

Sport

Adams thinks the world of ageing duo

BRIDGETOWN, May 24: West Indies captain Jimmy Adams is adamant pace bowlers Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh, who have a combined age of 73, are not too old to go on the tour of England, reports Reuters.

"I have every confidence they will make a big impression on the English tour, plain and simple," he said after the drawn second Test with Pakistan on Monday.

"I wouldn't discriminate against (19-year-old) Ramnareh Sarwan's age, so I wouldn't discriminate against their age either."

"Viv Richards played until he was 39. Clive Lloyd was playing until he was 40 and they were both doing very well."

Walsh, the record wicket-taker in Tests, took five for 22 in the Pakistan first innings even if he occasionally looked sluggish in the field.

The inclusion of the pair, who have continued to open the West Indies' four-man pace attack against Pakistan, is one of a number of controversies over the selection of the squad.

The selection panel, which includes Adams, has also been under fire for taking only 16 players and for including just one recognised wicketkeeper in Ridley Jacobs.

Former fast bowler Michael Holding has described the selection procedure as "rubbish, absolute rubbish."

He also said this week that former captain Brian Lara, who initially refused to make himself available but was included after a last minute u-turn, should have been left out.

Adams, who has described Lara as "being like a brother," preferred to talk about the prospects of young batsmen Wavell Hinds and Sarwan.

Hinds, 23, was named man-of-the-match after making 165 and 52 in the second Test while Sarwan, four years Hinds' junior, celebrated his Test debut with an unbeaten 84.

"We are seeing young men making the grade and making statements early in their career and this is a wonderful and positive feeling," said Adams.

"I am very happy for both of them. I have watched them come up through A team cricket. To see them fulfilling their potential is a wonderful feeling."

Rain rules at counties

LONDON, May 24: Rain interfered with all seven games on the first day of the latest round of English County Championship matches Tuesday, reports AFP.

Surrey left-hand opener Ian Ward was unbeaten on 73 as the champions made 135 for two against Kent at Canterbury. This match was one of just two to get underway.

In Division Two there was time for Sussex medium-pacer James Kirtley to take three for 30 as Essex finished the day on 59 for three at Chelmsford.

Elsewhere there was no play at all in the matches between Hampshire and Lancashire, Glamorgan and Warwickshire and Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Pete again falters

DUESSELDORF, Germany, May 24: Tommy Haas upset Pete Sampras in straight sets Tuesday and Germany went on to beat the United States 2-1 at the Team World Cup, reports AP.

Sampras fell to his second loss in as many matches at the team competition and to 1-3 in his latest comeback, not an encouraging sign less than a week before the start of the French Open.

Haas, who had never beaten Sampras before in four previous clashes, earned a 7-5, 6-2 victory over the former No. 1, who made too many unforced errors.

"I'm so happy I can say I've finally beat Pete," Haas said. "For me, he is the greatest player of all time." Rainer Schuettler beat Vincent Spadea 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 to secure Germany's victory in the best-of-three series even before the doubles.

Latif's claim vindicated?

Release of Pak report imminent



KARACHI, May 24 (Internet report): The much-awaited report of a Pakistani judicial inquiry into match-fixing allegations will be made public shortly, a senior cricket official said Wednesday.

The report will be released to the press later in the day by Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Tahir Zia, the PCB's media manager, Khalid Butt, told AFP.

Zia was expected to meet President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, who is also patron of the cricket board, in Islamabad before releasing the report, sources said.

Pakistan has been under pressure from the cricket world to release the report amid a storm kicked off by former South African captain Hansie Cronje's admission last month that he took money from a bookie.

Meanwhile, another report from Dubai says, former Pakistan captain Rashid Latif suspects that some of the past officials of the PCB have also been involved in match-fixing.

"Six Boards have come and gone in Pakistan since 1995 when I first raised the issue that certain Pakistani players were involved in match-fixing but nothing has happened," Latif said, adding that it appeared that some of the officials were also being given a piece of the

pie". The Gulf News reported him as saying: "I don't have to say anymore, the main accused (Salim Malik) himself has been caught admitting that he fixed matches if we go by the news from England... Malik has vindicated me."

He said that despite his having provided sufficient proof to the PCB, it had taken no action on match-fixing. Latif was commenting on the News of the World expose in which the British tabloid claimed to have video-taped Malik while he was boasting of

fixing matches. Malik has been reported to have said that he even had an ICC official to do the 'fixing' for him.

