

## Athletes off to Pakistan

Sports Reporter

A seven-member Bangladesh athletics team left the capital for Pakistan last night to take part in an international meet to be held in Karachi from May 20 to 22.

The team is expected to return home on May 24. The following are the members of the team: Mahbub Alam, Fowzia Huda, Humayun Kabir, Abu Taleb, Biplobuddin Bhuiyan, Shafiqul Islam and Ilyasuddin.

Farhad Jesmin Liti and Nuruddin Chowdhury Nayan will accompany as officials.

## Lord's jinx

From page 13

had a good bowl this morning, looked impressive, and he'll be playing on Thursday."

Flower said: "He has not been fully fit for a while, and I hope for his sake and for Zimbabwe's sake that he can restore his fitness completely."

Flower himself plays a triple role, as skipper, wicket-keeper and top order batsman in a side he acknowledges does not boast any stars but which he believes is an effective combination.

England's preparations were disrupted when Kent seamer Dean Headley, one of their 12 centrally-contracted players ruled himself out of contention by opting for back surgery that should keep him out for the rest of the season.

His absence has opened the door for lively Durham fast bowler Steve Harmison. The 21-year-old is called up into the Test squad for the first time. Warwickshire paceman Ed Giddins, capped once, against New Zealand last summer is recalled after being omitted from the winter tour to South Africa because of suspect fitness.

He and Harmison are probably competing for one place alongside first-choice seamers Andy Caddick and Darren Gough, assuming 20-year-old Lancashire leg-spinner Chris Schofield is given his debut.

Batting has been the Achilles heel of many a recent England performance. A finger-injury to Yorkshire's Michael Vaughan has seen the selectors recall Warwickshire left-hander Nick Knight.

Curiously Knight, normally an opening batsman, will bat at number six while Mark Ramprakash, whose Test appearances have come in the middle order, will open alongside Michael Atherton.

Ramprakash was also left out during the winter, the scapegoat for a series of poor team batting displays. He has long been regarded as having the temperament for opening but Knight could have done with batting in his usual spot.

England coach Duncan Fletcher, now finds himself up against the land of his birth as does Graeme Hick, the enigma of English cricket. More failures from Hick will surely signal the end of his roller-coaster Test career. But he has had so many comebacks that another one cannot be ruled out.

Logic says England should win but sport often makes logic looks useless. The last time these countries met in a Test, in 1996/97 the match was drawn with the scores level.

The then England coach David Lloyd said: "We flippin' murdered them." His words made him look foolish and Zimbabwe will relish the chance to inflict a similar fate on his successor.

## Fickle foes

From page 13

Pakistan will face a crisis at the top of the order, since those tried there have not given them the kind of base from which to build monumental totals.

Mohammed Wasim, one of them, warmed up with score of 111 and 47 against the Windies A team on the weekend, but others in contention like Wajahatullah Wasti, Imran Nazir and Shahid Afridi, all failed to make a lasting impression.

The middle-order too, has been suspect. Only vice-captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has shown any consistency with the bat and the time could be soon running out when he would be their saviour.

Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana and Moin will all have to get meaningful runs, so that the calamity of 39 for five from which Pakistan fortunately recovered through Inzamam and Abdur will not occur again.

The two teams can expect to find a hard, true Kensington Oval pitch which produced the epic Test between West Indies and world champions Australia last year.

The batsmen should be able to comfortably play their strokes, and the bowlers should get enough to keep the match lively.

## SQUADS

**West Indies** (from): Jimmy Adams (captain), Sherwin Campbell (vice-captain), Adrian Griffith, Wavell Hinds, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Chris Gayle, Ridley Jacobs, Nixon McLean, Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh, Reon King, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Mahendra Nampootoo.

**Pakistan** (from): Moin Khan (captain), Inzamam-ul-Haq (vice-captain), Mohammed Wasim, Wajahatullah Wasti, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdur Razaq, Wasim Akram, Saglain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Arshad Khan, Imran Nazir, Mohammed Akram, Shabbir Ahmed, Shahid Afridi, Shoab Akhtar.

