

Hinds hits hundred

CARDIFF, June 7: Brian Lara's horrendous form continued as the West Indies collapsed on a turning pitch on day one of their clash with Glamorgan here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

The 31-year-old Trinidadian fell for a duck in the 15th over of the day to the sixth delivery he faced, following last week's performance at Worcester, when in two innings, he scored just two runs from six balls.

The Windies limped to 176 in 75.1 overs in their innings — hardly a confidence booster with the first Test against England at Edgbaston just nine days away.

A rejuvenated Robert Croft was the main culprit — his figures of 31-9-26-5 underpinned the West Indies' misery — and on a wicket on which the tourists had elected to bat first after a rain-delayed start.

By lunch, they had lurched to 67 for five in 27 overs as Alex Wharf (3-57) and Croft did the damage.

Only 23-year-old Jamaican Wavell Hinds administered any retribution. With a mixture of exuberance and vigilance he was unbeaten on 105 as others crumbled around him.

With Mahendra Nagamootoo, he added a crucial 63 for the sixth wicket in 23 overs, before ex-Nottinghamshire seamer Wharf struck again.

Nagamootoo was trapped lbw for 22 — one of six lbw dismissals in the Windies' innings — and Nixon McLean, Wayne Phillip, Reon King and Corey Collymore followed in quick succession.

Glamorgan opening pair Matthew Elliott and Steve James appeared comfortable from the off, but the former went in the 11th over after edging to wicketkeeper Phillip off King for 11.

The Welshman was 34 for one and only five runs later, Michael Powell (2) had gone after touching Nagamootoo to the waiting hands of Lara at first slip.

But at stumps, Glamorgan, with James unbeaten on 31, were 132 runs behind the West Indies with eight first innings wickets in hand.

Cuban boxers seek ticket for Sydney

HAVANA, June 7: Seventy-three Cuban boxers, including stars of the international amateur circuit like Felix Savon and Maikro Romero, will slug it out in Havana starting this weekend in a tournament to select the 12-man Olympic team for Sydney, reports Reuters.

Giving details of the tournament yesterday, Cuban Boxing Federation President Jose Barrientos also confirmed the Caribbean island was preparing as usual for the Sydney games despite sanctions against local sports' officials.

"We continue to prepare hard, and we hope to carry out a great performance in Sydney," Barrientos told local journalists, apparently scotching rumours Cuba's highly-rated boxers would boycott the Olympics in retaliation at a ruling by the International Amateur Boxing Association (IABA).

The IABA in May suspended three Cuban boxing officials, including Barrientos, from attending foreign tournaments for not substantiating charges of corrupt refereeing at a 1999 competition.

The IABA said the Cubans never produced evidence to back up accusations that a "corrupt mafia" was fixing results at the world amateur championships in Houston. Following the Cuban protest and walkout in Houston, however, one fight result was reversed, and some referees sanctioned.

Barrientos was barred for four years, while Cuban federation vice-president Teofilo Stevenson, a three-time former Olympic champion, got a two-year suspension, and national team trainer Alcides Sagarra received a one-year ban.

Havana denounced those punishments as unfair, a "vulgar manipulation" of what happened in Houston.

The stars of the pre-Olympic tournament starting Sunday in Havana are Savon in the 91 kilogram category and Romero in the 48 kilogram group, both former Olympic champions.

FRENCH OPEN NOTEBOOK

PARIS, June 7 (AFP): Surprise French Open quarter-finalist Franco Squillari has modelled his game on that of one of his great compatriots: Guillermo Vilas, who won 62 titles in a sparkling career.

Squillari, who beat 15th-seeded Yves El Aynaoui in the fourth-round to earn a last eight meeting with Spaniard Albert Costa, said he studied videos of Vilas in action to help him improve his own strokes.

"I followed what Vilas did," Squillari, 23, is arguably the least popular player in the tournament with line judges. He plays so deep that several of them have said they fear being hit by his racket.

NURSERY TIME Roland Garros would like to think of itself as the mothers of all tournaments — and mothers who also happen to be top-class players certainly get a good deal.

The French Open organisers decided to create a creche back in 1994 after players' children. The creche has four guardians and a nurse on hand to look after the youngsters, who have a choice of games to amuse themselves while their parents aim to earn big money on court.



Skipper Jayasuriya congratulating Upul Chandana (C) on his getting the prized wicket of Yousuf Youhana. — Star photo

Cronje hearing underway

A Symcox disclosure



CAPE TOWN, June 7 (Reuters/AFP): Former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje and some of his teammates considered taking up to \$500,000 dollars to lose an international match in India in 1996, a South African player told an inquiry on Wednesday.

