

PCB's celebration calendar

LAHORE, Aug 28: Three one-day matches with India, a Test series against South Africa and a four-nation one-day tournament will highlight the Pakistan Cricket Board's contribution to their country's 50th anniversary celebrations...

Pakistan and India, which both gained independence from Britain in 1947, will play three one-day matches to mark their 'Joint Golden Jubilee'...

The series will begin September 28 in the southern port city Karachi, continue in the eastern Punjab city Hyderabad two days later, and conclude in the Punjab capital Lahore on October 2.

South Africa will then visit for Tests starting on October 6 in Rawalpindi, 17 in Sheikhpura and 24 in Faisalabad. Pakistan will wrap up their schedule with the Independence Cricket Series, a one-day tournament from November 8 in Lahore against Sri Lanka, South Africa and the West Indies.

Khan said playing cricket, a national obsession in Pakistan, was "the best way" for the country to celebrate its 50th year as a nation.

Cricket, tobacco can't go together!

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: A leading Indian health organisation on Wednesday asked cricket fans to heckle their heroes if they take part in tobacco company-sponsored events, reports AFP.

The Voluntary Health Association of India (V-HAI), the largest welfare health body in the country, said its anti-tobacco drive would also include the "social boycott" of offending players.

Spokesman Sanjay Sengupta said, "We will ask people who go to such matches to chant slogans against the players. We will also put up posters telling them they should not go to these events."

He said school and college students should "not hero-worship these cricketers," adding: "We will file public interest litigations against tobacco companies."

Sengupta said India's young cricket stars refused to condemn smoking "because they get lots of money from tobacco firms."

The Indian cricket side is currently sponsored by Wills, a cigarette brand owned by Indian Tobacco Company (ITC) Ltd. Wills is a major backer of cricket in the country and also sponsored last year's World Cup.

Sengupta added that even former Indian Test cricketers such as Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi and Kapil Dev had said V-HAI's position was impractical because tobacco companies were the likeliest sponsors for sports events.

Warne 95 pc wooed!

MELBOURNE, Aug 28: Australia spin bowler Shane Warne said today he was almost certain to accept an offer to play county cricket in England next year, reports Reuters.

Warne said he was keen to accept a deal but wanted to discuss it with his family before making a final decision.

"I'm 95 per cent sure I will play but I will make my mind up within three weeks," Warne told reporters on his return to Australia after the Ashes tour of England.

Warne was one of the stars of Australia's successful defence of the Ashes, taking 24 wickets in the six-Test series against England at an average of 24.04.

Warne confirmed he had been offered several contracts to play in England next year during the Australian off-season. English newspapers have named Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Sussex and Northamptonshire as among the counties wooing Warne.

No incitement for India

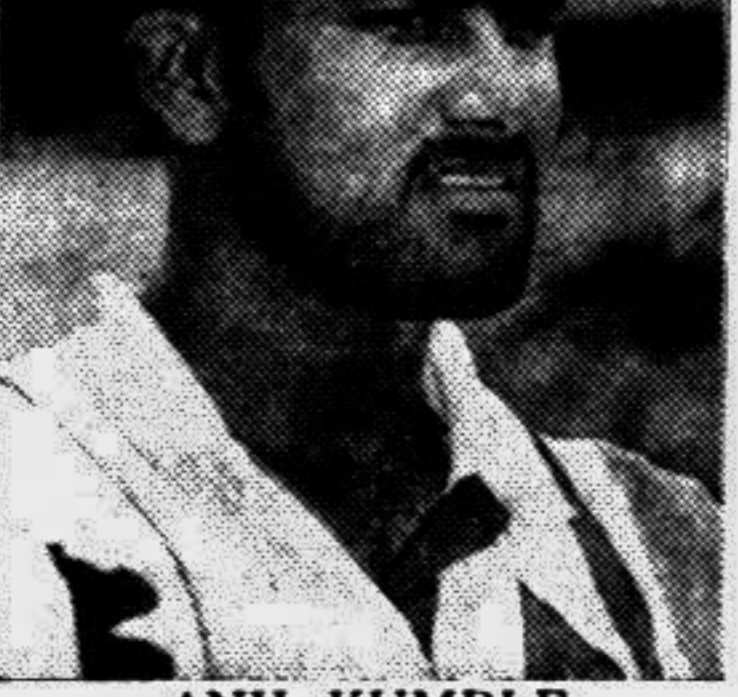
NEW DELHI, Aug 28 (AFP): Indian cricket needs an "Alladin's lamp to find a magical solution" after a string of disastrous defeats, an Indian selector admitted today.

