



Participants of the Transcom Cup golf tournament, which was held on Friday, pose with the Chief of Army Staff and the club president M Mustafizur Rahman at the Kurmitola Golf Club.

J-League
Antlers take second stage

TOKYO, Nov 26: Two-time champions Kashima Antlers held Kashiwa Reysol to a goalless draw to keep their one-point lead in the standings and win the second stage of the J-League football on Sunday, reports AFP.

"It is a result of what my players did. Each player did their best as a professional player, never losing the fighting spirit till the end," said Kashima head coach Toninho Cerezo of Brazil.

Norman bows out

STOCKHOLM, Nov 26: Thomas "The Hammer" Johansson accounted for his second home opponent in as many matches Saturday, dismissing diminished top seed Magnus Norman 7-6 (7/4), 6-2 to reach the final of the \$800,000-dollar Stockholm Open, reports AFP.

Johansson saddled Norman with a loss in one hour, 22 minutes as the seed failed to recover fully from the massive cramping which struck him during Friday night's dramatic quarterfinal win over Sjeng Schalken.

Henman, Hrbaty showdown

BRIGHTON, Nov 26: Tim Henman looked on course for his second ATP Tour title of the year after the British number one made short work of his semifinal opponent South Korean Hyeon-Taik Lee here Saturday night, reports AFP.

Henman, this tournament's top seed who snapped a losing run in finals by winning in Vienna last month, took just 65 minutes to run out a 6-2, 6-1 winner, and book his spot in the finals against Slovak Dominik Hrbaty.

Hundredth

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way I thought of leaving the game," he said.
"My wife Huma stood firm with me and helped me come out from all pains. Every time such things came they inspired me to put up more hard work," he said.

Soon after Qayyum's report was made public in May, Akram nearly brought the first ever series win for Pakistan in the West Indies.
He took 11 wickets in the match and Pakistan nearly won the Antigua Test and the series in June.

"People should learn that wins and losses are not in our hands, once we wear Pakistan's green cap we give no less than 100 per cent and that should be accepted," he said.
"Playing for Pakistan has always been primary for me and nothing can get above this," he said.
Fellow players revolted against his captaincy in 1993 and Akram had to step down.
"I don't say I have not committed any mistakes, I did but such things hurt me. Still I gave my best when I played as ordinary member," he said.

Windies seek shrink-aid

BRISBANE, Nov 26: The West Indies, sitting through the rubble of their first Test defeat to Australia here on Saturday, are looking at summing up a motivation expert to cure their ills, reports AFP.

It won't be the celebrated sports psychologist Dr Rudi Webster -- who took the Caribbean men to the top of world cricket in the 1980s -- as he's unavailable, but captain Jimmy Adams has not ruled out approaching someone similar.

Adams, choosing his words carefully in the wake of the innings and 126-run hammering in the first of five Tests, said it was not faulty technique that was the West Indies' undoing.

Asked if it was temperament or technique, or both, that was the team's problem, Adams said: "In my opinion I don't think it's technique, we have players who perform all over the world and it's just not happening."

Questioned about temperament, Adams said: "I would say what it is not, I don't think it is technique."

Adams said someone like Webster could make a contribution to his ailing side.

"My opinion is that someone like that might be able to make a contribution, especially playing away from home," Adams said.

"This is something that will have to be consulted within the team and taken from there. It is something I will raise with the manager (Ricky Skerritt)."

Adams was deeply hurt by his team's inept performance against the Australians. Skittled for 82 in two sessions on the opening day and struggling to 124 with the aid of an unbeaten 62 by Shivnarine Chanderpaul in Saturday's second innings.

"At the end of the day we have to start looking forward. Adams, choosing his words carefully in the wake of the innings and 126-run hammering in the first of five Tests, said it was not faulty technique that was the West Indies' undoing.

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and mentally," he said. The West Indies have lost 14 of their past 16 Tests away from home, but Adams was at a loss to explain why.

"All I will say is the discrepancy exists and as a team collectively we're still trying to find the answers to that," he said.