**Umpires:** Eddie Nicholls, Rudi Koertzen (Third Umpire: Halley Moore).

**Match referee:** Peter Burge.

# Brian's return bucks up Adams



BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, May 17 (AP) — New West Indies captain Jimmy Adams gave Brian Lara's return to the West Indies cricket team an enthusiastic seal of approval.

"I'm very, very pleased to know that Brian is touring England," said the man who took over the captaincy when Lara resigned in February. "It's just fantastic to know he's now part of the squad."

After informing the West Indies Cricket Board that he was unavailable for the England tour, Lara changed his mind last week, after the team of 16 was already picked but not announced. Chairman of selectors Michael Findlay hurriedly raised his colleagues who agreed to Lara's late inclusion. Lara said he had initially declined to play because his mother is ill.

Adams and his team are in Barbados preparing for the second Test against Pakistan starting Thursday at Kensington Oval.

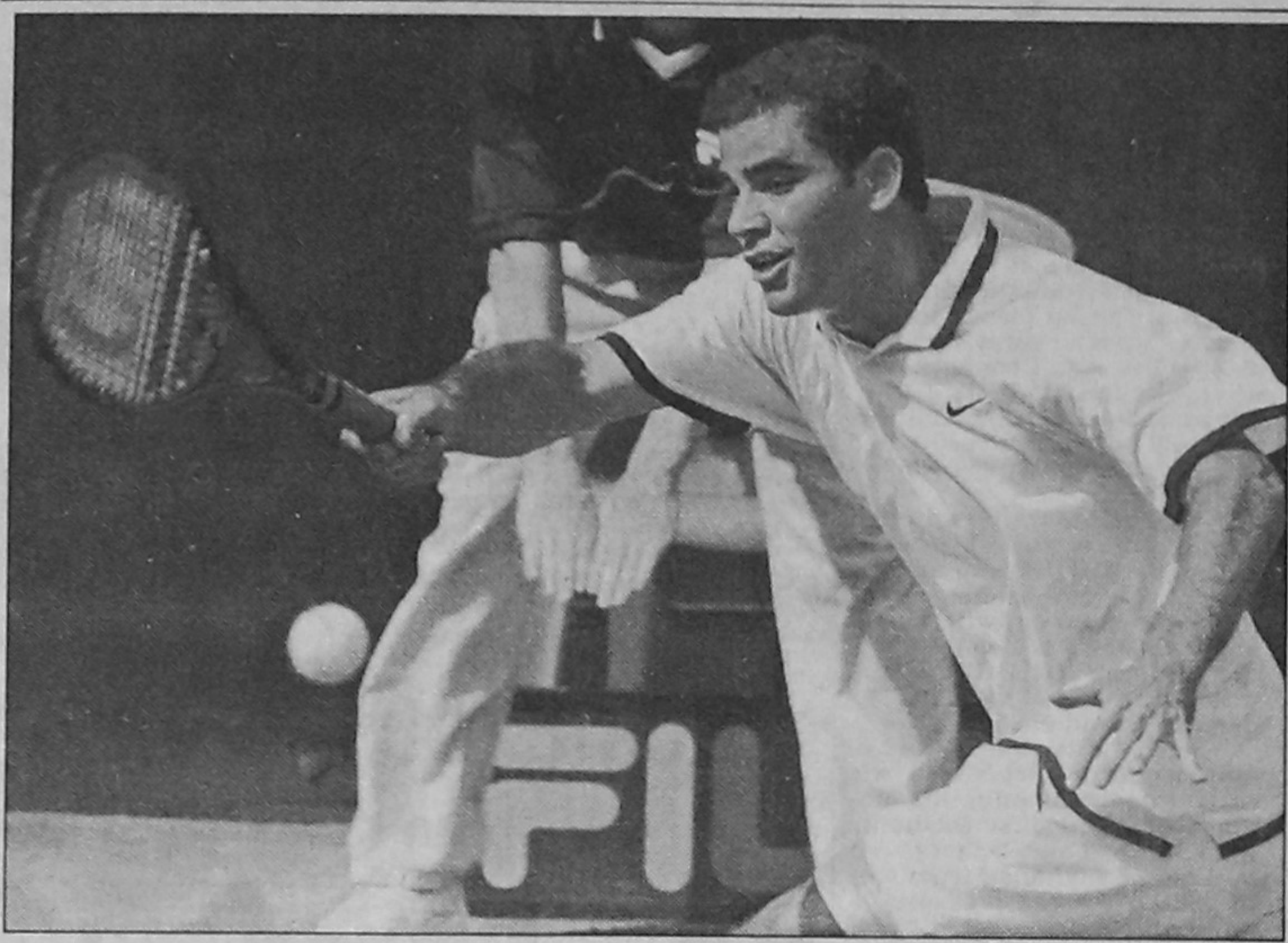
He dismissed speculation that temperamental master batsman Lara would be a disruptive influence on a team that has found a new spirit under his own leadership. He said he and his players were confident "of the positive contribution we know he will have on the team."

## Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, May 17: Babul Samriti Sangha defeated Jeon Club by 10 wickets while Lutash Sangha beat Hercules by one wicket in the Econo-Cricket League matches at the Magura Stadium today.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
**JEON CLUB:** 71 all out in 22.4 overs (Rajib 14, Firoz 11, Ashraf 7, Partho 3/14, Mukta 1/12, Modhu 1/6).  
**BABUL SMRITI SANGHA:** 74 for no loss in 8 overs (Pankaj 36, Kishore 18).  
**HERCULES:** 99 all out in 23.4 overs (Tushar 17, Kajal 16, Dharmendra 10; Shisham 4/17, Pavel 2/16, Biswa 2/8).  
**LUTASH SANGHA:** 100 for 9 in 23.2 overs (Mehedi 16, CI 13, Ekas 11; Sanjib 3/14, Tushar 2/10, Shaheen 2/12).



Pete Sampras in action against compatriot Chris Woodruff during their Hamburg Masters fixture on May 16.

# Sampras coasts through

HAMBURG, May 17: Pete Sampras made a successful return from injury by beating fellow American Chris Woodruff 6-4, 7-6 in the first round at the Hamburg Masters Series on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

But it was a bad day for other former world number ones as Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Carlos Moya and Patrick Rafter made early exits from the 2.95 million dollars claycourt event on a hot day.

Magus Norman, who took over from Andre Agassi at the top of the Champions Race rankings last week, underlined his brilliant form with a 6-2, 6-4 win over fellow Swede Thomas Johansson.

Top seed Sampras, playing his first tournament since hurting his quad muscle in the US Davis Cup defeat of the Czech Republic in early April, showed glimpses of his top form in the first set but then appeared to tire.

"I had fun for a set and a half but then I started to feel a bit rusty and I also lost patience a little bit."

## Davenport, Seles sail

ROME, May 17: World number one Lindsay Davenport marked her return from a six-week injury lay-off with a no-nonsense 6-3, 6-2 second round win over Russian teenager Elena Dementieva in the Italian Open on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Davenport, out with a foot injury since her defeat by Martina Hingis in the Miami Open final in April, made only a 58-minute debut on Rome's red clay.

But Monica Seles made heavy weather of her first set against Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva and had to recover from 5-2 down before winning 7-5, 6-1.

The two Americans were joined in the third round by France's 12th seed Annette Mauressmo, a semifinalist here last year.

She powered past Czech Kveta Hrdlikova 6-0, 6-2 to set up a possible last 16 clash with compatriot Mary Pierce.

Venus Williams will start her title defence on Wednesday with a second round tie against fellow American Chanda Rubin.

Davenport dropped serve once in each set against the 18-year-old Dementieva but relied on her punishing flat forehand to push her opponent to the corners of the court.

The number one seed, who had a first round bye, will now face a former Italian wild card Giulia Gasoni or 15th seed Dominik Van Roost of Belgium.



— AFP photo

"The quad is not a problem," said Sampras who has been hampered by injuries all season. "Maybe I could have played Rome but it was safer to leave it a bit more time to heal."

Kafelnikov, the second seed, extended his poor run on clay when he was brushed aside 6-4, 6-3 by Dutchman Sjeng Schalken.

The Russian, French Open champion in 1996, has been beaten in the second round in Rome, Barcelona and Monte Carlo, and in the first round in Estoril in recent weeks.