The five-man selection panel meets tomorrow to choose a team to take on arch-rivals Pakistan in eight limited-over matches next month.

But the selector, speaking on condition of anonymity, conceded to the news agency: "The scenario is so bleak. I wish we had an Alladin's lamp to find a magical solution."

There is just not enough back-up to replace the existing players. The bowling cupboard has never been so bare."

Finding scapegoats among Sachin Tendulkar's team would be the easy way out after a dis-



ANIL KUMBLE

astrous run which has seen India win just four of their 20 one-day internationals this year.

But the selectors, bereft of any talented replacements, have little to choose from.

Pace spearhead Javagal Srinath is still recovering from a shoulder injury while the form of the two remaining wicket-

class bowlers in the side, seamer Venkatesh Prasad and spinner Anil Kumble has slumped.

Prasad, who has been remorselessly over-bowled since Srinath's injury, and Kumble were destroyed by the powerful Sri Lankan batting on the recent tour, managing just seven wickets each in eight innings.

Both looked so jaded that captain Tendulkar and coach Madan Lal took the extraordinary step of dropping vice-captain Kumble, a regular since 1993, for the last match of the tour.

With a hectic home season to follow, in which Indian players are to take on Australia, Prasad and Kumble should ideally be rested for the matches against Pakistan.

But chairman of selectors Ramakant Desai said he would take such a step only if the players themselves wanted a rest.

"We will pick the best players, we will not consider somebody only if he himself says so," Desai said, adding he had not heard from Prasad or Kumble on the issue.

India may thus yet again depend on what commentators have described as the "worst bowling and fielding side in the world" for five matches against Pakistan in Toronto (September 13-21) and three in Pakistan (September 28-October 2).

The batsmen, however, will have only themselves to blame if India lose since Pakistan's bowling will also be under-strength missing their three best bowlers skipper Wasim Akram, pacesman Waqar Younis and leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Akram, the only bowler in the team to take more than 300 wickets in both Test and one-day cricket, is suffering from a shoulder injury similar to Srinath's which forced him to leave Lancashire midway through the

English county season. Younis and Mushtaq opted out to fulfill their commitments to Glamorgan and Somerset respectively.

With Tendulkar, elegant left-hander Saurav Ganguly, reliable Rahul Dravid and the in-form Mohammad Azharuddin, the Indian batting has a settled look.

But their tendency to choke at crucial stages is worrying. The Indians made 300 in the first one-day against Sri Lanka but still fell three short after needing 16 off 12 balls with six wickets in hand.

The tourists then messed up a simple run chase in the final one-dayer, with two run-outs at the death.

Tomorrow's selection meeting will be a tough one for Tendulkar, who had criticised the selectors for not including



VENKATESH PRASAD

Vinod Kamble and wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia for the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka.

The duo were drafted in for the subsequent Test and one-day series against Sri Lanka but the overweight Kamble performed poorly.

US OPEN AT A GLANCE

NEW YORK, Aug 28 (AP): Highlights of Day 3 Wednesday at the 11.82 million dollars US Open tennis championships.

Open tennis championships: Women's Singles: Day session, 24,479; night session, 21,818; total 46,297.

Results: Men's Singles, First Round: Tim Henman beat No. 5 Thomas Muster 6-3, 7-6 (7-3), 4-6, 6-4; No. 7 Sergi Bruguera beat Michael Tebbutt 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; No. 10 Marcelo Rios beat Luke Smith 6-1, 6-1, 6-4; No. 13 Patrick Rafter beat Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.