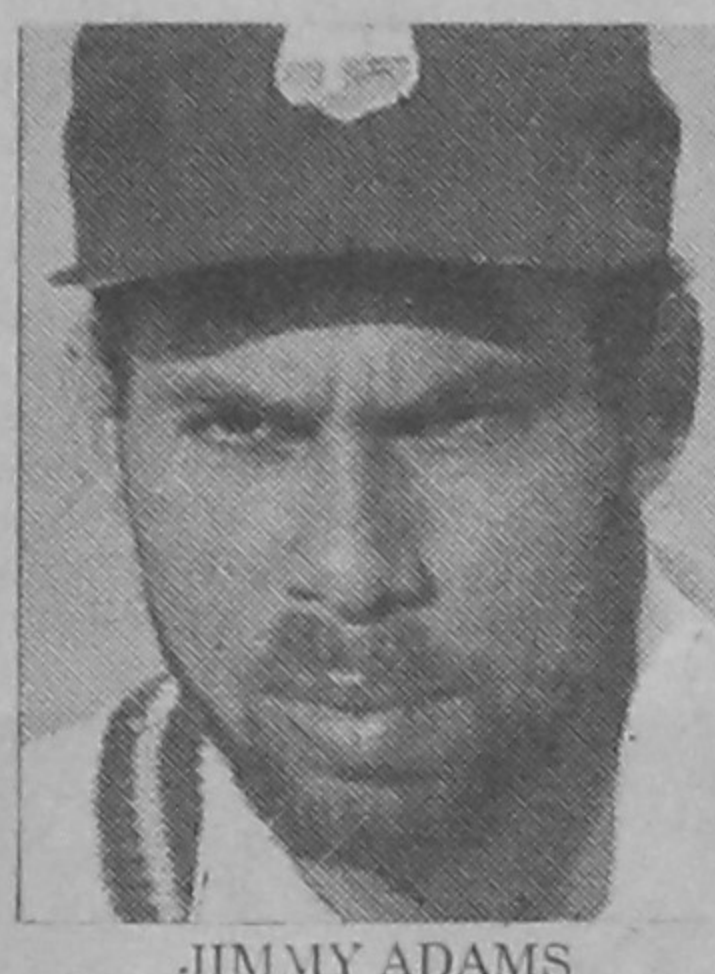
"We know that we're playing against a team of very high quality and that was the case last year and this year. What's more of a challenge is that we're actually playing Australia in Australia... I get the impression that everybody views it as a big challenge."

Adams said he welcomed any interaction from the grand old stars of the 1960 Test era here for a 40th anniversary reunion to help his players towards the remainder of the series.

"They're available and there is going to be a bit of interaction between our team and these fellas, we're in the same hotel, and whatever insights they can give will be helpful," he said.

Distinguished batsman Brian Lara was a grave disappointment in the first Test, falling for a duck and four, both times to Glenn McGrath, but Adams said he was reluctant to remove him from the No.3 batting spot and perhaps promote Chanderpaul from No.4.

"He says he's up to it and that's good enough for me," he said.



JIMMY ADAMS

We have a very important Test match starting next Friday and we have to start thinking now about how we are going to approach that game physically

Hoggard hogs headlines

LAHORE, Nov 26: England's Matthew Hoggard sparked with eight wickets as his team drew their three-day match against Pakistan Cricket Board XI at the Bagh-e-Jinnah stadium on Saturday, reports AFP.

Hoggard's 8-30 raised chances for a result but an enterprising 27 not out by Faisal Iqbal saved PCB XI from defeat.

PCB XI, 120 runs in arrears, were 71-6 when play was called off due to bad light, 11 overs before the scheduled close, with England pressing hard for their third win in as many side games.

Earlier, the visitors declared their first innings at 237-7 when Ashley Giles was bowled by Fazeel Akbar for 28 after a 79-run seventh wicket stand with Paul Nixon who remained not out on 47.

England took a 120-run lead as the home team had scored only 117 in their first essay. After a blank second day on Friday due to rain, England restarted their first innings at 76-2.