Moya, who won at Roland-Garros two years after Kafelnikov, also went out, falling 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 to fellow Spanish baseliner Juan Carlos Ferrero, seeded 15th.

Rafter's comeback from injury suffered another setback when the 11th-seeded Australian went out 6-4, 7-5 to South Africa's Wayne Ferreira.

The two-times US Open champion suffered his second consecutive first round defeat after losing last week in Rome on his return from a month out nursing a recurrence of the shoulder injury which plagued his 1999 season.

"The shoulder's fine and I was hitting the ball okay but I was probably not concentrating enough," he said. "When you play these guys you have to lift your game and I just can't do that at the moment."

Sampras, warming up for the only Grand Slam to elude him, the French Open starting

and the tour as a whole."

"He's the best batsman we have available in the Caribbean," he said Tuesday. "Not only as a batsman but as a senior player and as a person we all look forward to him coming on the tour. Not only on behalf of the team but, personally, it's nice to have him back as well."

The two have been close since Adams first played in the first youth World Cup in Australia in 1988 with Lara as his captain. Earlier this season, Adams described Lara as "like a brother, on and off the field."

Adams played all his 39 Tests with Lara before Lara took his break, keeping him out of the recent home series against Zimbabwe and Pakistan. To seek the assistance of appropriate professionals to rebuild all facets of his game. Lara has not played any cricket since Trinidad and Tobago's last match in the Busta Cup 2000 series on 8 February and has only three weeks to get himself in shape before the tour starts with a three-day match against Worcestershire. It is less than a month before the first Test starting June 15 at Edgbaston.

## Lara still tops Test ratings



LONDON, May 17 (Reuters): Brian Lara is still top of the world batting ratings for Test cricket despite taking a break from the game since the beginning of March.

Former West Indies captain Lara, who is to emerge from his self-imposed exile for the forthcoming tour of England, leads Sachin Tendulkar by 10 points in the latest ratings issued by sponsors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on Tuesday.

Lara, who missed a two-Test encounter against Zimbabwe in the Caribbean recently and is not playing in the current home three-Test rubber against Pakistan, is still number one in the ratings because they are based on performances during the past two years.

In the last 18 months Lara has scored 1,023 Test runs at an average of more than 50.

By contrast, he is only 18th in the PwC batting ratings for one-day internationals.

That is because in his last 30 one-day innings Lara has passed 50 only twice, and on 10 occasions has failed to get into double figures.

## LEST'S TOP TEN

1. Brian Lara 873 (points)  
2. Sachin Tendulkar 863  
3. Steve Waugh 841  
4. Ricky Ponting 804  
5. Saeed Anwar 794  
6. Inzamamul Haq 786  
7. Aravinda de Silva 775  
8. Justin Langer 767  
9. Andy Flower 763  
10. Nasser Hussain 750

## ONE-DAY'S TOP TEN

1. Michael Bevan 795  
2. Saurav Ganguly 775  
3. Nathan Asle 740  
4. Jacques Kallis 723  
5. Lance Klusener 723  
6. Ricky Ponting 721  
7. Neil Johnson 700  
8. Adam Gilchrist 684  
9. Inzamamul Haq 681  
10. Hansie Cronje 677

## WI keep faith in selectors

BRIDGETOWN, May 17 (Reuters): The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) has given its backing to its senior selectors, saying they will remain unchanged for the next two years.

The current panel of Mike Findlay (chairman), Joey Carey and Joel Garner were told they would be retained on Monday after a weekend meeting of the Board directors in Guyana.

The Board also decided on a three-man junior selection committee, comprising Clyde Butts (chairman), Ezra Moseley and Robert Haynes.

There was no role for former West Indies captain Viv Richards who had expressed a desire to become a selector.

Butts is a former Guyana and West Indies off-spinner while Moseley is a former Barbados and West Indies fast bowler.

Haynes, the current coach of Jamaica, played one-day cricket for the West Indies.

Moseley and Haynes replace Garner and Jeffrey Dujon, who is the new assistant coach of the West Indies.