Women's singles, second round: No. 2 Monica Seles beat Tara Snyder 6-2, 6-3; Sandrine Testud beat No. 4 Iva Majoli 6-4, 2-6, 6-1; No. 5 Amanda Coetzer beat Alexia Dechaume-Balleret 6-1, 6-1; No. 8 Anke Huber beat Janet Lee 6-2, 6-1; No. 9 Mary Pierce beat Silvia Farina 6-2, 3-0, retired; No. 11 Irina Spilrea beat Anna Kournikova 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Stat of the day: By beating Gala Leon Garcia 6-0, 6-1 in a second-round match, Venus Williams has won 24 of her last 26 games at the US Open.

Quote of the day: "I just want to shut up the mouths of everybody because they think so much about her. It is frustrating because sometimes you are seeded and you are not playing on the stadium court... and she is unseeded and she gets everything." — No. 11 Irina Spilrea after beating 16-year-old Anna Kournikova.

Seles enjoys smooth sail

NEW YORK, Aug 28 (AP): The autograph tour moved from one end of the stadium to the other, accommodating everything from shirts to shorts, programmes to paper, as Monica Seles signed her name maybe 100 times.

Once or twice, she seemed to finish, only to start all over again, urged on by fans who thrust just about anything they could find at her. When Seles finally stopped, it was with a flourish, writing her name across the lens of a television camera.

"I just remember when I was a kid," she said. "I stayed with me. If you're a kid, I love signing. They take it home and maybe it is going to inspire them to play tennis or work harder. I was in their shoes once."

Write Monica Seles that often and it turns into a scribble. Play Monica Seles at the US Open and it turns into a rout.

Tara Snyder gave it her best shot, breaking Seles in the first game of the first set. It was a promising start that ended with Snyder flat on the court, chased from one sideline to the other in Seles' 6-2, 6-3 victory.

There was a warm feeling about the match in that once was Center Court at the National Tennis Center. In the re-configuration of the grounds, Louis Armstrong Stadium has become a satellite court, a secondary setting.

It will never be that for Seles, who won two Open championships on that court and lost the last two finals to old rival Steffi Graf there. Perhaps out of habit, perhaps out of nostalgia, she used the old stadium's dressing room instead of the fancy new one.

"It was a little eerie," she said. "It was so quiet. There was nobody there. But that has been my home since 1989."

New date for swimming

Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) has deferred the date of the 17th national age-group swimming championships.

The three-day meet, which was earlier scheduled to begin at the National Swimming Complex in Mirpur on September 13, will now commence at the same venue from October 1, said a press release issued yesterday.

Testud turns Majoli away

NEW YORK, Aug 28: Sandrine Testud of France again proved to be a terror to top 10 opponents as she topped French Open champion Iva Majoli on Wednesday in the second round of the US Open tennis championships, reports Reuters.

Testud, a dangerous floater ranked just outside the seedings for the Open at 17th in the world, landed in the fourth-seeded Majoli's draw and stung the Croatian for the second time in five days, taking a 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 victory.

The 25-year-old Testud, whose victims this season also include Monica Seles, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and Lindsay Davenport, defeated Majoli just last Friday in the semifinals of the US women's hardcourt

championships in Georgia. "I beat her the last time in Atlanta but this is different, being a Grand Slam match on Centre Court," said Testud.

Majoli blamed herself for the defeat. "I just don't feel good out there," said Majoli. "Maybe I'm not in the best shape at the moment. I don't know. My game is just not the way I want it to be."

Testud raced to a 5-1 lead in the first set but Majoli clawed her way back to 5-4 before the Frenchwoman finished her off. Majoli played more aggressively despite windy conditions in the second set to level the match.

The third set turned on a critical rally in the fourth game, with Testud serving at 2-1, 15-15.

Testud and Majoli staged a magnificent, marathon rally, drawing each other off court with sharp angles, buying time with lobs, hitting all out with baseline groundstrokes until the Croatian finally sent a forehand long to end the point and set off a 90-second ovation from the stadium crowd.

"I was so tired," Testud said later about the key rally. "I couldn't breathe anymore. I couldn't see."

After that, Majoli's spirit seemed broken. She struck another forehand long and Testud sealed the game with a forehand volley to lead 3-1. Majoli failed to win another game.

Afterward, Majoli suggested that she has had trouble coping with extra pressure following her French Open triumph.

"I guess I just have to get used to the pressure that comes with winning a Grand Slam," said Majoli, who said she has felt a little light and nervous with the greater expectations that came with her success.