On Monday, Malik rejected the allegations as baseless and pledged to tell his side of the story soon. "I will come up with my side of the story in the next four or five days. I am not going to be quiet but at the moment I can't say anything more", Malik said in Lahore.

Latif claimed that match-fixing had continued during the last two years. "I strongly believe that fixing matches' has not stopped even today."

The former Pakistan skipper said "I have been saying that four to five Pakistani players are involved and now Malik has also admitted that five players are actually on his payroll. Whatever I have been saying is now being confirmed by Malik himself when he boasted to the undercover reporters."

Latif, however, expressed surprise that Malik had spoken so openly to the undercover reporters. He said efforts by the authorities concerned to sweep everything under the carpet had made people like Malik get bolder and openly boast of their ability to fix results of the matches.

"I think it is all the power of money that has corrupted players as well as officials. The officials can neither swallow the truth nor can they ignore it."

RASHID LATIF

Kuerten factor ahead of Agassi



PARIS, May 24: Andre Agassi climbed a tennis Everest 12 months ago when he secured the French Open men's singles title for the first time to complete his Grand Slam set, in his case uniquely on three different surfaces, reports UNB.

His form is in some doubt, however, as he comes into this year's Roland Garros having skipped the Hamburg Masters Series and allowed Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, who lifted the title in north Germany, to be cast as the man to beat on clay.

Agassi put the Hamburg organisers' noses out of joint by failing to explain his absence until the event was already under way — though he excused himself later — and has kept a low profile ahead of the second Slam of the year.

The Las Vegas, top seed ahead of compatriot Pete Sampras at Roland Garros, saw last year's win as the defining moment of his rollercoaster career after battling back from outside the top 140 to oust his long-time rival as year-end number one following another Parisian win at the Surrey indoor event.

But although the year began well enough for the shaven-headed showman with a win at the Australian Open at the expense of Yevgeny Kafelnikov, his premature loss in Rome to Slovak Dominik Hrbaty hit Agassi hard.

As a result, the smart money is moving away from the American — who may prefer to take revenge on Sampras for last year's Wimbledon final loss — to clay specialists who will have peaked long before the action crosses the English Channel.

Foremost among those whose game is made for clay is Kuerten, who despite a recent back ailment has stormed to the last two Masters Series finals, losing to Magnus Norman in Rome before overcoming Russian Marat Safin in Hamburg.

The Brazilian certainly proved his stamina in winning his third Masters Series title as Safin dragged him through five sets and four hours but he must now hold that form for another three weeks.

"I'm glad I have the week off going into Roland Garros and I'm sure I'll go in fresh. But there are 128 guys there and they all want to win. That's a lot of competition," said the 23-year-old even as he gazed at his Hamburg trophy.

Kuerten's win over Safin was his seventh career title and, whilst he has only one Grand Slam to his name he bagged that one at Roland Garros in 1997.

He goes into the event as fifth seed.

It goes without saying, meanwhile, that second seed Pete Sampras is fast approaching the last chance saloon in Paris as he strains every last sinew to emulate Agassi and complete the Grand Slam set.

The 28-year-old is making

for granted," opined Sampras in Hamburg.

Critics might say one thing you can almost take for granted is that whichever two players faces off in the June 11 final it's unlikely either of them will be called Sampras.

The American, who has won a record-tying 12 Slams, insists he will not obsess over the event.

Opposition to Kuerten is more likely to come from other sources, however, including Norman.

The 23-year-old Swede found Kuerten too hot to handle in Hamburg but was a worthy fourth runner-up to the Brazilian in Rome and now finds he has to measure himself against the reputation of Swedish legends Borg, Wilander and Edberg, which is asking rather a lot.

Other potential stars this year include Cedric Pioline, the French sixth seed.

Pioline, who turns 31 four days after the final, is very much the daddy of the leading names in the Roland Garros cast yet he showed in winning Monte Carlo last month that he can beat the best on this surface, although his only two Slam final appearances came at Wimbledon and the US Open.

His best Roland Garros showing was a 1998 semi-final loss to Alex Corretja of Spain and Pioline admits he still doesn't know what his best surface is.

A more likely challenge should come from Safin, who proved his Barcelona and Mallorca wins in recent weeks were no fluke as he came within two points of depriving Kuerten of the Hamburg title.

