

## Sanz feels the heat

MADRID, Dec 5 (Reuters/Internet): The aftermath of Real Madrid's humiliating 5-1 home defeat by Real Zaragoza, their worst in 25 years, has led to suggestions that the club presidency may be taking its toll on Lorenzo Sanz.

Sanz left the presidential box shortly after halftime on Saturday after being subjected to a torrent of abuse from fans.

It was later revealed that doctors had diagnosed Sanz as suffering from a stomach ulcer, and an obvious sign of stress, and had advised him to rest for the next few days.

The Spanish daily As reported on Sunday that Sanz's confidantes were advising him to give up the presidency for health reasons.

Despite good results for the club in the Champions League, the 56-year-old president has been under constant pressure all season as Real, currently 14th in the table, have won only three out of 14 league games.

An outlay of \$78m on new players in the close season, including the \$23m club-record signing of Nicolas Anelka, has brought the club scant reward.

The situation was exacerbated in November when Sanz dismissed coach John Toshack and his subsequent appointment of Vicente del Bosque as caretaker coach has made no impact on the team's dismal form.

Sanz became club president in 1995 after financial scandals ended the reign of Ramon Mendoza and he fast acquired a reputation as ambitious and ruthless.

His major achievement has been to guide the club to Champions League triumph in 1998 but even then Sanz demonstrated a merciless streak when only days later he fired German coach Jupp Heynckes, one of seven managerial casualties during his tenure.

Financial strain too has accompanied Sanz throughout his presidency of a club whose annual turnover of \$115.5m makes them the second richest in the world but which does not disguise the magnitude of the club's debts.

Sanz has managed to restructure these debts and has also recovered the club's marketing rights, negotiated new sponsorship deals, increased merchandising and launched the club's own TV digital channel.

However his achievements have been somewhat undermined by allegations of financial impropriety which have been levelled at Sanz's close ally, vice-president Juan Onieva.

Should Sanz be forced to resign, he would relinquish his role of president of the G-14 group of Europe's richest clubs where he has been instrumental in putting pressure on UEFA for increased revenues from European fixtures.

## Primera Liga

# Zaragoza abase Real



MADRID, Dec 5: Troubled Real Madrid suffered their worst home defeat in 25 years when they were crushed 5-1 by Real Zaragoza on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Real, who have not won at home in the Spanish league since August and sacked manager John Toshack last month, had not conceded five at home since February 1974 when a Johan Cruyff-led Barcelona thrashed them 5-0.

This defeat was a great affront to every Madrid supporter, said Real Madrid coach Vicente del Bosque who only took over at the helm after John Toshack was sacked just over two weeks ago.

"We did not play like a team and the defence collectively had serious problems. We have to forget personal issues and play like a team," he added.

However, he denied that he was contemplating resigning, despite two defeats and a draw in his first three league games and the fact that his is only an interim appointment until the end of the season.

Del Bosque insisted: "I not going to throw in the towel. I have the courage and enough character to weather this storm and intend to get over this situation."

The rout started on 29 minutes when Savo Milosevic found

himself unmarked and headed past the helpless Albano Bizarri in the Madrid goal.

Juanane Castano added two more goals before halftime as Real Madrid left huge gaps in defence.

Raul Gonzalez raised hopes of a Real Madrid fightback when his shot from the edge of the area was mishandled by Zaragoza goalkeeper Juanmi Garcia and spun into the net after 53 minutes.

However, that was to prove the only piece of luck for Real Madrid.

Ander Garitano added his name to the list of Real Zaragoza scorers just a minute later when Ivan Helguera failed to cover back properly.

Milosevic scored Zaragoza's fifth after 68 minutes, with Helguera again at fault. It was the Yugoslav striker's 15th goal of the season and made him the Spanish First Division's most prolific marksman.

Real Madrid actually had slightly more possession than Zaragoza but their porous defence let them down badly and Zaragoza had 21 shots at goal compared with Madrid's 11.

Real Zaragoza stayed third in the table with 25 points from 14 games. They are two points behind Galician clubs Deportivo Coruna and Celta Vigo, who

both have 27 points and play today. Real Madrid are 13th.

Barcelona finally broke their four-game losing streak with a 3-2 home win over struggling Oviedo.

The Catalan club had the game well under their control with three goals in the first 27 minutes, the first two coming from midfielder Philip Cocu and third from fellow Dutchman Patrick Kluitert, who scored after connecting with a Luis Figo cross.

However, Barcelona relaxed in the second half and allowed Oviedo to creep back with late goals from Roberto Losada and Juan Gonzalez.

Points were evenly split in the bitterly fought Basque derby between Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Athletic Bilbao may claim to be moral victors, though, after two goals by Jose Maria Lacruz were disallowed because of marginal handballs by his team mates.

Sevilla remained bottom of the table, still with only one win all season after losing 2-0 at Valencia.

Valencia dominated throughout and Juan Sanchez and Claudio Lopez scored their goals.

Down with a mini-break in the second set tie-break, Paes blasted an ace on his second serve and from then on there was no looking back.

"I had to fight my way back, but it is satisfying to win when you are not playing your best tennis," a beaming Paes said.

The Indian now heads for the Jaipur Challenger.

Srichaphan had the consolation of winning the doubles title when he and Dane Kristian Plesch defeated the British pair of Martin Lee and Delgado 5-7, 6-3, 7-5 in the final.

The reverse singles will pit Australia's Mark Philippoussis against Cedric Pielone and teenager Lleyton Hewitt against Sebastian Grosjean on the red clay at the Acropolis Exhibition Centre — with the Australians needing to win only one to take the Cup for the 27th time.