"We attended a meeting in Cronje's room in which he put it to us that he had received an offer for the team to lose a match for 250,000 dollars," former South African spin bowler Pat Symcox told the King Commission inquiry into match-fixing.

He said the team rejected the initial offer.

"Four of us discussed the money afterwards and someone said perhaps we should try and get more out of them."

"Hansie picked up the phone, spoke to someone and told us we had another 100,000 dollars," Symcox said. He added that the sweetened offer was also later rejected.

Earlier, the Commission was told that cricket presented a volatile market for betting.

Neil Andrews, a television betting pundit who was involved in a company which introduced spread betting into South Africa, was the first witness in a hearing set up after Cronje was sacked as South African captain in April after admitting that he had taken money from an Indian bookmaker.

Andrews said cricket provided punters and bookmakers with more opportunities than most sports because of the wide range of scores that are possible.



ANDREW FLINTOFF

loss of his England place this summer, reports AFP.

The 22-year-old Lancastrian has been a regular in the England set-up ever since captain Nasser Hussain and coach Duncan Fletcher assembled their winter tour party, both of them convinced he has the potential to develop into an international class all-rounder.

But apart from the odd glimpse of explosive batting, his Test career to date has been a great disappointment after failing to reach 20 in seven of his 11 innings since making his debut against South Africa at Trent Bridge two years ago.

His return to Nottingham for the drawn Test against Zimbabwe this week continued that trend, collecting a pair of 16s after being trapped leg before attempting an ambitious pull and edging behind the wicket playing loosely outside off-stump.

That double failure, particularly against an attack of Zimbabwe's limited resources, has increased the pressure on Flintoff to perform sooner rather than later.

"He's got to be more patient," observed coach Duncan Fletcher. "He's an attacking player, but you get to the stage where you are thinking whether

He agreed with Cronje's lawyer, John Dickerson, that a distinction could be drawn between forecasting and betting on cricket matches.

Judge Edwin King opened proceedings with a warning to witnesses that they could face prosecution if they failed to answer satisfactorily "any question lawfully put to them."

The judge said all hearings would be in public unless he ruled that any particular evidence or portion of evidence should be held in camera. "I don't see that happening frequently, or at all," he said.

Most of the first morning of the hearing was taken up with applications for live television and radio coverage, which were opposed by legal representatives of the players. King said he would announce a ruling at the start of proceedings on Thursday.

South African players Daryll Cullinan and Derek Crookes were in the hearing room and were expected to be among the first witnesses.

Evie Cronje, father of the disgraced skipper, sat in the public seats at the opening of the hearing. Cronje was not present but was represented by his legal team. There was no indication when Cronje would testify.

Sports Minister Ngconde Balfour and Justice Minister Penuell Maduna were also present, together with a large media contingent.

The judge said he wanted to remove perceptions that the inquiry was planned as "any sort of revenge or witch hunt. We are here to establish the truth."

Judge King, the former judge president of Western Cape province, was appointed in May after Hansie Cronje admitted he had received money from an Indian bookmaker.

Cronje's admission followed an announcement by New Delhi police on April 7 that they had laid charges of involvement in match-fixing against Cronje and three teammates, Herschelle Gibbs, Nicky Boje and Pieter Strydom.

Cronje said he had taken an amount of cash in US dollars, later claimed to be 8,200 dollars, to provide "information and forecasts."

He said he had been given the money in Johannesburg before the team left for India. South Africa were involved in a triangular series against England and Zimbabwe at the time. Cronje has continued to deny involvement in match-fixing and says that he did not take money to bribe other players.

According to Cronje's Christian pastor, Ray MacCauley, Cronje claims he was "playing" with the bookmakers and "leading them on."

In a confession made to MacCauley, which was leaked to the media last week, Cronje said he had "taken his eyes off Jesus" and allowed "Satan to dictate terms" to him.

The commissions terms of reference include the period from November 1, 1999 to April 17, 2000 and the South African tour of India in 1996 when Cronje was allegedly made an offer to "throw" a one-day match against India in Mumbai.

you should turn him into a defensive player and destroy this ability he's got or let him carry on as he is doing.

"He's got to realise that he has to be a bit more patient when he plays Test cricket. His form is a concern to us but he's a talent, he is young and I think he can develop into a very, very good all-rounder."

Even the one high spot of his brief Test career, the determined 42 he hit in the second Test at Port Elizabeth against South Africa in the winter, was a source of great frustration to England's management.

As Shaun Pollock prepared to take a rest from the attack, Flintoff plundered six boundaries in nine balls he faced from the South African fast bowler but instead of consolidating after that, attempted another big hit and was bowled.

