

## les' successful comeback

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb 28: Martina Sles capped her return week from a five-month off by capturing her 45th career title with a victory over seed Nathalie Dechy of France at the IGA Superfinals Classic, reports Reuters. After powering her way through three lopsided victories under an hour each, the second seed had to battle back in 2-5 down in the second set to a 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) victory over Dechy and claim what was Sles a somewhat unexpected title.

This tournament rates high here with my others because I didn't play in five months," Sles, who had been sidelined by a stress fracture to her foot, an injury that caused her to miss the Australian

Open and Wimbledon, I think the doctors will give me 10 days," added Sles after collecting \$33000 for her title since Amelia Island

Open. She looked on her way to another after the 24-24 first set when Dechy, in her first appearance in a tour final, shook off a nerves and threatened to end the match.

"It's ready to play," said Sles, who turned 21 this week and didn't drop a set in the final. "But I looked and there was the big end and I realized I was in my 10s."

She took me awhile to get go-

ing with seed broke Sles for a hold serve to seize a 5-4 edge. But Sles battled to force the tiebreaker and win the third set.

Former world number one seed set made the 14 and 15 minute final a 15-15 set. "This was a good game today, having to

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Pakistan.

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lift the morale," he added.

Pakistan were blanked 3-0 in the Test series against Australia down under and were whitewashed 2-0 by the same team in the Carlton and United one-day tri-series finals.

De Silva hit 122 with five sixes at Faisalabad in the 1985-86 series against Pakistan and followed it with 105 in Karachi.

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Gadir in 1986 were my best but

1997-98.

"It is often said I like batting

against Pakistan but it's due to

my success against them," he

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He was instrumental in Sri

Lanka's triumph in the 1996

World Cup but lost favour after

his side failed to defend the title

in England last year.

"It was disappointing but I

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my bat do the talking," he said.

De Silva opted out of Sri

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year due to family commit-

ments and was not considered

for the one-day series against

Pakistan.

"It's up to the selectors but I

think I can still deliver the

goods in both forms of the game," he said.

"I don't play for records but

to score more and more runs for

my country is my concern," he

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De Silva said his ambition

was to beat South Africa.

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South Africans."

"I don't really set long term goals but I'd like to be there for the next World Cup."

## PCB chief discontent

RAWALPINDI, Feb 28: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ad hoc chairman general Tausif Zia Sunday voiced dissatisfaction over the state of affairs in the country's cricket and the team performance of late, reports AFP.

"I am not satisfied at all, neither with the working at Board's headquarters in Lahore nor with team's recent showing, it's zero per cent," he told reporters during the Test in here.

"But I am not losing heart, the team needs just one win to lift the morale," he added.

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Stri Lanka inflicted 3-0 one-day series defeat on the home team ahead of the three-match Test series.

"I am myself disappointed with the results," Zia said.

India top players Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar and Azhar Mahmood added to the home team's problems.

"But give us time, at present five top men are working in the advisory council. If they can't improve Pakistan cricket nobody can," Zia said.

Pakistan has a history of mismanagement in cricket affairs with three set-ups changed last year.

Zia, an army commander, took over in December and his is the third interim set-up.

"Our cricket is not in disarray... the chief executive General Pervez Musharraf has given me full authority," he said, referring to the military ruler who seized power in October.

Zia came down hard on Akhtar, who was suspended for a one-day match against Sri Lanka earlier in the month and was fined 200,000 rupees (4,000 dollars) after he violated discipline during Pakistan's tour of Australia.

"We gave the players a psychologist for mental guidance and the only thing left is my last weapon," Zia said, without elaborating.

Zia denied a newspaper interview report which quoted him as saying Pakistan will have a new captain after the series against Sri Lanka.

A three-member selection committee has been appointed by the board headed by former captain Wasim Bari.

Former Test players Iqbal Qasim and Ehteshamuddin are its members.

## WTA's top 20 money earners

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Feb 28 (Reuters): Top 20 money winners this year in women's tennis, according to WTA Tour:

1 Davenport	847,955
2 Hingis	467,089
3 Serena	158,906
4 Tsvetan	144,158
5 Testud	139,886
6 Stubb	135,463
7 Kournikova	132,809
8 Raymond	127,576
9 Conchita	127,164
10 Pierce	125,717
11 Hajar-Degugis	120,393
12 Mauresmo	119,458
13 Capriati	116,417
14 Arantxa	91,879
15 Al Sugiyama	89,043
16 Likhovtseva	88,595
17 Rubin	64,933
18 Schnyder	62,364
19 Sjodt	61,461
20 Coetzer	60,761

## Aravinda's aspiration

RAWALPINDI, Feb 28: Veteran batsman Aravinda de Silva Sunday vowed to keep on scoring runs in international cricket as long as he stays fit, reports AFP.

"I want to be remembered as run-scoring and successful batsman and want to go on (while) I am fit enough to play and perform," De Silva told news agency after smashing 112 against Pakistan in the Rawalpindi Test.

De Silva's 18th ton in his

80th Test was his eighth against

Pakistan.

"All hundreds are special but

considering the situation this

can be rated as one of the best

of my career," the 34-year-old

from Colombo said.

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sixes at Faisalabad in the 1985-

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ARAVINDA DE SILVA

## Rosset stuns Kafelnikov

LONDON, Feb 28: World number 72 Marc Rosset stunned top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-4, 6-4, to win the 800,000 dollars London Indoor Championships in convincing fashion on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The Swiss player maintained his extraordinary supremacy over the world number three and has now won 10 of his 13 matches.

By reaching the final, Rosset became the leader of the new ATP Champions Race, which counts results from this year only, leapfrogging over Andre Agassi at the top.

Rosset, the only man apart from Agassi to have won titles in the 1980s, 1990s and this decade, started electrically, whipping a backhand pass down the line for a break in the third game.

Kafelnikov, champion here in 1998, broke back immediately with a similar backhand but three games later Rosset again broke the Russian's serve.

Kafelnikov, so impressive in his semifinal demolition of Greg Rusedski, seemed unable to impose his game on the Swiss.

Rosset used his full 2.01 metres frame to smash down serves and his court coverage frustrated the normally cool Kafelnikov.

He served out the opening set

— clinching it with an ace in just 35 minutes as Kafelnikov struggled for ideas.

It was the same story in the second set as Rosset threatened the Russian's serve at every turn and rarely looked troubled on his own delivery.

Rosset, the thinking behind that is believed to have been partly



Mallorca's Cameroonian Lauren Bisan-Etem (L) trying to go past Denote Romero during