The Russian, who has just moved to Monte Carlo after several years in Spain, is reaping the benefits of training with new coach Andrei Chesnokov.

Temperament is the big question mark over the 1m93 Moscow-born right-hander, as he smashed 48 rackets across last year.

"That's quite a lot isn't it?" remarked Chesnokov.

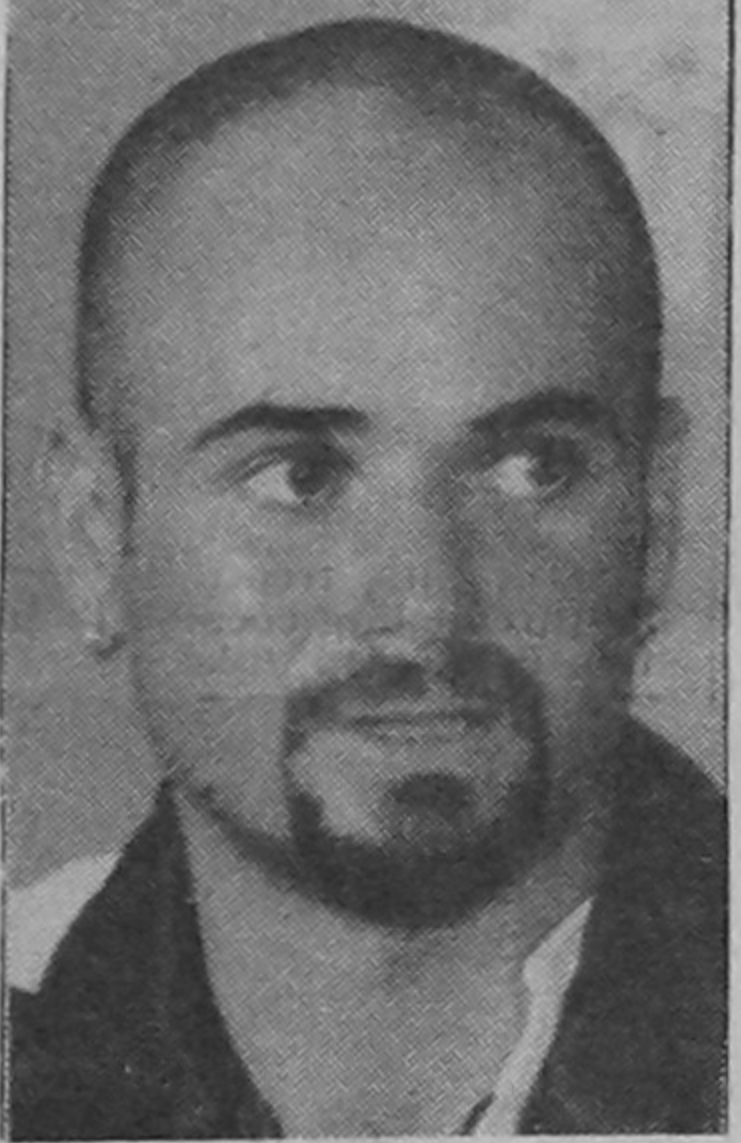
Safin's recent results have diluted such frustration.

Then there is Australian Lleyton Hewitt, who started the year with a bang, winning three titles.

Although he only made the second round in Hamburg the ponytailed Adelaide revealed afterwards: "I'm beginning to love clay. It could become my favourite surface if I win the French Open."

If it's a world close to Sampras' heart.

Two dark horses in the race are 1996 winner Kafelnikov and Marcelo Rios, Hamburg semi-finalist.



ANDRE AGASSI

his 11th visit to the French and has yet to make the final, runner-up in 1996 to Kafelnikov being his best previous showing.

In Hamburg he crashed out in the second round to French hope Arnaud Di Pasquale and currently stands only fifth in the new ATP Champions Race 2000 standings even though the 200 points the trophy would fetch him could take him beyond current race leader Norman of Sweden.

It's hard to picture Sampras pulling it off, however, given his struggle to impress in Hamburg.

By his own admission, he wanted to get more games under his belt after missing a chunk of the clay season, including Rome, with a thigh injury.

"To win Roland Garros I've one thing to do: play," he remarked ahead of Hamburg but it was soon back to the practice court after Pasquale cut the ground from beneath his feet.