But despite the obvious flaws in Flintoff's temperament at



Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar (C) watches anxiously as the Sri Lankan wicket-keeper and first slip fumble a catch during the Pepsi Asia Cup final yesterday. —Star photo

Hants bowled out for 95

LONDON, June 7: Shane Warne's 19 was the top score as Hampshire suffered another batting disaster, bowled out for 95 as Lancashire took control of the first day of the Division One match at Liverpool, reports AFP.

Robin Smith's side, who are bottom of table, crumbled from 26 without loss to 95 all out after being put in to bat.

Young paceman Mike Smethurst leading an impressive Lancashire bowling performance after heavy rain had washed out the morning session.

Smethurst claimed four for 15 in an excellent 11-over spell.

He was given good support by Australian Joe Scuderi and Andy Flintoff. Scuderi claimed Championship-best figures of three for 20.

And Flintoff worked off some of his disappointment in the Second Test at Trent Bridge by taking two wickets in his first over and then claiming a third to end with three for 12.

Hampshire grabbed some late wickets, but the day still belonged to Lancashire, who ended on 54 for three — only 41 behind.

England paceman Andy Caddick was in superb form for Somerset taking six for 57 against Kent in their Division One match at Bath.

The visitors owed their total of 261 to a fine 90 from India star Rahul Dravid. Batting first-wicket down he faced 167 balls and hit 14 fours.

But in sight of his century he was caught behind off medium-pace Graham Rose.

At the close Somerset's Australian captain Jamie Cox was 23 not out, his team 47 without loss.

In Division Two Gloucestershire took a calculated gamble against Essex at Bristol by resting four senior players ahead of Saturday's Benson Hedges Cup final — and it paid off.

It started very well for Gloucestershire as their second-line seamer Mike Cawdron picked up three wickets in 25 balls and Essex, with half their batsmen gone, were on 161.

But Essex rallied strongly to 263 all out — still a good total for the home side to aim at.

Cawdron, 25, went on to collect the prize wicket of England's captain Nasser Hussain leg before for three.

Australian Stuart Law managed just four before chasing a wide ball to give stand-in keeper Reggie Williams a diving catch. Cawdron's haul had cost him just seven runs.

Kuerten comes through

PARIS, June 7: Brazilian showman Gustavo Kuerten fought back from the brink in a titanic five-set Centre Court encounter between former champions on Tuesday, defeating Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov to reach the semifinals of the men's singles at the French Open.

Kuerten, the fifth seed, won 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 after a three-hour struggle which enthralled a packed and noisy crowd solidly behind the South American Kuerten, 23, champion here in 1997 after beating Kafelnikov at the same stage, rallied from two sets and a break down to book a semi-final against 16th seed Juan Carlos Ferrero, who shocked 10th-seeded fellow Spaniard and former finalist Alejo Carreras 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in 2hr 23min.

At 2-4 down in the fourth set it was a tough situation to come through, Kuerten said.

"It was a tough match. I was aiming to emulate Sweden's Mats Wilander, the only player to win three Slam titles on his French Open debut."

Corretja, the 1998 finalist and playing his third Roland Garros quarter-final, brought vastly more experience into the match.

But he had lost the pair's only previous meeting in the 1999 Mallorca final as Ferrero's only ATP tour title to date.

And the young star Ferrero, nicknamed the Mosquito for his slender frame, stung him by dominating a fierce baseline slugfest.

Both protagonists had predicted a long slog — but Ferrero didn't want to hang around and never looked back after breaking in the opening game of the third set.

Hingis stays on course



PARIS, June 7 (AFP): The WTA Tour likes to boast of its new strength in depth and a new generation of stars in women's tennis. The French Open semifinals,

however, will be contested by four of the usual suspects — three-time winner Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain, world number one Martina Hingis and two other top 10 players who have traditionally done well on the slow, red clay

of Roland Garros.

Hingis, the 19-year-old top seed, moved within one win of her third final appearance here when she breezed by unseeded American Chanda Rubin 6-1, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

Hingis will now face Mary Pierce who ousted three-time winner Monica Seles 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Sanchez-Vicario, meanwhile, faces an all-Spanish match with fifth-seeded Conchita Martinez.

"All of us Spaniards love clay," she said.

Sanchez-Vicario first won the event as a 17-year-old in 1989 and added further titles on the slow, red clay here in 1994 and 1998. She defeated Venus Williams 6-0, 1-6, 6-2.

She has an amazing 71 wins at Roland Garros — far more than any current player. Martinez, who has been a semifinalist here three times before, beat 17-year-old qualifier and countrywoman Marta Marrero 7-6, 6-1 in her quarter.

Sanchez-Vicario is still only 28, but says she's getting beshe said.

"I work hard to be in good shape. You need to be really fit against the younger players and with age I seem to keep things in perspective after losing the final to Steffi Graf in last year's final and to Iva Majoli in 1997."

