

Adams urges batters to deliver

MELBOURNE, Nov 20: West Indies captain Jimmy Adams called on his batsmen today to stand and be counted before the first Test with Australia in Brisbane on Thursday, reports AFP.

Pat predicts bounce back

LAHORE, Nov 20: West Indian cricket boss Pat Rouseau Monday said he had no worries about his team's poor form despite its latest failures in Australia, reports AFP.

Sobers slams two coaches

MELBOURNE, Nov 20: West Indies' cricketing great Sir Garfield Sobers launched a withering attack on the credentials of team coaches Roger Harper and Jeff Dujon in comments published today, reports Reuters.

"I'm astonished they've appointed two Test coaches who did nothing much out in the middle themselves," the former West Indies captain and all-rounder told the Australian newspaper.

"As a player, Harper had to go to a coach to learn how to bowl in the middle of a series. How much confidence can you have in Roger Harper?"

"All he's got is one of those meaningless coaching certificates. I never needed one to tell me how to play cricket." Sobers was reported as saying.

Harper is the head coach of the team, with Dujon his assistant.

Mohammedan back

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TEAMS MOHAMMEDAN SC: Nizam, Jewel Rana, Faisal, Jahangir, Rezaul (Montu), Tito (Mau), Shah Alam (Shoeb), Muttir Munna, Rakib, Alfaz and Nakib.

Rahul's seventh

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Strang went for 70 runs off 23 overs while leg-spinner Paul Strang had 0-40 from 13.

Dravid came to the crease early in the day when opener Sadaqopan Rameshi was trapped leg-before by Streak with the score at 27.

Dravid, often jeered in the past for his slow batting, never looked back after smashing 10 runs, including two boundaries on the leg-side, in Henry Olonga's opening over.

The unusually aggressive Dravid hit 41 off 60 balls and Das weighed in with 42 as India went to lunch at 100-1.

The pair took their second-wicket partnership to 107 midway through the afternoon session when Zimbabwe struck again.

Olonga, who gave away 16 runs in his first two overs, had the last laugh when he caught Das in front of the wicket with a rare straight ball.

Das, a small-built batsman from Orissa playing in only his second Test, matched the seasoned Dravid with five boundaries.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first cricket Test between India and Zimbabwe at the Feroz Shah Kotla on Monday.

ZIMBABWE: First innings 422-9 decl (A Flower 183 not out, A Campbell 70, S Carlisle 58, J Srinath 4-81)

INDIA: First innings (over-night 9/0) Das lbw b Olonga 58 Rameshi lbw b Streak 13 Dravid not out 118 Tendulkar not out 70 Extras: (lb-2, lb-6, nb-9, w-2) 16 Total: (For 2 wks in 99 overs) 275

Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-134

SCOREBOARD

Hingis enjoys last Chase

NEW YORK, Nov 20: In a fitting finale for women's tennis at Madison Square Garden, world number one Martina Hingis edged former champion Monica Seles in three thrilling sets Sunday to capture her second WTA Championship crown, reports AFP.

Hingis needed more than two hours to post a 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4 triumph over the third-seeded Seles, who possibly was making her last appearance in the 2 million-dollar season-ending event.

For the next three years, the WTA Tour has decided to move the tournament to Munich, Germany, the country where Seles was stabbed during a match in 1993. She vowed never to return after a German judge allowed her attacker to go free.

But that dark incident was far from the minds of the players and voracious but less-than-capacity crowd, which was treated to outstanding tennis.

Hingis improved to 12-2 lifetime against Seles and raised her tour-leading tournament victories this season to nine. The 20-year-old from Switzerland earned 500,000 dollars and her 35th career singles title.

In a match decided by just a few key points, Seles won her first set from Hingis since 1998. The two traded breaks and Hingis held for a 6-5 lead before they waged a lengthy battle in the 12th game, which went to nine deuces.

Seles saved three set points before converting on her seventh, hitting a forehand stab volley down the line to force the tiebreaker. She hit a forehand wide on her second set point but forced an error from Hingis to seal the set in 56 minutes.

In the second set, Hingis erased deficits of 0-2 and 2-4 as she ran Seles from side to side, forcing the two-handed player to make one-handed saves. At the changeover Seles had her left upper thigh attended by the trainer.