"Clay is a challenge to me. It can change in a couple of minutes — you can't take anything

French Open Hingis, Agassi top seedings

PARIS, May 24: Martina Hingis and defending champion Andre Agassi will be the top seeds at this year's French Open, but a slew of injuries means that the women's seedings could change before the May 29 start of the competition, reports AP.

French Open organizers base seeds strictly on the most recent world ranking so there were no surprises on the list.

But several of the top women players are struggling to shake off injury.

Hingis withdrew from last week's Italian Open with a foot injury while No 2 seed Lindsay Davenport is having treatment on a lower back injury.

Serena Williams, seeded eight, hasn't played for over a month because of a left knee injury. Her sister Venus, seeded four, will seek her first Grand Slam in Paris but has played only one tournament this year because of tendinitis in her wrists.

No 12 seed Anke Huber and Anna Kournikova, seeded 15, have both withdrawn from tournaments in the last two weeks.

In the men's event, the 12-month ranking means that Pete Sampras — still searching his first tournament win at Roland Garros — is seeded No 2.

Magnus Norman, leader in the current ATP Champions Race, is seeded three, with 1996 French Open winner Yevgeny Kafelnikov at four.

Martina back on winning trail

MADRID, May 24: After a 5<sup>th</sup> year "retirement" from top flight tennis, Martina Navratilova was back on the winning trail at the Madrid Open on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Partnered by South Africa's Mariaan De Swardt, the Czech-born American beat Japan's Rika Hiraki and American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-3, 7-5 in the women's doubles.

"I expected to have more fun — I was much too nervous to have fun. But from now on it will get easier," the winner of 56 Grand Slam titles said.

Navratilova, 43, is using the Madrid Open to prepare for the French Open and Wimbledon doubles competitions.

Navratilova hopes she can win at Wimbledon and thus claim a 20th title at the All-England Club, equalling the record of her one-time playing partner Billie Jean King. In front of a centre court crowd estimated at just 200, Navratilova volleyed well and attacked the net at every opportunity although her serve showed signs of ring rustiness.

The only anxious moment came when De Swardt, a Wimbledon doubles finalist last year, lost her serve in the second game of the second set.

The pair went 0-3 down as Hiraki held her serve but Navratilova and De Swardt quickly recovered their composure.

They then breezed to victory after the Japanese player twice lost her serve.

Navratilova admitted that her serve left something to be desired.

"My game was OK but my serve — on the toss up I was fishing for the ball. And I was not returning very well, at times it was a bit iffy," she said.

She bristled at one reporter's use of the word "comeback" to describe her return to the game.

"I never said I was never going to play doubles again, so this is not a comeback. I only said I was never going to play singles again — it's too much hard work," Navratilova said.

"However, most of all I just want to be back at the Centre Court at Wimbledon. It's a very special place for me. But I have no plans beyond Wimbledon."

In the quarter-finals on Thursday she and De Swardt face either Gala Leon and Maria Antonia Sanchez-Lorenzo or Virginia Ruano and Argentina's Paola Suarez, who play today.

Navratilova's entrance was delayed by two hours after the earlier first round singles had taken much longer than expected to complete.

"It was a long day. I even started warming up this morning," Navratilova said.

Greats' cricket for Marshall



LONDON, May 24 (Internet report): More than thirty cricketers — including no less than 17 former Test captains — will take part in the one-day match between the Malcolm Marshall XI and an International PCA Bury XI at the Honourable Artillery Company Ground in the City of London.

All proceeds from the day will go towards the Mall Marshall Trust, a fund set up to support Malcolm's wife Connie and 7-year-old son Mali.

The Malcolm Marshall XI will contain some of West Indian cricket's biggest names from the past three decades, including a fearsome pace attack of Courtney Walsh, Joel Garner, Michael Holding and Curtly Ambrose. The batting is led by captain Viv Richards, double world-record holder Brian Lara, former World Cup-winning captain Clive Lloyd, and legendary openers Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes.

Facing this battery will be a side including current Australian internationals Shane Warne and Justin Langer, Pakistan's leading wicket-taker Wasim Akram and former

England skippers Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting, Alec Stewart, Current England internationals Andrew Flintoff, Graeme Hick, Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher will also

take part in the event.

"On the pitch Malcolm was one of the world's most fearsome fast bowlers and the bane of batsmen the world over," said David English, founder of the Bury Cricket Club, which organises charity cricket events across the UK. "Off the field he was one of the game's true gen-

lemen — a gentle soul full of fun and mischief.