"It's not over until it's over. If you have your man on the ropes, you have to kick him right through them," said Australian captain John Newcombe, confirming his team's uncompromising approach.

Australia took a 1-0 lead on Friday when Philippoussis beat Grosjean 6-4, 6-2, 6-4. Pielone later beat teenager Lleyton Hewitt 7-6 (9/7), 7-6 (8/6), 7-5 in a 3hr 40min thriller to lift the hosts level at 1-1 after the first day.

The veteran Aussie doubles pair, known as the Woodies, had to save a set point, to prevent them from going two sets to love down before rediscovering their form after they had seemed destined for defeat.

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## Paes retains ATP challenger title

LUCKNOW, Dec 5: India's tennis ace Leander Paes, aiming to improve his singles rankings, was made to fight by Jaime Delgado before he beat the Briton in a close encounter to clinch the ATP challenger title here yesterday, reports PTI.

Paes came out unscathed 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/5) to retain the title he won last year, but with a new ranking system coming up from the dawn of year 2000, points earned here hardly mean anything.

The Indian was not his usual self yesterday as both the sets went into the tiebreaker, but kept his cool, winning vital points to emerge winner.

Delgado, who on Friday disposed of top seed Pradorn Srichaphan of Thailand, exhibited some excellent backhand passing winners but failed to sustain the momentum and faltered at crucial points.

A serve and volleyer, Paes was hampered by the Briton's style of play as the pinned Indian to the baseline and did not allow him too much of room.

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Mark Woodforde (R) and Todd Woodforde congratulate each other after clinching victory in their Davis Cup doubles match. — AFP photo

# Aussies owe Woodies one



NICE, France, Dec 5: Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge scored a remarkable comeback doubles win on Saturday that left Australia on the brink of their first Davis Cup title for 13 years, reports AFP.

Woodforde and Woodbridge rallied to defeat Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Delaite 6-7, 5-6, 6-2, 6-2 to steer Australia into a 2-1 lead going into today's reverse singles.

The winners of the doubles in each of the last 21 Davis Cup finals have gone on to win the title.

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them at the beginning. The French were playing extremely well and the Woodies had to call on all of their courage and fight to come back," said Newcombe.

"I didn't know how they were going to do it because things were going so bad."

Newcombe said before the final that he believes it is his team's destiny to win the Cup.

From the moment that left-hander Woodforde dropped his serve in the opening game, the Australians were fighting an uphill battle in front of a fiercely patriotic 10,000 crowd.

"It was so loud we couldn't hear each other," said Woodforde, whose serve was broken twice as the French wrapped up the first set in 35min.

Solid, rather than spectacular tennis gave the French combination the edge. They served well and kept the ball in court, while the Australians were plagued by volleying errors.

Woodbridge, in particular, was unable to find his touch and he was punished mercilessly by Santoro and Delaite.

"We kept making the first error and that was very frustrating," said Woodforde.

The French again got off to a fast start in the second set, breaking Woodbridge's fragile serve in the third game.

By the time Delaite played a winning shot from behind his back, it had become almost embarrassingly one-sided.

Then, suddenly, the contest swung. Delaite served for the second set at 5-4 and the French squandered a set point after a sizzling Woodforde backhand.

The Australians took full advantage, breaking for 5-5 when Delaite mishit a simple backhand into the net.

Woodbridge held for only the

second time in the match and the Aussies broke Santoro to 15 — Woodforde pouncing at the net — to take the set in 61min.

From 2-2 in the third set, the Australians took command. They broke first Delaite and then Santoro as their confidence grew. They clinched the set on Santoro's serve when Delaite sprayed a volley wide.

In the fourth set, Delaite for 5-1 before Woodbridge served for the match — but was broken after missing a match point.

The Australians promptly broke Santoro again to seal the win in 3hr 8min.

The Woodies won 16 of the last 20 games after the amazing form reversal, which left the French perplexed.

"There were two matches in one match," said Santoro. "The second match started when the Australians began to believe in themselves."

French coach Guy Forget said his team now faces a tough task on Sunday.

"If we had won today then we had a serious chance to win the Cup," he said. "Now it is different."

Their win saw Woodforde and Woodbridge make amends for their defeat in Australia's 1993 Davis Cup final loss to Germany, when they lost in four sets to Michael Stich and Patrick Kuhnert.

The pair have won nine Grand Slam titles and shared Olympic gold medals but are hoping for their first Davis Cup title.

They had lost both of their previous meetings with Santoro and Delaite but now have a 14-2 Davis Cup doubles record and are unbeaten as a pair in Cup play for over five years.

## TV Guide

Monday 6th December

(All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme)

## BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News  
6:30 Reporters 7:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc.  
World Business Report/24 Hours 7:45 Reporters 8:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc.  
World Business Report 8:45 Reporters 9:00 BBC News Inc.  
World Business Report/USA Direct/Asia Today/24 Hours 9:30 Asia Today  
9:45 Reporters 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent  
11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India 4/6- Goa 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 India Business Reports  
1:00 BBC World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 World News 2:30 World Focus: Correspondent  
3:00 World News 3:30 HARDtalk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Top Gear 5:00 BBC The World Today 6:30 World Focus: Correspondent  
7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: Madhur Jaffrey's Flavours of India 4/6- Goa 9:00 World News 9:30 HARDtalk 10:00 World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent  
11:00 BBC World News 11:30 World Living: Earth Report- Back To The Future 12:00 The World Today 1:30 Hard