

Glenn to gear up in Shield game

SYDNEY, Nov 14: Australian Test spearhead Glenn McGrath will use Wednesday's Sheffield Shield match to tune up for next week's cricket Test opener against the West Indies, reports AFP.

McGrath said Tuesday he felt great after being rested from New South Wales' one and four-day cricket matches with Tasmania last week because of a sore shoulder.

McGrath and the rest of the NSW team was forced to practice at the Sydney Cricket Ground indoor complex today after the heavens opened, threatening to delay Wednesday's start to the Shield match against South Australia here.

The strike bowler said he had undergone physiotherapy and rehabilitation work during his week off.

"If (the shoulder) has pulled up great, it was just starting to ache and it felt a bit weak so I just strengthened it back up and it's right to go," he said.

"The week off has done me a world of good. I'm keen to get back out there and get a few overs under my belt and bowl well. I'm not going to take it easy in this game."

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Nov 14: Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti A beat KPCA by 36 runs in the AHM Zamrozaman Smriti Cricket Tournament at the Katakali Adarsha College ground today.

Batting first, the winners scored 197 for five in 23 overs. In reply, KPCA were bowled out for 161 in 22.2 overs.

KABADI

Diganta Prasanna Saugha and Modern Boxing Club won their respective matches in the First Division Kabadi League at the Katakali Gymnasium Annex ground today.

Diganta defeated Sarali Sporting Club 16-7. In the other match of the day, Modern beat Lotus Club 44-13.

Boudhan Krija Chakra will take on Baikal Saugha and Mohua Bagan meet Kuj Sporting Club in today's matches.

Veterans bite the dust

NEW YORK, Nov 14: Kim Clijsters was a smashing hit in her Madison Square Garden debut.

The Belgian teenager gained a spot in the season-ending Chase Championship after five higher-ranked players withdrew with injuries. She then took matters into her own hands, overpowering fifth-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 7-5, 6-4 to wrap up Monday night's first-round matches, reports AP.

In the opener, Conchita Martinez, Sanchez-Vicario's Spanish Fed Cup teammate, survived a bundle of errors to eliminate Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the tournament's Garden finale.

The season-ending tournament, which has been a Garden mainstay since 1979, will move to Munich, Germany, next year.

Tuesday's play gets under way at 11 am EST (1600 GMT) with eighth-seeded Chanda Rubin taking on Amanda Coetzer, in night singles matches.

top-seeded Martina Hingis plays Julie Halard-Devogues before No 7 Anna Kournikova meets Jennifer Capriati.

The first round will be completed Wednesday with No 6 Nathalie Tauziat against Amy Frazier in the day match and No 3 Monica Seles against Sandrine Testud followed by No 2 Lindsay Davenport against Elena Dementieva in evening contests.

"We are the dark horses of the competition. Although we have been playing cricket for only four years, I'm confident that we have the team to beat the rest of the field," said Taher Bastaki, captain and manager of the Kuwaiti team.

"This is our first international tournament but we have not come here to just participate... we have come here to win and make our mark on the international scene."

Australia's pacey plan

SYDNEY, Nov 14 (AFP) Reuters-Jason Gillespie's anticipated recall to Test cricket next week will give Australia one of its best ever pace bowling attacks, Australian captain Steve Waugh said Tuesday.

Gillespie and Brett Lee are likely to play in the same Test team for the first time against the West Indies in Brisbane, and with Glenn McGrath in the side as well it will give Australia a venomous three-pronged pace attack.

The thought was enough to bring a sly smile to Waugh's face and he even entertained the proposition that the three pacemen could be classed as the best to take the field for Australia.

"It's a big quote, but they'll be up there," Waugh said Tuesday. "I don't want to say that (they're the best) because the next thing I'll read is: Waugh says these guys are the best ever, but they're going to be very good, no doubt about it."

Before Brett Lee came on the scene I was talking up Jason Gillespie because I think he's pretty special as well."

Waugh said being in charge of such a trio made captaincy easy.

"If you've got those three guys plus a quality spinner

backing them up it's a pretty good time to be a captain," he said.

"They love Test match cricket those guys. You don't need to tell them too much, they'll just get stuck in."

