myself that Arantxa also got to move up when I wasn't playing."

Seles' comeback has been remarkable.

The Yugoslav-born US citizen easily won her first tournament, the Canadian Open, and then waltzed through her side of the draw at the US Open before being stopped by Graf in a spectacular three-set final.

During the time following her stabbing in Hamburg, Germany, Seles received a mountainous outpouring of support from letter-writing fans.

Seles says she is now regularly called upon by terminally ill children or other crime victims to lend emotional support. People even knock on the door at her home in Florida seeking a word of encouragement.

"I'm giving back so much more," Seles said. "I'm little surprised that I open up to people that I've never met in my life. I'm really honest. That's been the really good part. I'm happy to help them."

At the US Open, Seles rediscovered her love of celebrity, walking the sidelines of the Dallas Cowboys-New York Giants Monday night football game, appearing on the MTV awards, attending Broadway shows and posing for photographers.

Office of the Chief Engineer Project-IV, BWDB Rangpur Corrigendum No. 03 to Tender Enquiry No 01/Teesta/SFD/95-96

সড়ক ও জনপথ দপ্তর আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি ১। সরকারি বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ২। কাজের নাম ৩। প্রকল্পের নাম ৪। কাজের মূল্য ৫। কাজের তারিখ ৬। প্রকল্পের বিবরণ ৭। দরপত্র প্রদানের সময় ৮। দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান ৯। দরপত্র প্রদানের তারিখ ১০। দরপত্র প্রদানের সময় ১১। দরপত্র প্রদানের স্থান



DENNIS LILLEE

self as popular with Australian crowds as Douglas Jardine and Richard Hadlee." Lillee wrote in his column in Saturday's 'the West Australian'.

"Unless I'm a bad judge of the red-blooded Aussie sports fan, Malik is in for a terrible time," he wrote.

England skipper Douglas Jardine angered Australian

Vera wins Korean marathon

SEOUL, Oct 28: Rolando Vera of Ecuador won the Chosun Ilbo international marathon on Saturday by a whisker, just beating Barcelona Olympic champion Hwang Young-Jo of South Korea, reports Reuter.

Vera completed the 42.195-km (26.372-mile) course in the northeast city of Chunchon in two hours, eleven minutes and thirty seconds. He was two seconds ahead of Hwang.

Vera continuously turned his head to check on the progress of the Barcelona gold medalist.

Belayneh Dinsamo of Ethiopia, holder of the world record of two hours, six minutes and 50 seconds, took the lead until the 25-km (15.6-mile) mark. Suffering from pain in his left thigh, he fell back and finished well off the pace.

Kim Wan-Ki of South Korea ran in third in two hours, eleven minutes and 59 seconds.

Vera took 75,000 dollars in prize money while Hwang took 37,000 dollars for his second-place finish.

Bellmare in qtrs

HIRATSUKA, Japan, Oct 28: Bellmare Hiratsuka of Japan trounced Sabah of Malaysia 5-0 for their second straight win today to advance to the quarter-finals of the sixth Asian Cup Winners' Cup, reports AFP.

Playing at the Hiratsuka Stadium in the southwestern outskirts of Tokyo, Bellmare took control from the very beginning, encamping in the Sabah field for most of the match.



Rolando Vera of Ecuador crosses the tape to win the Chosun Ilbo Marathon in Chunchon, South Korea yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo