

Pakistan triumph over trivia

SYDNEY, Dec 4: Pakistan salvaged some pride by beating Australia by 74 runs in the third and final Test in Sydney today after a mesmerising performance by leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, reports Reuter.

Mushtaq claimed four wickets to lift his tally for the series to 18 as Australia collapsed for 172 in their second innings on the fifth and final day at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

It was a dramatic reversal from by the tourists who were beaten by huge margins in the first two Tests of the series.

Mushtaq, overlooked for the first Test in Brisbane, tormented his opponents in a superb display to finish one wicket behind Australian counterpart Shane Warne, the top wicket taker for the series with 19.

Fast bowler Waqar Younis sealed the victory by bowling tail-ender Glenn McGrath for a duck nine minutes before



Pakistan's wrecker-in-chief leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed celebrates along with teammates after outwitting Australia's Steve Waugh for 14 in the fifth day of the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Dec 4. With a bizarre mystique spell, Mushtaq bedeviled Australians to bring an improbable victory for his team. — AFP/UNB photo

watchman Ian Healy was caught behind after adding three to his overnight score of four.

Waqar, who has struggled for fitness throughout the tour, accelerated Australia's demise by bowling all-rounder Greg Blewett for 14 and repeating the trick two balls later to remove fast bowler Craig McDermott for a duck.

Australia, who scored 257 in this first innings in reply to Pakistan's 299, were set the victory target after dismissing Pakistan for 204 on Sunday.

and final day of the third Test between Australia and Pakistan Monday.

PAKISTAN: First innings 299 (Ijaz Ahmed 137) and second innings 204 (Inzamamul Haq 59, Craig McDermott five for 49)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 257 (Mark Waugh 116, Mushtaq Ahmed five for 95)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 121 for 3) Slater st Rashid b Mushtaq 59 Taylor lbw b Mushtaq 23 Boon c (sub) Moin b Saqlain 6 M Waugh c Rashid b Wasim 34 Healy c Rashid b Wasim 7 S Waugh b Mushtaq 14 Blewett b Waqar 14 Warne c Saqlain b Mushtaq 5

McDermott b Waqar 0
Reffel not out 2
McGrath b Waqar 0
Extras: (lb-5; nb-3) 8
Total: (all out) 172
Fall of wickets: 1-42; 2-69; 3-117; 4-126; 5-146; 6-152; 7-170; 8-170; 9-172.

Bowling O M R W
Akram 16 5 25 2
Waqar Younis 6.1 2 15 3
Mushtaq Ahmed 30 6 91 4
Saqlain Mushtaq 13 5 35 1
Aamir Sohail 1 0 1 0

Result: Pakistan won by 74 runs. Australia won the series 2-1.

Man of the match: Mushtaq Ahmed
Man of the series: Shane Warne



WARNE... Man-of-series lunch, his third wicket of the session.

Resuming on 121 for three and still needing 126 runs for victory, Australia's hopes plummeted when captain and opener Mark Taylor fell for 59 in the 12th over of the day.

After surviving several confident appeals for caught behind and leg before wicket, Taylor eventually fell when he charged down the wicket only to miss the ball, giving wicketkeeper Rashid Latif a simple stumping.

Mushtaq earlier took the vital wicket of Steve Waugh, who was bowled off the inside edge on 14 when attempting to drive a ball that pitched wide of his off-stump before juggling back.

Mushtaq, the man-of-the-match, finished with figures of four for 91 from 30 overs to add to his five-wicket first innings haul.

Pakistan captain and fast bowler Wasim Akram made the first breakthrough in the third over of the day when wicketkeeper and night-

Mushie matured, motivated

SYDNEY, Dec 4: Player of the Sydney Test Mushtaq Ahmed, at the peak of his cricket career, says he has learned something valuable from his Australian leg-spin rival Shane Warne, reports AFP.

Mushtaq, who was over-taken in the first Test, took career best match figures of 9-186, eclipsing his 9-198 in the second Hobart Test, to spur Pakistan to a rousing 74-run third Test triumph here Monday over Australia, acclaimed as World cricket's top outfit.

The series was dominated by the leg-spin mystique of Mushtaq and Warne, ranked alongside India's Anil Kumble as the modern-day wrist-spin greats.

The Australian maestro injured a toe and didn't bowl in the Hobart Test yet was the leading wicket-taker in the series with 19 for an average of 10.42.



MUSHTAQ AHMED

The bouncy Mushtaq, 25, now with 62 Test wickets, is respectful of the 26-year-old Warne's celebrated talents and said he had learned one important thing from Warne, who has 195 wickets from 41 Tests.

"I get a bit excited when I

take wickets, I'm thinking I'm always going to get every-one out, and I haven't got too much patience... he's got a lot of patience," Mushtaq said.

"He can bowl the same way, he can turn more leggie, but I think I can bowl the same... (yet) he has more patience than me."

"But in the last two Tests I have tried to be very patient," Mushtaq said he was playing the best cricket of his career. "I've had more opportunities to bowl here because the wickets have suited me, so I'm feeling good now."

Australian captain Mark Taylor understandably rates his teammate Warne highly, but said of Mushtaq, "This is undoubtedly the best I've seen Mushie bowl in about six years."

"If I had to rate the spinners I would rate Warne first, purely because of longevity. Warne has been able to do it for four years, where as Mushie, this is the first time I've seen him do it."

Kiwis off balance

WELLINGTON, Dec 4: Mark Greatbatch and Shane Thomson, who both played in New Zealand's recent Test series against India, have been dropped from the Test squad to play Pakistan on Friday, the national selectors said today, reports Reuter.

Auckland top-order batsman Craig Spearman has been included in the 12-man squad for the first time. The final eleven will be named on the morning of the match.

Leading batsman Martin Crowe was not available due to injury, severely denting New Zealand's prospects.

Auckland spinner Dipak Patel has been recalled after an injury-enforced break and Canterbury all-rounder Nathan Astle, who has played several one-day internationals for New Zealand, is included in the squad for the first time.

The team for the first two one-day internationals of a four-match series, on December 15 and 17, will also be chosen from the same squad.

TEAM

Lee Germon (capt), Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns, Stephen Fleming, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Dion Nash, Adam Parore, Dipak Patel, Craig Spearman, Roger Twose, Bryan Young.

Beximco sports

The inter-company sports competition of the Beximco group began on Sunday in the city. Some 250 participants representing 25 companies of the group are taking part in the competition organised by the chemical division of the conglomerate, says a press release.

Deputy chairman of the group Salman F Rahman inaugurated the meet at a function at the office premises of the company at Dhanmondi.

Pete carves USA's fate

MOSCOW, Dec 4: World number one Pete Sampras demolished Yevgeny Kafelnikov for his third victory of the weekend on Sunday to carry the United States to the Davis Cup team title for the 31st time, reports Reuter.

Sampras, 24, mastered the clay court that was supposed to give the Russians an advantage and overcame a fiercely patriotic crowd and an injury to his right thigh that grew stiffer as the match progressed.

He subdued world number six Kafelnikov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), his 16th ace of the day giving the Americans an unassailable 3-1 lead which became 3-2 when Andrei Chesnokov beat Jim Courier 6-7, (1-7), 7-5, 6-0 in a match cut in length as it could not affect the outcome.

Sampras had defeated Chesnokov in five sets in Friday's opening singles after which he had to be carried off the court because of cramp. But he returned on Saturday to partner Todd Martin to victory over Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovsky in the doubles and he completed his iron-man stint on Sunday.

After he had joined captain Tom Gullikson in a victory hug and accepted the congratulations of his teammates, the two both made mention of Gullikson's twin brother Tim, Sampras's coach who is still recuperating after a heart attack last year.

Sampras, saying his third victory was his best ever on clay, added, "It is a great win for the team and I am happy for Tom. It has been a very emotional year for both of us and it couldn't happen to a nicer guy."

"I thought about Tim during the match and Tom. It has been a tough year for

both of us dealing with Tim's situation," the Wimbledon and US Open champion said.

Tom Gullikson told a news conference he felt elation and relief at the victory. But he almost broke down in tears as he thought of his brother.

"For me personally, it has been a tough year with Tim in a much bigger competition, fighting for his life. For us to win this thing means a lot."

The entire tie was watched by the injured Andre Agassi who was among those congratulating Sampras afterwards.

It was the Russians' second successive home defeat in a Davis Cup final. They lost 4-1, to Sweden last year.

Sampras allowed Kafelnikov few chances in the first two sets and said he had played much better than in Friday's battle with the 90th-ranked Chesnokov.

"I was a little more patient and served a lot better. If I can maintain this level, hopefully my clay court season will be a little bit better next year," he said.

Russian captain Anatoly Lepyoshin underlined the significance of Sampras's contribution.

"Pete Sampras is an outstanding athlete and player. You saw that after the first match he had to be literally carried off the court, but he found the strength to come back," he said.

Kafelnikov, 21, said the tie had slipped away on Saturday when he lost more than half his service games in the doubles defeat.

He added that Russians probably had a better chance of beating Sweden last year than of accounting for the Americans this time.

"From the very beginning I felt I could beat Sampras, that I was strong enough. But his tactic was to play the points short but you saw that

his serve was faultless," said Kafelnikov, who left the doubles match almost in tears and who faced whistles from the crowd at the closing ceremony.

Sampras said his right hamstring had felt tight during the match. "It just needs rest right now but I still felt the energy was there."

Kafelnikov, mindful of Sampras's cramp attack, said he had wanted to keep the American on court as long as possible.

"I felt the third set was very important and if I had won it the match could have gone the other way because Pete looked tired," Kafelnikov said.

Sampras led 3-1 in the final set but Kafelnikov broke back to lead 4-3. At five-all, they exchanged service breaks, Sampras dropping his to love to force the tie break.

Sampras won three successive points to lead it 5-2 and Kafelnikov saved a match point at 6-3 before Sampras aced him down the middle.

Much attention had focused on the clay court. Russia was fined 25,000 dollars for having a damp court before their semi-final against Germany.

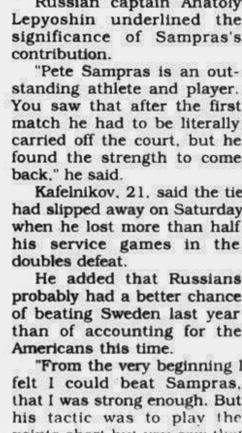
But this one posed no problems and Kafelnikov said an indoor clay court was in fact similar to a fast supreme surface.

Edmundo in the clear!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 4: Brazilian soccer star Edmundo said on Sunday a car accident in which at least two people died was not his fault, reports Reuter.

"I'm convinced I didn't cause it," the striker for Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo said at a news conference broadcast on national radio.

Elated members of the US team pose with the Davis Cup after winning the final against Russia in Moscow on Dec 3.



The Americans won the tie 3-2. — AFP/UNB photo



Fakrul passes away

Sports Reporter Fakrul Alam (Mahmud Bhal), a renowned footballer of the fifties and the father of hockey player Najmul Alam, passed away on Sunday night.

Fakrul left behind a son, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

The deceased, a player of Azad Sporting Club in his hey-days, played for the Pakistan national team against a visiting Australian outfit in 1952. He was a regular member of the then Pakistan Services team.

BSJA AGM held

The annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) was held yesterday at its office premises, reports UNB.

BSJA general secretary Nasimul Kabir and treasurer Kashinath Basak read out their annual report in the meeting, chaired by its president Manjurul Hoq.

The meeting decided to accord reception to the gold winning athletes of the 7th SAF Games scheduled for December 18-27 in the Indian port City of Madras.

At the meeting, the BSJA adopted a condolence resolution for players, organisers, journalists and sports personalities who have passed away recently.

Ye, Joko grab GP crown

SINGAPORE, Dec 4: In a gripping final, world champion Ye Zhaoying grabbed a dramatic 12-10, 8-11, 11-8 win over Sweden's Lim Xiaoping in the women's singles at the World Grand Prix badminton event on Sunday, reports Reuter.

A disappointing all-Indonesian men's singles final also went to three sets with ex-world champion Joko Suprianto beating Olympic silver medalist Ardy Wiranata 15-3, 6-15, 15-6.

Ye's Grand Prix crown is her third major title this year following the World Cup and World Championship. Her sights are now firmly set on next year's Olympics and Uber Cup team title.

The Chinese led 12-10, 7-0 but Lim, the all-England champion, fought back to 8-8 and eventually levelled the match.

The Swede trailed 4-8 in the decider after a series of smashes went wide, but she again fought back to 8-8 before yielding.

The first two sets of the men's final looked like a sparring match, but the pace quickened in the third as Wiranata took a useful 6-1 lead.

But a series of cleverly-disguised cross-court drop shots by Suprianto wrong-footed Wiranata as his old rival raced away to land the 21,000 dollars top prize.

Suprianto, 29, said, "I varied the pattern of my game in the rubber to conserve my stamina, switching between slow rallies to fast exchanges."

The fired-up Malaysian pair, Cheah Soon Kit and Yap Kim Hock, showed character

after going down 13-18 in the first set to win the subsequent sets 15-2, 15-12.

Cheah twice disputed a linesman's call while Yap was warned by the umpire for kicking the advertisement board in frustration after conceding an easy point.

China's Ge Fei and Gu Jun won the women's crown, beating South Korean world champions Gil Young-Ah and Jang Hye-Ock 15-7, 15-12.

The mixed doubles title went to Trikus Heryanto and Minarti Timur of Indonesia who beat England's Simon Archer and Julie Breadbury 15-8, 15-8.



AC Milan's Roberto Baggio (R) and Lazio's Alessandro Nesta duel for a high ball during their Serie A encounter in Rome on Sunday. Milan won by a solitary goal. — AFP/UNB photo

Whats in a name

PARIS, Dec 4: The ultra-modern, all-seater stadium being built near Paris for the 1998 World Cup finals is to be called "Stade de France" (Stadium of France), Sports Minister Guy Drut said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The announcement ended weeks of public debate and agonising over the selection of a name with a surprisingly banal choice.