Opener Marcus Trescothick notched up a fine half century during his 177-minute stay at the crease and hit six boundaries before retiring to give his other colleagues some practice.

Alec Stewart shaped well for his 47 before becoming left arm pacer Stephen John's first of three wickets in a fine burst of pace bowling.

The 26-year-old from Islamabad had Andrew Flintoff caught in the slip next ball but bowled down the leg side to spoil a hat trick chance.

Alex Tudor, playing his first game on tour, hooked one off John straight to fine leg and was caught for 4.

John proved the most successful of home team's bowlers with 4-73. PCB XI started their second innings on a disastrous note, losing both openers inside seven overs.

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McGrath thanks county cricket

BRISBANE, Nov 26: Glenn McGrath has credited a stint with English county team Worcestershire as the key to his amazing 10-wicket haul in Australia's landslide win over West Indies on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The lanky fast bowler was the unanimous choice as man-of-the-match after taking figures of 6-17 and 4-10 for a combined return of 10-27 as Australia thrashed the onemighty West Indies by an innings and 126 runs in under three days.

No other bowler in history has ever taken 10 or more wickets for fewer runs in a Test match but McGrath insisted there was nothing special about his latest haul.

"I just bowled it in the spot, I just tried to keep it simple," McGrath said. The 30-year-old said his success could be attributed to the fact he spent the off-season playing in England and has started the Australian summer fitter than ever.

Australia's Test players were given a rare chance to play county cricket in England this year after the national team decided not to take a winter tour because of the Sydney Olympics.

While some stayed home to watch the Games, other players like McGrath and leg spinner Shane Warne took up the chance to go abroad. Months of bowling on England's spongier wickets paid off for McGrath when Brisbane's Gabba pitch turned out to be unusually slow during the first Test because the wicket was prepared much later than usual after the Gabba was used to stage interstate Olympic soccer matches.

While West Indies bowlers struggled to find their line and length, McGrath ripped through their batsmen with his unerring accuracy. McGrath is not the world's fastest bowler and may not move the ball as much as others but he still has plenty of tricks up his sleeve.

Before the first Test, McGrath had dismissed West Indian World record holder Brian Lara 10 times, more than any other bowler in Test cricket. By the end, it was 12. McGrath got him for a duck in the first innings then again for four in the second innings.

"I think I summed the wicket up pretty early," McGrath said. "I realised there wasn't too much in it, not too much bounce and movement, so I just tried to keep the ball in the same area and didn't go away from that."

Australian captain Steve Waugh said McGrath had produced an amazing spell on a wicket that had offered virtually no encouragement to the quick men. "Full credit to Glenn for getting 10 wickets on that sort of wicket, it really was a feathered and it wasn't easy to bowl on," Waugh said.

"I've seen him bowl as well as that without getting the wickets but this was his game, no doubt about that. He got the edges and things went his way but if you kept putting them in the right spot you're going to get the rewards," Waugh said.

McGrath's haul lifted his career tally to 298 wickets from 63 Tests and within two of joining Shane Warne (366) and Dennis Lillee (355) as the only Australians to reach 300 Test wickets.

On current form, he should join their exclusive club next week when the second Test starts in Perth on Friday.

Gillespie ready to roll

BRISBANE, Nov 26: Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie said today he was happy to take a back-seat role in a fearsome three-man pace attack in the second Test against the West Indies starting in Perth on Friday, reports Reuters.

Selectors have recalled Gillespie to their 12-man squad. He will replace Western Australian batsman Damien Martyn, the 12th man in the first Test.

Gillespie was originally named for the first Test but withdrew with a slight hamstring strain. The aggressive paceman has not played a Test for Australia since breaking his leg in a collision with captain Steve Waugh in Sri Lanka 14 months ago.

Since then, Australia have won a world record equaling 11 consecutive matches including their victory by an innings and 126 runs in the first Test on Saturday in Brisbane. The man of the match Glenn McGrath took 10-27, the cheapest 10-wicket haul in Test-match history, while his new-ball partner Brett Lee (4-64 for the match), considered the quickest bowler in world cricket, is anxious to perform at the WACA Ground which is a fast bowler's paradise.