Particularly Gillespie -- he's had a tough time getting back. He hasn't been selected yet but if he gets in the Test side he'll be ready to go. He's very keen to get back amongst it."

All reports are he's working back into it nicely and the Western Australian boys said he bowled pretty well against them in the first game over there."

While giving a big rap to his own line-up and quietly reminding people that the highly touted Windies paceman Marlon Black was yet to play a Test, Waugh did caution against assuming Australia would score another home series whitewash.

"Our guys have probably got a bigger reputation but then they've got Courtney Walsh and he'll lead their young blokes," he said.

The West Indies play well against us and they play well in Australia. They will be very competitive."

For that reason, Waugh will sit down with his team and go through the annual complacency chat next week.

"We'll talk briefly about it," he said. "Every year we say: Did not bat A. Flower, P. Strang, H. Olunga, T. Friend, S. Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-121, 3-181, 4-197, 5-201.

We'll talk about complacency once and that's it, we won't talk about it again."

"I'll probably be brought up just once in Brisbane and that'll be it -- we won't talk about it again."

The first Test starts in Brisbane on November 23.

Waugh has another reason to be upbeat that injured fast bowler Damien Fleming is eyeing a return to Test cricket within a month after being cleared to play for Victoria against the West Indies.

Fleming has not played since breaking a finger while batting in a Melbourne grade game in October but passed his first hurdle on Tuesday when he was cleared to play against the tourists in their four-day encounter starting on Friday.

However, with McGrath, Lee and Gillespie all in good form, Fleming is almost certain to be overlooked for the first Test in Brisbane.

But the 30-year-old is hoping he can be considered for the second Test, starting December 1, on the faster, bouncier WACA pitch in Perth.

"I'm itching to play. I've had a gutful of sitting around," Fleming said.

"Hopefully I will come out and get wickets against the Windies and get into the second Test side for Perth where they often pick an extra paceman."

Asian Youth Cup Pakistan shock UAE

TEHRAN, Nov 14: Cricket-loving Pakistan recorded their first win in a major football championships when they defeated the United Arab Emirates 2-1 here Monday in the Asian Youth under-19 Cup, reports AFP.

In the day's other match in Group B, China defeated defending champions South Korea 1-0.

Pakistan took the lead against the UAE in the 23rd minute when Shahid Ahmed sent in a rocket from the right that left goalkeeper Mohammad Ali rooted to the spot.

The UAE went on the offensive in a bid to draw level but their forwards were guilty of missing numerous goal chances.

They paid the penalty just after the hour mark when Pakistan went 2-0 up through a cracking drive from Zaher Abbas which went in off the post.

The UAE did pull one back four minutes from time through Hassan Ali Ibrahim, but by then it was too late and Pakistan held on for a famous win.

China signalled their threat with the win over South Korea, their domination reaping rewards in the 61st minute when Gu Bo capitalised on a defensive muddle to head home from close range.

The fifth team in the group, Iraq, were idle. Group A consists of Iran, Thailand, Japan, Kuwait and Oman.

The top two teams from each group qualify for the semi-finals with the final set for November 26 at the Shiroudi Stadium here.

The biennial event is also the qualifier for the FIFA World Youth Championship in 2001 in Argentina with the top four teams going through to represent Asia.

Monday's results: China 1, South Korea 0 (h.t. 0-0). Pakistan 2, United Arab Emirates 1 (h.t. 1-0).

Santoro sends Moya packing

PARIS, Nov 14: Fabrice Santoro salvaged some local pride with a three-set victory over former French Open champion Carlos Moya in the 2.95 million dollars Masters Series event in Paris on Monday, reports Reuters.

Santoro ended a dismal early run of losses by French players when he beat Spaniard Carlos Moya 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-3.

Santoro's compatriots Arnaud di Pasquale, Nicolas Escude, Jerome Golmard and Michael Llodra all lost their opening round matches.

Moya, the French Open winner in 1998, struggled on serve and made far more errors than Santoro as he continued his slide down the rankings.

"It was a tough match with a lot of long rallies and I was grateful to come out a winner," said Santoro, who has not

made it past the second round here in seven previous appearances.

His reward for beating Moya was a meeting on Tuesday with third-seeded Swede Magnus Norman.

It is not the best of draws, because Norman has been a revelation this year," Santoro said.