They traded breaks at the start of the deciding set before Hingis held for a 3-1 lead. Seles finally had an easy service

game, hitting four straight winners, and rode the crowd support to level the set at 3-3.

Hingis went ahead in the seventh game but double-faulted on break point on her own service game. The string of breaks continued as Seles put a backhand into the net for break point and Hingis nailed a cross-court backhand winner.

After Hingis double-faulted on her first match point, she hit a 92-mph ace -- her fifth of the match -- and Seles smacked a second-serve forehand return into the net to end the match.

Hingis shook hands cordially with Seles before meeting her mother and coach, Melanie Molitor, at the side of the court, where she broke into tears.

Going without a Grand Slam title for the first time since 1996, Hingis often appeared

pushed around by more powerful players this year.

She lost to Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Australian Open and to Venus Williams in the quarter-finals of Wimbledon and the semi-finals at the US Open. However, she compiled a 77-10 record and finished the year at number one for the third time in her career.

It was her second title in two days -- she won the doubles trophy here with Russian Anna Kournikova on Friday.

A winner of three titles this year, Seles also captured the bronze medal at the Sydney Olympics. The former world number one became the youngest player to win the season-ending championship in 1990, when she took the title at 16 years, 11 months. She successfully defended her title the next two years.



Switzerland's Martina Hingis poses with the trophy after clinching the Chase Championship in New York on November 19. -AFP photo

Safin survives Scud attack

PARIS, Nov 20: Russian second seed and ATP Champions Race leader Marat Safin won a cliff-hanger final at the 2.95 million-dollar Paris Masters Series title at the Bercy stadium on Sunday, downing Australian 13th seed Mark Philippoussis 3-6, 7-5 (9/7), 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (10/8), reports AFP.

The win gave the 20-year-old Russian a Tour-leading seventh title of the year and means he is almost certain to end the year as world number one.

He insisted afterwards he had to be regarded as top dog, even though the ATP Tour are still reluctant to confirm him as such.

"I don't know why I can't think I'm number one. I won enough tournaments. Maybe some people don't like it, but that's life," he said, in a side-swipe at the Tour's marketing of the Champions Race as the prime indicator.

And he said he would look to win the Masters Cup in Lisbon starting November 28 so that the tennis establishment do not regard him as "that yo-yo from Moscow".

He added he thought he would have to quit after a bad fall in the third set, when he cut himself above his right eyebrow going for a low volley, when he saw the blood dripping from the wound.

"I thought I'd have to say 'thank you and bye bye,'" he admitted.

Safin's success, achieved on his sixth match point after a heartstopping finale, made him the only player to claim more than one Masters Series title in 2000 having earlier won in Toronto, Canada.

And it meant he also went one better than last year, when he lost on his Paris indoor debut in the final to Andre Agassi.

Safin's success takes him to close on three million dollars in earnings for the year after a 7-2 record in title matches.

WHO & WHEN OF MEN'S TENNIS

PARIS, Nov 20 (AFP): Chronology of men's world number one players since introduction of the rankings in 1973: Ilie Nastase, Romania, 23 Aug 1973: 27 yrs 1 month John Newcombe, Australia, 3 June 1974: 30 yrs 11 days Jimmy Connors, United States, 29 July 1974: 21 yrs 11 months Bjorn Borg, Sweden, 23 Aug 1977: 21 yrs 2 months John McEnroe, United States, 3 March 1980: 21 yrs 15 days Ivan Lendl, Czechoslovakia, 28 Feb 1983: 22 yrs 11 months Mats Wilander, Sweden, 32 Sept 1988: 24 yrs 1 month Stefan Edberg, Sweden, 13 Aug 1990: 24 yrs 9 months Boris Becker, Germany, 28 Jan 1991: 23 yrs 2 months Jim Courier, United States, 10 Feb 1992: 21 yrs 5 months Pete Sampras, United States, 12 April 1993: 21 yrs 8 months Andre Agassi, United States, 10 April 1995: 24 yrs 11 months Thomas Muster, Austria, 12 Feb 1996: 28 yrs 4 months Marcelo Rios, Chile, 30 March 1998: 22 yrs 3 months Carlos Moya, Spain, 15 March 1999: 22 yrs 6 months Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Russia, 3 May 1999: 25 yrs 2 months Patrick Rafter, Australia, 26 July 1999: 26 yrs 8 months Marat Safin, Russia, 20 Nov 2000: 20 yrs 10 months (youngest ever)

Beware, batsmen!