WICB president Pat Rousseau is chairman of the new executive committee of the Board which consists of WICB vice-president Clavis Joseph, the WICB's chief finance officer Richard Jodhan, Chetram Singh, Richard DeSouza and Stephen Alleyne.

## Thomson's money on Zimbabwe

LONDON, May 17 (Reuters): Former Australian fast bowler Jeff Thomson believes Zimbabwe can beat England in their debut Test at Lord's this week.

Thomson, who has been coaching Zimbabwe's bowlers in recent weeks, believes the country is capable of causing an upset at the home of international cricket, where England have a poor record in the past 10 years. The Test opens on Thursday.

"A few weeks ago, these blokes were not much more than names and half-familiar faces to me," Thomson wrote in a column for London's Evening Standard newspaper.

"Now having worked with them as a bowling coach during a few warm-up games in Kent, Sussex and Essex, I believe they can create a bit of history over the next few days by beating England at the home of cricket."

England have won just once at Lord's in the past 10 years, a victory over West Indies in 1995, and lost six times.

"Their Test record at Lord's is none too flash, as any Australian will happily tell you, and yet they are being urged to not only beat Zimbabwe but also to beat them by a distance," Thomson said.

"Suddenly I don't mind this underdog tag — especially in a two-horse race."

# Parents repairing pairing



NEW DELHI, May 17: Parents of troubled Indian tennis pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi today expressed optimism that the world beating pair will come together again by early next year.

"Dr Vece Paes and I are confident that the year 2001 will again be like 1998 and we do not want anyone to say or do anything to spoil the wonderful partnership between the two lads," Mahesh's father C G K

Bhupathi told PTI over phone from Bangalore.

Paes and Bhupathi have broken up their partnership at least for the current season on the ATP tour after a fruitful, if troublesome, 1999 in which they reached a record four Grand Slam finals in a calendar year winning back-to-back titles at French Open and Wimbledon.

The partnership has brought nothing but glory and joy to the country, senior Bhupathi said and hoped the next season will revive Leander and Mahesh's

association.

Paes and Bhupathi won six ATP tour titles including three erstwhile super nine events in 1998 and cracks started appearing the following year but they stuck on and carried on with professional understanding culminating in the Wimbledon and French Open glory.

The final blow to the pairing was struck when Paes, after a long silence, blamed Bhupathi's personal coach Enrico Pierro for the Break-up and also ruled out any tie-up with Bhupathi on the ATP Tour for the rest of the year.

Senior Bhupathi, who has been busy for the last three days doing damage-repair work along with Dr Paes, said: "If we keep harping on what has happened in the past, how can we act in the present and plan for the future?"

A glimmer of hope for the reunion between the two doubles specialists was given when Pierro on Monday offered to quit any moment if it helped Paes and Bhupathi to come together again.

"I am hurt by the allegations made by Leander. But I am ready to leave Mahesh and go back to Calcutta any moment if it helps the two come together as a pair," Pierro said from Hamburg where Bhupathi is playing in the masters series event.

An emotional CGK Bhupathi appealed to the media — both print and electronic — not to do anything which will come in the way of their reuniting.

Though Mahesh on Monday ruled out any possibility of the two coming together at least for this year saying there are several other core issues to be settled with Leander, his father's assertion that problems will be sorted out gives some hope for Indian tennis.



Leander Paes (L) and Mahesh Bhupathi. — Star file photo

# O'Neill sets new mark



SYDNEY, May 17: Australia's Susie O'Neill on Wednesday clocked 2 minutes, 58.1 seconds for the

200 metres butterfly to shave 0.15 off the world record set in 1981 by American Mary T Meagher, reports AP.

Meagher's time of 2:05.96, set at Brown Deer on Aug. 13, 1981, had been the longest standing record in interna-

tional swimming.

"Finally," said O'Neill after skipping and dancing off the pool deck at the Sydney Aquatic Center. "The whole race felt really good."

O'Neill, the 1996 Atlanta Olympic gold medalist, was pushed all the way by Olympic silver medalist Petria Thomas, who clocked 2:07.21 to place second in the Australian Olympic selection trials.

"I just felt really strong in the water," said O'Neill. "I knew

I was going to touch and when I heard the reaction from the crowd I knew I had done it."