"I guess I wasn't ready for that right now."

Testud, who reached the third round at the French and the fourth round at Wimbledon after ousting Seles, said months of hard conditioning work had helped her improve her 39th ranking at the end of last season.

Anke Huber of Germany and France's Mary Pierce, the eighth and ninth women's seeds, faced no such danger in their matches on Wednesday and moved easily into the third round.

Huber beat American Janet Lee 6-2, 6-1, while Pierce advanced when Italian opponent Silvia Farina retired trailing 6-2, 3-0.

American up-and-comer Venus Williams was also a dominant winner, thrashing Spanish Fed Cup player Gala Leon Garcia 6-0, 6-1 in 35 minutes.

Williams, who won the first 11 games of the match, lost five points in the entire first set and 15 points overall.

France sets new mark

PERTH, Aug 28: France broke a world record in winning the three-man Olympic sprint event at the World Cycling Championships ahead of Germany on Thursday, reports AP.

The French team of Vincent Le Quellec, Florian Rousseau and Arnaud Tourenaud clocked 44.926 seconds for the 750 metres while Germany finished in 46.257.

Australia, which set the world record at 45.150 in Manchester last year, was third, beating Greece in their race for bronze.

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Smith spell restricts Notts

LONDON, Aug 28: England discard Mike Smith took four wickets as title-chasing Gloucestershire made up ground on their rivals against Nottinghamshire on a rain-hit opening day of the latest round of championship matches on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Left-arm swing bowler Smith claimed four for 60 as Nottinghamshire slipped from 101 for one to close on 255 for eight.

Jon Lewis and Mark Alleyne each took two wickets as Matthew Downman, Ian Robinson and Wayne Noon all hit half-centuries but failed to build sufficiently on their starts.

Kent's Mark Ealham celebrated his 28th birthday by claiming both Hampshire wickets in a rain-affected match at Portsmouth.

But it was a day of frustration for second-placed Kent after a morning downpour wiped 59 overs off the day's allocation and play did not start until afternoon.

Hampshire closed on 111 for two off 45 overs, with Jason Lane and Matthew Hayden the men dismissed by Ealham.

And championship leaders Glamorgan were left kicking their heels as the first day of their game against Leicestershire at Grace Road was completely washed out.

day at Old Trafford. Almagir Sheriyyar and Gavin Haynes took three wickets as Worcestershire took advantage against Middlesex.

The midlanders, fifth in the table before play started, bowled well as they restricted the visitors to 217 for seven in the 67 overs possible.

Essex made 107 for three in the 35 overs possible against Warwickshire at Chelmsford.

Adrian Rollins was forced to retire hurt with a fractured kneecap as Derbysire struggled in the first day of their clash with Somerset at Derby.

Tim Tweats and Michael May put on 67 for the first wicket but both were dismissed in the final four overs of the day's play and Derbyshire closed on 73 for two.



French President Jacques Chirac (R) decorates International Olympic Committee chief Juan Antonio Samaranch with Legion D'Honneur at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Aug 28. — AFP/UNB photo

Muster's double trouble

NEW YORK, Aug 28: Thomas Muster took his first-round exit from the US Open tennis championships on Wednesday, calling it no "shame" to lose to up and coming British star Time Henman, report agencies.

But what got the Austrian agitated were questions about recurring rumours that he had allegedly tested positive for drugs on the ATP Tour.

"I don't know where it comes from," said the fifth-seeded Muster after going out to Henman 6-3, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 on the Arthur Ashe Stadium Court.

"I am just sick and tired of — I mean that rumour has been going on six, seven times this year," he said.

"I have heard comments about being tested positive at tournaments that I haven't been playing at — haven't been there and there was no drug testing there," said Muster, who briefly held the world number-one ranking twice last year.

"I am very surprised (to hear) that I have been tested positive in Cincinnati as somebody said."

"They haven't even unsealed the doping test from Cincinnati yet," added an incredulous Muster, who lost to Pete Sampras in the final there earlier this month.

Muster suggested the persistent rumours were the result of a vendetta by someone. "I don't know, somebody dislikes my style of play," he shrugged.

