

FRENCH OPEN
AT A GLANCE

PARIS, May 30 (AP): Highlights Monday from the 10.25 million dollars French Open tennis championships at Roland Garros:

Weather: Bright and windy, with a temperature of 19 degrees Celsius (66 degrees Fahrenheit).

Attendance: 30,422.

Results: Men's singles: No. 2 seed Pete Sampras was knocked out in the first round by Mark Philippoussis, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-4), 4-6, 8-6. No. 5 Gustavo Kuerten advanced with a 6-0, 6-0, 6-3 success against Andrei Vinciguerra; women's singles: No. 1 seed Martina Hingis beat Sabine Appelmans, 6-0, 6-4; No. 3 Monica Seles ousted Silija Talaja, 6-2, 6-2.

Stat of the Day: 23, the number of aces served by Philippoussis against Sampras.

Quote of the Day: "Do we play a tiebreaker now?" — Pete Sampras asking umpire Mike Morrissey for clarification at 6-6 in the final set of his match against Philippoussis.

Magura cricket

From Our Correspondent
MAGURA, May 30: Challenge Club and Independent Club won their respective matches in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium today.

Challenge beat Rising Star by 28 runs while Independent defeated Krira School by 7 wickets in the second match of the day.

Independent moved into quarterfinal.

BRIEF SCORES

CHALLENGE CLUB: 123 for no wicket in 25 overs (Mishit 22).

PROF. 17: Babu 9; Mizan 3/18, Utam 2/22.

RISING STAR CLUB: 95 for 9 in 25 overs (Rezaul 18, Monirul 1).

KABIR 7: Firoy 4/17, Faisal 3/14, Mishit 1/15.

Result: Challenge Club won by 28 runs.

KRIRA SCHOOL: 29 all out in 9 overs (Jamal 3, Makhan 3).

Prince 6/5: Haradhan 3/9.

INDEPENDENT CRICKET CLUB: 30 for 3 wickets in 6.2 overs (Ali 9, Masum 5; Nabut 2/18, Masum 1/7).

Result: Independent won by 7 wickets.

Champions' hockey

German eves

shock Aussies

AMSTELVEEN, Netherlands, May 30: World and Olympic champions Australia suffered only their third defeat in eight women's Champions' Trophy tournaments when Germany beat them 2-1 on Monday, reports Reuters.

Australia first tasted defeat in the 42-match run when the Netherlands beat them in 1987. Ten years later, South Korea managed to win.

Germany's victory put them top of the six-team field.

All three goals came from penalty corners, the first two from rebounds.

Katrina Powell put Australia ahead after 19 minutes. Heike Laitsch levelled before halftime then Britta Becker scored the decisive goal with less than 30 seconds remaining.

Australia coach Ric Charlesworth said of the winner: "They messed up the corner and we deflected it in. We easily did enough to win."

Germany had only three scoring opportunities at three corners and scored from two of them.

Germany's men outplayed Britain 4-0, with two goals in each half.

The Australia-Spain match, interrupted at halftime on Sunday when police called for a stadium evacuation because of a violent storm, finished 1-1.

Australia staged a grandstand finish but did not take their chances in a high class game.

The Dutch beat South Korea 1-0. Marten Elkelboom hit the only goal in the 33rd minute.

Singles

From page 13

launched in India in last one year. And that has created thousands of job openings for the journalists, especially who cover cricket.

MOIN'S MEN ARRIVE TOMORROW

A 14-member Pakistan cricket team, led by wicket-keeper Moin Khan, arrives in the capital tomorrow afternoon. The team is coming here straight from the Caribbean where they lost the third Test and the series as well on Monday.

Saeed Anwar and Azhar Mahmud, who missed the West Indies tour due to injury, will fly in from Pakistan.

Pakistan, who have never won the Asia Cup, will take on hosts Bangladesh in their opening match on June 2. They will meet their archrivals India on the following day before facing holders Sri Lanka in their last match on June 5.

CRICKET HER FIRST PRIORITY

Cricket seems to be the first priority of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Cancelling her official engagements, the cricket-loving PM turned up at the Stadium one again to the cheer up the Bangladesh team.

She was in a good mood at the President's Box when Aminul Islam and Habibul Bashar were scoring freely against India. But her face darkened soon after the heavy shower drove the cricketers out of the field.



SET FREE FROM THE ZOO? Three masked fans epitomising the party atmosphere at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

Shoaib relishes challenge

LONDON, May 30 (Internet report): Nottinghamshire have set the world's fastest bowler, Shoaib Akhtar, the task of winning eight matches for the team after his belated arrival to become their overseas player.

The 24-year-old appeared at Trent Bridge on Tuesday following Pakistan's tour to the West Indies and is eager to make an impact after a winter dogged by controversy over his bowling action and injury problems.