O'Neill was ahead of world record pace from the start and, turning into the final lap, had the 10,126-strong crowd on its feet urging her on with an almost deafening roar.

Her split at 50 metres was 28.51 seconds, inside the 29.53 world record pace. She clocked 1:00.24 at 100 metres, cutting more than a second of the world record split of 1:01.41, and then maintained the margin over the next 50 to turn at 1:32.71 going into the final lap.

After touching in record time, she looked up and punched both fists into the air in triumph, celebrating the end of a six-year quest.

The 26-year-old Australian has gone unbeaten in the 200 butterfly since 1994 and has been edging ever closer to Meagher's record, winning at the Olympic world championships and Pan Pacific Games.

She broke her own Commonwealth record in the semifinal Monday, clocking 2:06.51 to better the existing mark by 0.02.

Going into the race, O'Neill was the second fastest woman ever over the distance but admitted to having her doubts about overhauling Meagher.

After setting the fifth world record in the opening five days of the Australian trials, O'Neill said it was time to start focusing on the Sept. 15-Oct. 1 Olympics.

It was O'Neill's 35th national title.

Earlier Wednesday, O'Neill had withdrawn from the 100 metres freestyle to focus on her bid for the record.

Last April in Sand Antonio, O'Neill broke Meagher's US Open championship record for the 200 butterfly, clocking 2:07.20 to shave 1.55 seconds off the mark which had stood for 12 years.

Before the meet, O'Neill has given herself four more chances to break the record, including the semifinals and finals of both the Australian trials and the Olympics. But she predicted it was more likely to happen here.

SUPER SUSAN: Susan O'Neill is ecstatic after breaking the world record in the 200 metres butterfly final of the Australian Olympic Swimming selection trials at Sydney yesterday.



SUPER SUSAN: Susan O'Neill is ecstatic after breaking the world record in the 200 metres butterfly final of the Australian Olympic Swimming selection trials at Sydney yesterday.

— AFP photo

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Spoil  
6 Trouble  
9 Lob's path  
12 My Dinner With Andre  
13 Intention  
14 Try to win  
15 Straight-out  
16 Police's  
17 Rocks  
18 Mob scene  
20 Void partner  
21 Canto  
23 Grafton's  
24 De-squeaked  
25 Three Ships  
27 Michael of  
28 Cavat  
31 Component  
35 Winfrey's production company  
37 Lotion additive

**DOWN**  
1 Hrs. at 0 degrees longitude  
2 Steering device  
3 Puritanical  
4 "A Chorus Lin"  
5 Villain  
6 Indiana-der river  
7 Art store supply  
8 Ostich's cousin  
9 Horrible  
10 Either of "Good Times"  
11 Had the skills  
17 Baffler  
19 Kitchen device  
21 Chest protector  
22 Away from  
24 "A Chorus Lin"  
26 Lei distributor  
28 Romance  
30 Skedaddled  
32 Gainsborough subject  
33 Unspecified duration  
34 Room  
36 Orson  
38 Messing of "Will & Grace"  
39 Soothe  
40 Mail carrier's beat  
42 Parade  
45 Gall  
46 Mrs. Copperfield  
48 Truffaut's "Jules and"—  
50 Animal that sounds like a pronoun  
51 Canine treat: Abbr.

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

**LETTER PATTERN:** 21P, 22P, 23P, 24P, 25P, 26P, 27P, 28P, 29P, 30P, 31P, 32P, 33P, 34P, 35P, 36P, 37P, 38P, 39P, 40P, 41P, 42P, 43P, 44P, 45P, 46P, 47P, 48P, 49P, 50P, 51P.

**Monday's answer**



CRYPTOQUIP

JFA XJFRAJQG WKBD A

HYQB JFXJ FA MAARRO

ACWVOAB DVQCD JV

JFA JACQHQ GVKMJ

Yesterday's Cryptquip: HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT THE WORLD'S MOST TALKATIVE ANIMAL SURELY IS? THE YAK.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals J

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Bangladesh Tennis Federation president Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury (c) inaugurating the second leg of National Tennis Circuit at the Ramna Tennis Complex yesterday.

— Star photo