Michael Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, ground his way to a 6-2, 7-5 win over Sydney Olympic Games bronze medalist di Pasquale, fighting back after trailing 0-4 in the second set.

The American earned a meeting with fifth-seeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt, winner of four tournaments this year.

Chang, now 28, has not won a tournament in France since his French Open triumph 11 years ago.

But Paris is always a special place for me, whether I'm playing at Roland Garros or here in seven previous appearances.

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Zim openers in form

FARIDABAD, India, Nov 14 (AFP): Zimbabwe openers Grant Flower and Gavin Rennie struck form ahead of the Test series against India with sparkling knocks against the Board president's team here on Tuesday.

Flower made 49 and Rennie 79 as the tourists, replying to the home team's total of 314-5 declared, closed their first innings at 236-5 on the second day of the three-day match.

Zimbabwe's surprise declaration 78 runs behind to enable their bowlers to get used to unfriendly wickets backfired as the president's XI knocked up 52-0 by close to gain an overall lead of 130 runs.

Wicket-keeper Vijay Dahiya, called up in the Indian squad for the first Test in New Delhi from Saturday, was unbeaten on 23 at stumps. Ravneet Ricky was on 26 not out.

Zimbabwe crumbled against spin after the 94-run stand between Flower and Rennie, with only stand-in captain Guy Whittall making 30 not out.

Their total was boosted by 34 extras conceded by the home team, which included 14 byes, 10 leg-byes and 10 no-balls.

The wickets were shared by

the three off-spinners, with Ashish Kapoor and Virender Sehwag taking two each and captain Hrishikesh Kanitkar one.

Zimbabwe fast bowler Henry Olunga, hoping to make the playing eleven for the first Test, went for 36 runs in five overs when the President's team batted a second time.

The tourists will be looking to dismiss the home team quickly on Wednesday in a bid to force a morale-boosting win before the two back-to-back Tests.

Did not bat: A. Flower, P. Strang, H. Olunga, T. Friend, S. Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-121, 3-181, 4-197, 5-201.

Bowler O M R W Mohanty 7 4 7 0 Saxena 13 3 51 0 Sanghvi 19 3 50 0 Kapoor 19 4 49 2 Kanitkar 9 0 31 1 Badani B Strang 35 5 Sehwag 6 3 24 2

PRESIDENT'S XI Second innings Ricky not out 26 Dahiya not out 23 Extras: (b2, lb3, nb10) 32 Total (for 5wickets dec) 314

Did not bat: D. Mohanty, R. Sanghvi, A. Kapoor, S. Saxena. Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-88, 3-119, 4-227, 5-263.

Bowler O M R W Olunga 18 6 47 0

Friend 12 3 38 1 Nkala 11 2 44 0 Strang 20 4 59 3 Murphy 16 2 75 1 G Flower 13 1 46 0

ZIMBABWE: First innings G Flower b Kapoor 49 Rennie c Abbas b Sehwag 79 Carlisle c Sanghvi b Kanitkar 4 Marlonde lbw b Kapoor 26 G Whittall not out 30 Nkala c Dahiya b Sehwag 0 Murphy not out 14 Extras: (b14, lb10, nb10) 44 Total: (for 5wickets dec) 236

Did not bat: A. Flower, P. Strang, H. Olunga, T. Friend, S. Fall of wickets: 1-94, 2-121, 3-181, 4-197, 5-201.

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ACC Trophy starts today

SHARJAH, Nov 14: The tiny oil kingdom of Kuwait will take its first steps on the international cricket arena at the ten-day Asian Cricket Council Trophy tournament, which gets underway here Wednesday, reports AFP.

But with a team made up largely of Indians and Pakistanis, the newcomers are confident that they can upset the more established Asian teams like Malaysia, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates in the eight-nation tournament, which is a qualifier for next year's Asia Cup in Karachi.

"We are the dark horses of the competition. Although we have been playing cricket for only four years, I'm confident that we have the team to beat the rest of the field," said Taher Bastaki, captain and manager of the Kuwaiti team.

"This is our first international tournament but we have not come here to just participate... we have come here to win and make our mark on the international scene."

Bastaki and his younger brother Mehmood, the vice-captain, are the only Kuwaiti nationals in the team. The rest of the 14-strong squad are Indians and Pakistanis who were born in Kuwait.