"I love a challenge. Notts is a big challenge, and I will do my very best," he said. "I know I won't be expected to bowl all day. I will be bowling in quick bursts and giving it my all."

The county starts a Championship Division Two game against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Friday, but Shoaib may be kept back for the home game against Worcestershire, starting on 7 June.

Notts cricket manager Clive Rice dismissed question marks about Shoaib's action or his ability to cope with the physical

demands of the county circuit. "I have no qualms about his action. For him to start off on that run and come in at that pace and throw it he would be doing remarkably well," said Rice.

"There should be no problem either with him adapting to county cricket. People who talk about the grind of county cricket are talking rubbish."

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Players like Joel Garner, Michael Holding and Richard Hadlee have come to play county cricket, and it has made them better cricketers.

"It is the best training ground in the world, and I just hope we can help Shoaib benefit from it."

Notts want to win promotion to the top flight at the first attempt, but currently lie fourth in the Division Two table after three draws and a defeat in their four games so far.

They currently top the Division Two table in the National Cricket League, with a 100 per cent record of four successive wins.

"The target for Shoaib is to win eight games for us. If he does that and he wins the right eight games, we will be doing pretty well," Rice added.

Shoaib, nicknamed the 'Rawalpindi Express', has a relatively modest record of 45 wickets in 15 Tests at an average of 35.84.

But he has proved highly effective in one-day internationals with 66 victims at 21.31 in 41 matches.

SHOAIB AKHTAR

Last Ambr-ush in England

ST. JOHN'S, May 30: Nasser Hussain and his England side may be wondering if he could not time it any sooner, but Curtly Ambrose has decided he will face the old enemy one more time this summer and then call it quits, reports AFP.

The 36-year-old fast bowler made the announcement about his retirement after West Indies completed a nailbiting one-wicket triumph over Pakistan at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Monday to clinch their three-Test series 1-0.

"This was my last day of Test cricket in Antigua and I have already notified the West Indies Cricket Board that after the England series I am going to call it a day," Ambrose told reporters at a news conference after the Test here.

"I have thought about it long and hard. I think a man has got to know his limitations and I think it is time for me to leave. I thought about it long and hard and I have made my decision so I will stick by it."

In 29 Tests against England, Ambrose has taken a remarkable 147 wickets at 18.80 apiece including a career-best eight for 45 at Bridgetown in 1990 and relishes one final go at the Eng-

lish. "I am still standing strong and I have not really shirked the work, though the whole Caribbean think that I am too old for this game and so I am looking forward to the challenge in England," he said.

Ambrose is in the twilight of a glittering career for West Indies in which he has captured

have always done well against England over the years," he remarked.

"Hopefully, I can maintain that kind of form against them because it would be very nice to get 400 Test wickets. Only three guys have done it in Test cricket and Wasim Akram, a great bowler, is almost there as well, so if I get there it would be a nice feeling."

Ambrose asserted that not even a whirlwind performance in England could change his mind about retirement.

"Somebody asked me that question not too long ago," he said. "My answer is: no! I have just about had enough and I think it is time for me to leave."

Although he noted there were a few ideas in the making, Ambrose did not disclose any plans for the future or whether he would take up coaching the game.

Ambrose had earlier in the season told Michael Holding, the former West Indies fast bowler, now a television and radio analyst, that he would leave when the younger fast bowlers were ready to take the mantle.

Ambrose concluded: "Maybe when I leave, when they realise I am not around anymore, maybe that is what they need to help them lift their game."

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'Champs' League' in cricket in the pipeline

BRISBANE, Australia, May 30: A tournament featuring the world's best domestic cricket teams is being planned for India later this year, an Australian sport management company said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Former Australian star Dean Jones Tuesday confirmed his company, Left Field Solutions, was involved in negotiations with Indian television to stage the tournament in September.

Jones said the tournament was a "50-50" chance of proceeding, with a final decision expected from an Indian television company in the next few weeks.

The plan involved bringing together the domestic cricket champions from Australia, England, South Africa and India to play a one-day competition covered by pay television.

Jones said the tournament would be an ideal way to blood younger players in the international arena.

"We've had the Australia A concept and you've seen how many players have gone on from that to play for Australia so this would be another learning environment," he said Tuesday.

Jones said it was up to a tournament organisers to invite other domestic teams if Indian television decided to back the event and cash in on the subcontinent's enormous revenue base.

Australia would be represented by Sheffield Shield champions Queensland at the tournament went ahead.

Queensland Cricket chief executive Graham Dixon said the tournament "would be a great opportunity for the players" but said the matter rested between the Australian Cricket Board and the promoters.

The ACB would need to sanction a state team's involvement in any such event but the competition would at least be played during a lull in the international calendar.

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