Waugh said there was a "strong chance" Gillespie would play with Queensland paceman Andy Bichel likely to be 12th man. "I think the new-ball combination is pretty set. They bowl really well together and I can't see why you would change it," Gillespie told reporters on Sunday.

"I've bowled first change in one-dayers for South Australia and I bow first change for my club so it doesn't bother me at all. The Australian squad will head to Perth on Tuesday after wrapping up the first Test in less than three days.

Fed Cup

America's record 17th triumph



LAS VEGAS, Nov. 26: No Venus. No Serena. No problem. Even without the Williams sisters and with second-ranked Lindsay Davenport nursing a sore right calf, the defending champion United States completed a 5-0 sweep of Spain here Saturday to win a record 17th Fed Cup women's tennis title, reports AFP.

Australian Open champion Davenport defeated fifth-ranked Conchita Martinez 6-2, 6-1, in a matchup of injured stars to clinch the best-of-five final after she and No. 4 Monica Seles had won Friday.

"Especially without the Williamses, we were unsure a couple weeks ago," said Davenport. "It made it a little harder without them so to win like that was nice."

US Open and Wimbledon winner Venus Williams, whose 35-match win streak was halted by Davenport last month, and sister Serena, who joined Venus for Olympic doubles gold, played in last year's final, a 4-1 victory over Russia.

Both cited injuries but US captain Billie Jean King was preparing players to do without them in early October. Seles and Davenport dominated anyway and the US won a third Cup in five years and avenged a 1998 semi-final loss to Spain.

"It's great to beat them again," Seles said. "It can't replace our loss in '98 but we won and we will have many more chances to win."

Jennifer Capriati won 6-1, 1-0 when Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario retired after 26 minutes due to illness and joined Lisa Raymond to beat Magui Serna and Virginia Ruano-Pascual 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in doubles to complete the sweep.

US Open and Wimbledon runner-up Davenport won the first set in 20 minutes over Martinez, who was bothered by a sore right elbow and struggled in vain to serve effectively.

"The way I was serving, there was pretty much no chance," Martinez said. "When you don't have a serve against Lindsay it's a problem. It's a handicap, I couldn't even throw the ball up. It was difficult."

Spanish captain Miguel Marrgtes said he never considered substituting Serna for Martinez, saying, "She had some pain but it was not something where she couldn't play."

"Don't make it a big deal," Martinez said. "I usually play if it's something like this. But it's not the best. You're not 100 percent. It's not good. You have to tough it out. You might win. You have to give it a chance."

French Open runner-up Martinez managed only 10 points in the first set but matched that total in the first game of the second set, a marathon 10-duce encounter during which Davenport's calf worsened.

"Warming up, I felt it a little worse than the last few days and thought it could present a little bit of a problem," she said. "The first set went fine. Luckily I was able to hold on."

Wimbledon and US Open runner-up Davenport traded breaks with Martinez before breaking her again in five points in the sixth and eighth games, smacking a forehand down-the-line winner to end the match after 57 minutes.

"Even when she was hurt, I couldn't return her serve," Martinez said. "All I could do was try to keep it in and fight for every point. But she was hitting winners. I knew I had to move her. But how do you move Lindsay? She was hitting bombs."

Davenport swatted six aces and went 6-for-6 on break points in rising to 21-2 in Cup singles with her 15th consecutive Cup victory. But she was aided by Martinez's own struggles.

"She wasn't doing much with the ball," Davenport said. "It was just sitting there. She wasn't forcing anything so that helped me a lot. Her serve wasn't going that hard. I was able to hit a very offensive shot or a winner off that."

Martinez, 28, fell to 8-6 against Davenport, 24, and lost for the fifth time in their past six meetings, including a Philadelphia semi-final two weeks ago. She was 1-of-11 on second-serve points and just 12-of-28 on first-serve points.

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