"The awesome line-up of players taking part in this unique event is testimony to the man's popularity. This is going to be a truly magnificent event, a wonderful fun-filled occasion for all the family that will live in the memory for a long long time."

Tickets for the match are now on sale to the general public and organisers expect there to be a huge demand for the 1,500 capacity ground.

TEAMS  
The International PCA Bury XI: Wasim Akram, Mark Butcher, Mike Gatting, Graham Gooch, David Grayveny, Andrew Flintoff, Graeme Hick, Allan Lamb, Justin Langer, David Lawrence, Mark Nicolas, Gladstone Small, Robin Smith, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Phil Tufnell, Shane Warne.

The Malcolm Marshall XI: Vivian Richards (capt), Jimmy Adams, Curtly Ambrose, Jeffrey Dujon, Joel Garner, Gordon Greenidge, Wes Hall, Desmond Haynes.

Michael Holding, Alvin Kallicharan, Collis King, Brian Lara, Clive Lloyd, Deryck Murray, Phil Simmons, Courtney Walsh.

Opportunity for Seles



PARIS, May 24: Monica Seles would complete one of sport's most remarkable comebacks if she lifts the French Open women's title at Roland Garros, reports AFP.

Seles warmed up for the second Grand Slam tournament of the year with her second Italian Open title in Rome — a victory that came a full 10 years after her first triumph at the Foro Italico.

Now, with all of her main rivals troubled in one way or another, Seles will Monday begin her campaign to win her first French title since 1992 and finally consign to the history books that terrible day in Hamburg on April 30, 1993, when she was stabbed in back by a de-ranked fan.

Her win over Amelie Mauresmo in Sunday's final in Rome was her third of the year after Oklahoma City and Amelia Island and the 7th of her career. It sent her back to third in the world rankings.

Certainly, in beating Mauresmo 6-2, 7-6, Seles looked close to her best — the days when she used to dominate the women's tour.

It may not be too late for her to recapture her brilliance of the past. She has been around so long that it is easy to forget that the Yugoslav-born American is still only 26 years old. She has, however, been a professional for over a decade.

Seles won at Roland Garros in 1990, 1991 and 1992 but in her four appearances at Roland Garros since recovering from the physical and mental scars of Hamburg, she has made the quarterfinals twice, the semifinals once and the final once, in 1998.

Since she began playing full-time again in 1995, Seles has struggled to recapture her past glories. Her 1996 Australian Open title is the only Grand Slam she has added to her collection of Slams, which currently stands at nine.

"Obviously winning in Rome gives me a lot of confidence," said Seles. "But the French Open is a totally different tournament and I believe I have a long way to go with a few things in my game and my physical training if I want to be consistent and play better."

Seles' potential rivals at Roland Garros all have troubles of their own, with four of the biggest names either injured or lacking match-fitness.

Lindsay Davenport is still troubled by a back injury and has pulled out of this week's Madrid WTA Tour event to give her time to recover. Davenport is also not as much at home on clay as faster services and has never triumphed in Paris.

Martina Hingis, who also will be seeking the only Slam to have eluded her in her remark-

able 19 years did not play in Rome because of a sore foot that has blighted her preparations.

Hingis has extra motivation to win this year after breaking down in tears and throwing tantrums as she lost of the now retired Steffi Graf in the 1999 final.

The Williams sisters, of whom so much should have been expected by now, continue to be enigmas. Serena, the US Open champion, has long-term injury problems and didn't play in Rome last week, while Venus lacks match fitness after an inexplicably long break from the Tour and was beaten in the Italian capital by young Australian Jelena Dokic.

While Dokic is regarded as an up-and-coming player, she is not yet regarded as a serious contender at Grand Slam level, but William's loss to the young Australian put into perspective just how much Venus needs to improve over the next few days

if she is to mount a serious challenge for the first Grand Slam title of her career.

The women's tournament looms as intriguing because, for once, there are no outright favourites.

In addition to the players already mentioned, players like Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, Conchita Martinez and Mary Pierce all have the ability to win if they can find consistency over two weeks.

Former Wimbledon champion Martinez, so often overlooked, is 28 but won the title in Berlin two weeks ago and is looking a dangerous outsider. Since 1988, she has always reached the fourth round or better there.

Sanchez-Vicario, three times a winner in Paris, is always a formidable competitor. Her record in Paris is extraordinary and in 13 appearances at Roland Garros only once, way back in 1990, has she failed to make the last eight.



LONG TIME NO SEE: American tennis legend Martina Navratilova playing against the pair of Hiraki and Meghann at a tournament in Madrid on May 23. Navratilova partnered South African Mariaan de Swardt to win the match 6-3, 7-5. — AFP photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests  
Ban Bhaban, Gulshan, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Tender Notice

Tender Memorandum No 39/CCF/CGP/99-2000 (3rd call) Date: 14-5-2000  
Tenders are hereby invited from importers/agents/dealers/suppliers in sealed envelope for purchasing the goods mentioned in the short schedule below:

Short Schedule

Sl No	Name of goods with quantity	Short description	Amount of earnest money	Place of delivery	Time allowed for completion of the supply
1	Utility vehicle Jeep One (1) No	Completely new. Latest Model: 2000-3000cc Petrol: 4WD, 4 cylinder, 5 doors	25% of the quoted amount	Ban Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka	20 days from the date of issue of work order

Under Coastal Green Belt Project Financed by ADB (Credit No 1353 BAN SF) as per detail schedule of requirement and specifications embodied in the relevant tender document.  
Tenders will be received in the name of undersigned on 31-5-2000 till 1:00 PM at the office of the Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (general) and on the same day the tenders will be opened in the presence of tenderer (if any one remains present) at 2:00 PM.  
Name of work, tender memorandum number and date have to be mentioned on the envelope while submitting the tender.  
Details about the tender i.e. the tender document with schedule of requirement, detail specifications, instructions to the bidder, general conditions etc can be collected on payment of a non-refundable price of Tk 750/- (seven hundred & fifty) only from the office of the undersigned up to 30-5-2000 during office hours except Fridays, Saturdays and other government holidays.

Md Yunus Ali

Asstt Chief Conservator of Forests, (General)

for Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangladesh.

DDP-12351-21/5  
G-979



PARTYING EARLY? Valencia supporters gather beneath the Eiffel Tower in Paris hours before the European Champions' League final at the St. Denis Stadium yesterday. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 Tree knot  
6 Female  
TV role  
always played  
by a male  
star  
12 Bad luck  
13 Author's arch-enemy?  
14 Bury  
15 Causing a strain  
16 Make like Nicole  
17 Con game  
19 7-faces doctor of film  
20 Farewell  
22 The girl  
24 Tom Hanks movie  
27 "Entertainment Tonight" alumus  
29 Periodic table  
32 Amusement park attraction  
35 Strong as

DOWN  
1 Missing  
2 Staff member?  
3 Take  
42 Somone on his own  
44 Do as  
46 Fail to include  
50 Legally responsible  
52 John Lennon's last name  
54 Show up  
55 Football team  
56 Old faithful, e.g.  
57 Electrician, 11 times  
12 Chop  
18 Waterfall  
21 Put away  
23 Experiences  
24 Auto front protector  
25 "And — the opposite shore."  
26 Specialized dictionary  
28 Melon variety  
30 Fresh  
31 Raw rock  
33 CCCV divided by V  
34 Candle count  
39 Figure out  
41 Casino pastime  
42 Pennant  
43 Boggy terrain  
45 Keeger necessity  
47 Rotate  
48 Roman road  
49 Beige  
51 "Encore!"  
53 "When We Were Kings" figure

Solution time: 24 mins.  
PAT SHAK DUMA  
AGO FOBE AKTIN  
RE OICRIS EIRIO  
REDHOT THE  
OKS REDSIEA  
SHAPE TLEX AXIE  
PARIS PUL WHTR  
ALLO OIX SALTITO  
EMU REDEVE  
JOHN LENNON'S  
ABET ELEVE ETA  
RIMS DTR ENTS

Yesterday's answer  
1 Tree knot  
6 Female  
TV role  
always played  
by a male  
star  
12 Bad luck  
13 Author's arch-enemy?  
14 Bury  
15 Causing a strain  
16 Make like Nicole  
17 Con game  
19 7-faces doctor of film  
20 Farewell  
22 The girl  
24 Tom Hanks movie  
27 "Entertainment Tonight" alumus  
29 Periodic table  
32 Amusement park attraction  
35 Strong as