"The game is not popular as yet amongst the Kuwaitis. We love our soccer but one day I hope that cricket will also be as popular. It is important to do well here because it would increase the profile of the sport back home," said the Kuwaiti captain.

Taher Bastaki, 48, is the driving force behind the game in Kuwait. He is a senior officer of the Kuwait Cricket Association which was formed in 1997 and is an affiliate member of the ACC.

"The game was brought to my country by the British 50 years ago. It has been an expatriate game for all these years. Four years ago I got in touch with the British and said I wanted to field a team in the local competition which I now sponsor."

options of participating in sport were somewhat limited and I decided to take up cricket as I realised that there is a lot of resting in the game. When you are fielding you only have to run when the ball comes your way and I liked that aspect," said Bastaki, a right hand batsman who has scored one century in his short career.

"At the moment there are over 1000 players in my country, the majority of them being Indians and Pakistanis. We need more Kuwaiti nationals playing the game so that we will get support from the government is needed," said Pound, who is tipped to step into the shoes of Juan Antonio Samaranch as head of the IOC.

Concerning the soon to be announced adaptation of a new EPO (erythropoietin) test, Pound expressed the need to do so with the backing of both the IOC and WADA to avoid legal problems.

WADA was first founded as an independent body in November 1999 on the recommendation of the World doping conference that followed the 1998 Tour de France doping scandal.

According to Sivasalmi those shortlisted will have until March 1, 2001 to present their proposals and a decision will be taken mid-2001 with a view to having an operational office by January 2002.

WADA are also due to release their report on the 2,073 tests run during trials for the Sydney Olympics.

"The report will establish a unified list of banned products to be adopted by the 100 international federations and governments," said IOC vice-president and WADA chief Dick Pound.

"Everyone now understands that doping is an international problem and that a global solution is needed," said Pound, who is tipped to step into the shoes of Juan Antonio Samaranch as head of the IOC.

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Seven cities in the fray

OSLO, Nov 14: The executive committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) met here on Monday to draw up a shortlist of seven cities, one of which will eventually house their head office, reports AFP.

The shortlist cannot yet be made public, but a decision will be taken on Tuesday," WADA's Finnish secretary general Harri Sivasalmi said at a press conference Monday.

WADA are temporarily housed in Lausanne, Switzerland near the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters.

There are ten cities in contention - Barcelona (Spain), Bonn (Germany), Lausanne (Switzerland), Lille (France), Madrid, Montreal, Nice (France), Singapore, Stockholm and Vienna.

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Woods faces anti-Nike wrath

BANGKOK, Nov 14: The world's top golfer Tiger Woods was Tuesday forced to run the gamut of about 100 sacked Nike employees who staged an angry protest inside the lobby of the Bangkok hotel where he is staying, reports AFP.

Woods, who arrived in the Thai capital Tuesday to play in the Johnnie Walker Classic, was leaving a ceremony inside the building where he was conferred with an honorary doctorate in sports science.

Woods, whose mother is Thai, would have been expecting a warm welcome to "The Land of Smiles," where he has been hailed as a hero during past visits.

But this time he had to be escorted through the noisy protesters by a phalanx of bodyguard and officials as he returned to his room after the brief ceremony.

Looking somewhat taken aback, he put his head down and walked past without making any comment as the protesters shouted questions at him.

Organisers said Woods, whose contract with Nike nets him 100 million US dollars over five years, should listen to their claims that they have been unlawfully dismissed by Nike in Thailand.

"He should be able to really understand why that company can give him so much money," said Thai Labour Committee official Junya Yumprasert.

It would take the workers 72,000 years of work for Nike on their wages here to make that money," she said.

Nike, which labour unions say employs roughly 70,000 Thais, has frequently been accused of ill-treating its Asian employees. It is charged with subjecting them to inadequate pay and poor working conditions, as well as banning union membership.

During the degree ceremony, Woods said it was a "tremendous honour" to be recognised for his sporting and charitable achievements.

The 24-year-old thanked Kasetsart University for the chance to realise his dream of holding a degree after his blossoming golfing career forced him to leave Stanford University before completing his studies.

"This is a humbling experience," he said as he accepted the award.

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