The 80,000-capacity stadium in the capital, to stage the opening match and the final.

Drut said many names had been considered by a panel of 14 experts, most of them with sporting connections, and thousands of members of the public had set in suggestions.

But he said the stadium needed a name which gave a short and easily identifiable message. "It will be a stadium for all Frenchmen," he said.

The most popular choice by the public had been to name the stadium after the country's best-ever player Michel Platini, joint president of the 1998 World Cup Organising Committee.

But Platini, 40, rejected the idea. "I'm too old to win football trophies but I'm too young to have stadiums named after me," he said.

Platini said he found the name "Stade de France" magnificent. "It's the best name we could give to the national stadium," he said.

In the long term the name may have the merit of being easy to remember but it lacks the evocative and romantic appeal of the current national stadium, the Parc des Princes (Princes Park).

Australians rule in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 4: Australian Daniel Kowalski won his third gold medal at the world short course swimming championships on Sunday by taking the men's 1,500 metres as unknown Venezuelan Francisco Sanchez caused a major upset by winning the 50 metres freestyle, reports Reuter.

Australia finished top of the medals table with 12 golds after four wins on the last day of competition in the purpose-built pool on Copacabana beach.

Latin America also won two more golds with Brazil adding the men's 4x100 metres freestyle relay and Cuba's Rodolfo Falcon claiming his second victory in the 100 metres backstroke after overtaking Britain's Neil Willey in the final length.

Sanchez's win in a race devalued by the absence of Russia's Alexander Popov and the Top US sprinters, caught organisers totally unaware. They had no recording of the Venezuelan national anthem which instead was sung by swimmers and delegates.

Defending champion Kowalski, 20 led from the start and opened up a four-second gap at one stage but had to fight off a late challenge from Britain's Ian Wilson before winning in 14 minutes 48.51 seconds, just over a second ahead of Wilson.

Kowalski had won his other two medals on Friday, defending his 400 metres freestyle title and swimming the last leg as Australia won the 4x200 metres freestyle relay.

Australia's other golds on Sunday came in the women's 4x100 metres medley relay,

the women's 200 metres individual medley won by Ellie Overton and the men's 200 metres individual medley won by Matthew Dunn.

Samantha Riley, who broke world short-course records as she won the 100 and 200 metres breaststroke earlier in the competition, swam in the Australia relay team to claim her third gold of the games. Australia were one of the few leading countries to bring most of the top swimmers.

Sanchez, a 19-year-student nicknamed "the shark", led from the start as he won his race in 21.80 seconds to claim his country's first-ever gold in a World Swimming Championship. He beat off Brazil's Gustavo Borges and Fernando Scherer, favourites in the absence of Popov and the Americans.

"I didn't believe I would win a gold. It goes to show that you should never underestimate anyone," said Sanchez, referring to the absence of the anthem. It was the first time he had swum in a short-course competition.

Cuba's Falcon, the 200 metres champion, trailed Willey after 75 metres but won his race in the final straight, finishing in 53.12 seconds, 0.11 ahead of the Briton. Falcon had never won a major title.

Scherer and Borges partially made up for their failure in the 50 metres freestyle by helping Brazil win the 4x100 metres freestyle relay in three minutes 12.42 seconds, only three-tenths of a second outside the world record.

IOC okays budget hike

KARUIZAWA, Japan, Dec 4: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday approved a 5.7 per cent increase in its annual budget to 44.8 million Swiss francs (38.1 million dollars) for 1996, reports AFP.

The IOC executive board, devoting the first day of its four-day meeting here entirely to internal financial matters, also raised its operational fund from 30 million Swiss francs in 1995 to 32.2 million Swiss francs next year. IOC director general Francois Carrard said.

During its fifth meeting of the year, the IOC's 11-member decision-making body, headed by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, was also expected to approve the addition of snowboarding to the Winter Olympic programme.

MEDALS TABLE

Final medals table at the world short-course swimming championships on Sunday (tabulate — gold, silver, bronze):

Country	G	S	B
Australia	12	7	7
China	5	2	2
Brazil	3	2	1
Canada	2	5	0
Costa Rica	2	0	0
Cuba	2	0	0
Germany	1	4	5
Britain	1	2	1
New Zealand	1	2	0
Denmark	1	1	2
United States	1	0	2
Venezuela	1	0	1
Netherlands	0	3	0
Ukraine	0	2	0
Russia	0	1	2
Slovakia	0	1	1
Poland	0	0	3
Sweden	0	0	2
France	0	0	1
Hungary	0	0	1
Romania	0	0	1