"It would be nice to win it — but I don't need it," she said. "I need oxygen to survive — but not the French Open."

Hingis rarely enjoyed herself against Rubin. "I think I played very well," she said. "I was focused from the beginning."

Hingis attacked Rubin at every opportunity, punishing any balls in midcourt.

"It is very important to get a tough match behind me," she said. "I'm feeling good. I'm quite confident and I have reason to be."



Conchita Martinez exults after winning her French Open quarterfinal against fellow Spaniard Marta Marrero in Paris on June 6. —AFP photo

Bracing for Norman conquest



PARIS, June 7 (AFP): If Marat Safin has his way, recent history will repeat itself when he steps out for the first Grand Slam quarterfinal of his young career at the French Open on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old Russian has been turning in some sensational clay court performances with titles in Barcelona and

Mallorca and he came within two points of beating Gustavo Kuerten in the Hamburg Masters Series final last month.

Safin, whose volcanic temperament has threatened to derail his career in the past — he briefly thought about quitting barely three months ago — has come on leaps and bounds since coming under the wing of new coach Andrei Chesnokov in the week he won Barcelona.

On the way to that title he

beat the man who now bars his route to the semis here — Magnus Norman, the unassuming Swede who leads the ATP Champions Race.

And if he can keep at arm's length the red mist which descended on him so often last year that he smashed 48 rackets Safin can upset the man who would be seen as world number one.

Even after reaching the last eight, avoiding a third fourth-round loss here in three visits, Safin was not entirely content, believing the organisers should not have left the covers off during much of the rain break.

"It's not serious — it's not a tournament somewhere in Russia. It's Roland Garros. I'm a little bit angry," said Safin, who blasted the umpire and supervisors.

"But of course I'm happy I came through this difficult match," said Safin, who admitted surprise at his win while also appearing a little underwhelmed by his victory.

There could be a few Russian flags flying on Centre Court on Sunday as Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the other half of the draw an all-Russian final remains a distinct possibility.

Safin was meanwhile glad that what he will now see as ancient history, didn't repeat itself in his fourth-round match Monday as he ended the dreams of Frenchman Cedric Pioline, winning 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

It was Pioline, a decade older than Safin and the last home player in the men's singles, who beat Safin in the fourth round here two years ago after the then 18-year-old Muscovite had as a qualifier had the temerity to bundle out first Andre Agassi then defending champion Kuerten.

Safin said after booking his showdown with Norman that it was far too early to think about emulating Kafelnikov, who became the first and so far only Russian man to win a Grand Slam singles title by triumphing here in 1996 before adding an Australian crown in 1999.



Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain is ecstatic after seeing off compatriot Alex Corretja in a French Open quarterfinal encounter on June 6. —AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41 "Little Teapot"	60 Flavor enhancer	11 Deadly septet
1 Computer make, for short	42 Shell game	61 Driver's license	16 "A mouse!"
4 Serene	43 Need	62 Datum	20 Little, in Lyons
6 "What a pity!"	44 Pen	63 DOWN	21 This and that
12 Three-match link	45 "Gaza"	1 Do yardwork	22 Vicinity
13 "Salome" solo	50 Aviv	2 Blackbird	23 Flop
14 Mongolian desert	51 Tackle	3 Lax	27 Occupation
15 Marconi's creation	52 "Comic Relief"	4 "Larry King Show"	29 Bald
17 Not bumpy	53 Testaments	5 Exist	30 Austen heroine
18 Sargasso	54 Old	6 Roster	31 Unfortunate
19 Unscapped	55 Book	7 Perry or Marsha	32 Photo residue
20 Tooth-paste tube?	56 Jeannie's	8 Eternal	33 Woods' prop
21 Refused to move	57 Portrayal	9 Mike of the Beach	40 Mighty
24 Once called	58 Black	10 Vigoda and Burrows	43 Bonfire
25 Raw rock	59 Glaswegian		45 Kinsman (Abbr.)
26 Difficulty	60 Gal		46 Israeli airline
28 Groom's pal, perhaps			47 Arizona city
32 "Entertainment Tonight" ex-host			48 Piccadilly statue
34 Quick swim			49 Pop
36 Unaltered			53 Danny's "Lethal Weapon" co-star
37 Attacks			54 Visualize
39 Speed along			55 Jazzy instrument

Monday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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56					57				58	
59					60				61	

CRYPTOQUIP

X I A L - E M J X E Y M N X
B G M C M D K H B G I K ' X B K M O A I T :
L I A X C M M T N E G E M J E I K I
H O M N C G Y X Y H T H D I
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE HOUSECLEANER
JOKED THAT, WHEN AT WORK, SHE WOULD WEAR A DUST JACKET.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

The Cryptoquip 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.