NEW YORK, Nov 20: The cricket or baseball batsman who keeps his eye on the ball may not be doing the right thing after all, according to Nature Neuroscience magazine published in New York, reports DPA.

That's the conclusion reached by scientists who studied the visual cues needed by athletes to produce rapid and accurate motor responses to very brief stimuli.

In the December issue of the magazine two scientists report on how they used close-up video to monitor the eye movements of cricket batsmen attempting hit balls from a bowling machine for pitching machine in baseball terms.

They found that the frequently heard coach's advice, "Keep your eye on the ball," may not be the best approach, or at least not the most common.

Previous theories proposed that a batsman must use direct visual measurements, such as image expansion or the rate of change of the difference between inputs to the two eyes, to predict the ball's trajectory.

However, given that the batsman has only a fraction of a second to monitor such visual cues, it has been controversial whether these parameters could be measured accurately enough to guide the correct response.

The authors monitored the eye movements of three cricket batsmen of widely varying skill, and found that, in general, all three made a similar sequence of eye movements.

Their eyes followed the ball's trajectory for a short period after release, then made a rapid movement below the ball to the site where it would be predicted to bounce.

They then fixated again on the ball as it bounced and followed its upward trajectory for a short period afterward. The parameters that best distinguished most skilled from least skilled batsmen were the speed and timing of the initial rapid eye movement.



Russian Marat Safin accepts the winner's trophy after victory in the Paris Masters final against Mark Philippoussis of Australia on November 19. - AFP photo

Tied Test revisited

BRISBANE, Nov 20 (AP/AFP): Ian Meckiff was late -- symbolically late. On Monday, as one of the key players from cricket's famous tied Test in Brisbane, Meckiff was again caught out of his ground. He was one of 20 players, or 'living fossils' as West Indies vice-captain of the time Gerry Alexander introduced them, gathered in Brisbane for a special Tied Test reunion.

The West Indies and Australia scored heavily in the first innings before a dramatic last two days in December 1960. Australia required 233 in the last innings to win but Meckiff was run out needing one run with just two balls remaining.

Meckiff's chair on the stage Monday sat as empty as the crease he was struggling to reach that afternoon at the Gabba when West Indian Joe Solomon threw down his wicket to give cricket its first tied Test. "I apologise for being late," said Meckiff. "But I think the Australian members of the team would have been disappointed if I had turned up on time."

Meckiff's late arrival, like 40 years ago, prompted teammate Alan Davidson to quip "you've got to be able to run to make it."

But Davidson, like so many who reflect on that magical day, has no regrets Meckiff wasn't quite quick enough over the 22 years.

Even Meckiff, who reminds everyone he is the only player run out twice in the one Test.

laughs when asked if 40 years on he holds a grudge against Solomon whose deadly throw from square leg got him out.

"I'm very happy he ran me out, otherwise we wouldn't be here," grinned Meckiff.

Many of the players who took part in that tied Test in which Australia lost three wickets in the final 12 deliveries, have remained close friends since.

Sir Garfield Sobers, Wes Hall, Lance Gibbs, Solomon and Alexander told of the close camaraderie they shared with Australian players like Davidson, Richie Benaud, Norm O'Neill and Bob Simpson.

Twenty-one of the Australian and West Indies players who were in the historic game have come together again to swap stories.

All will be special guests in the opening match of this summer's series between Australia and the Windies, which begins here on Thursday.

Alexander said the positive attitude of the respective captains, the late Sir Frank Worrell and Australia's Richie Benaud, made for an exciting series.

Benaud said he had mixed emotions about Australia failing to win that opening Test at the Gabba after three run-outs in its second innings.

But he said the then Australian chairman of selectors Sir Donald Bradman told him at the time the result was great for cricket.

Chasing 233 to win the match, Australia recovered from

96 for six to 226 for six when dead-eyed Solomon ran out Davidson for 80 to turn the game.

After losing two more quick wickets, Australia needed one run to win when Lindsay Kline fended off a delivery from big paceman Wes Hall to square leg and Meckiff scrambled for the single.

Solomon again was on the prowl from square leg and, with one stump to aim at, hit the target and ran out Meckiff to complete the tie.