"Somebody has a problem with my attitude on-court. I don't know what is the problem," added Muster, who defended drug testing in sports.

"It is good that it is done. I think tennis should be a fair sport and there shouldn't be any drugs at all."

"I am strong for the controls and I don't know why somebody is always taking my name."

Earlier, seventh seed Sergi Bruguera refused to join the stream of Spaniards being dismissed from the Open by fighting back to beat unheralded Austrian Michael Tebbutt in five sets on Wednesday.

Bruguera, twice champion of the French Open, survived a blistering onslaught from the 167th-ranked Tebbutt in the first two sets to claim a 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory in his first-round match.

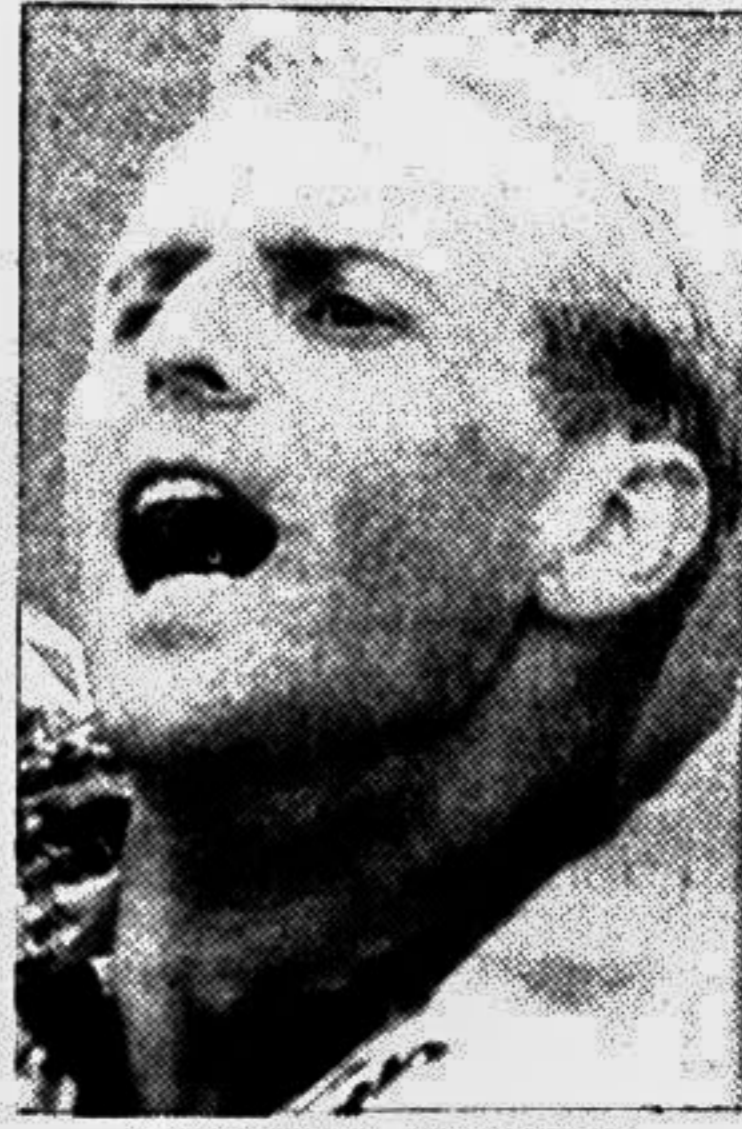
"It wasn't my fault that I lost the first two sets," Bruguera said. "He was playing unreal tennis."

Bruguera was the lone bright light for Spain in the early going on a hot, humid third day of the championships.

Alberto Berasategui, runner-up to Bruguera at the 1994 French Open, performed like Bruguera in reverse. Berasategui won the first two sets before losing the next three as he fell to South African Wayne Ferreira 6-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

Juan Antonio Marin and Emilio Alvarez also contributed to the Spanish slide.

Marin lost to Australian Todd Woodbridge 7-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 and Alvarez was eliminated by South African Grant Stafford 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.



THOMAS MUSTER

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The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Table with 4 columns: Time, Channel, Program Name, and Description. Includes sections for Friday 29th August, STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, STAR SPORTS, ATN, DD 7, EL TV, and ZEE TV.