Benaud said there was some confusion straight afterwards about the result, but he walked off the field with Worrell, both of them realising that history had been made.

"When I walked into the dressing room Sir Donald Bradman said to me that is the greatest thing that's ever happened to the game of cricket," Benaud told a news conference Monday.

"I said I'll need some convincing on that, we've just thrown away a match."

"No, No," he said, "you'll come to realise that that was the greatest thing that's ever happened to the game."

Benaud said Frank Worrell had told him the Tests in 1960-61 would be a "lot of fun" and that proved to be the case with record crowds attending the series, including 92,000 during one day's play in the Melbourne Test.

Australia won the series 2-1 with one Test drawn and the tied Test.

Onus on WI batsmen

BRISBANE, Australia, Nov 20: The underperforming West Indies batsmen have to make a firm resolve to remedy the team's humiliating position, coach Roger Harper said Monday, reports AFP.

The embattled tourists arrived Monday ahead of Thursday's first Test against Steve Waugh's Australians, playing down the belittling leadup losses to Western Australia and Victoria.

The worrying slump has left West Indies team selector Mike Findlay frustrated along with coach Roger Harper.

"The batting has been our problem for a considerable period of time and that's what's got to be put right," Harper said Monday.

"Against Victoria, we didn't bowl well in the second day. We came back very well on third morning and showed that as a unit we can get a job done, but still from a batting perspective we didn't put it together."

"The batsmen are the players with more experience than the bowlers in general and they're the one's who've got to dig deep within themselves and find that extra bit."

The West Indies are pinning their hopes on leaders like gifted batsman Brian Lara firing against the Australians.

Tour manager Ricky Skerritt said the Windies were under too much pressure and needed to refocus.

"I wouldn't say it is a crisis," Skerritt said.

"It is a great opportunity to see the leadership that exists in the team. It lies in a lot more places than perhaps we understand."

"I have a pretty good feeling about it. I think it is going to work to our benefit."

"Brian has been extremely valuable to this team. He's very much involved and I think you're going to see him even more involved when the team needs him most."

Skerritt denied the team was in crisis and was putting a positive spin on the team's chances.

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very quickly. You don't need to tell the players that ... it's clear what needs to be done."

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Scandinavian cities may bid

STOCKHOLM, Nov 20: Four Scandinavian cities are planning a joint bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympics, the mayor of Gothenburg said on Monday, reports AFP.

The bid would concern Gothenburg and Malmo of Sweden along with the Norwegian capital Oslo and the Danish capital Copenhagen.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Heart of the matter 5 Cleo's van-quisher 8 Go jogging 12 'Portnoy's Complaint' author 13 Luau bowlful 14 Downey of 'Touched By An Angel' 15 'It's a Sin to Tell...' designer 16 Cocktail lounge 18 Weight-lifter 20 Baal accessories 21 'Little Women' woman 22 Chart type 23 'Oh, God!' star 26 Hotel employee 30 '- was saying...' shine 31 'Litter' container 32 Plata's partner 33 Deformed dwarf 34 Journalist 40 Journalist Alexander 43 Diver 47 Baboon variety 49 Vasco da - 50 Art Deco designer 51 Rudy or Sandra 52 An arm or a leg 53 Eastern potatoe 54 Possess 55 Grandson 56 Grandson Eve 57 Dwarf in a tale 58 Reeceded 59 A billion 60 Journalist 61 Alexander 62 Diver 63 Baboon variety 64 Earth 65 'mater 66 Gardening tool 67 Art Deco designer 68 Rudy or Sandra 69 Actor 70 Eastern potatoe 71 Astronaut Armstrong 72 Overwhelm 73 Overwhelm 74 Diving bird 75 Damage 76 Con 77 Made like an eagle 78 Principal 79 Butlets 80 Appre-ends 81 Not choose to run'

Cryptogram grid with numbers and letters for solving. Includes text: 'CRYPTOQUIP CX F XEID XZNX QWF X R W B P F Z W E D Q D B N E D R C N M R D X W M D F I G G D C B P G E W Q L C P D E L D F F I E D. Yesterday's Cryptogram: I UNDERSTAND THAT MANY PEOPLE THINK PICKLES ARE SIMPLY DILL-ICIOUS. Today's Cryptogram Clue: F equals S

SOLUTION time: 27 mins.

The Cryptogram 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 with an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.