

Rajshahi sports

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Nov 29: Firoj Smriti Cricket Academy and Mukti Sangha won their respective matches of the sixth Bir Sresthita Captain Shaheed Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup cricket tournament at the AHM Qamruzzaman Divisional Stadium today.
 In the first match, Firoj Smriti recorded a 119-run win over JP Club.
 Firoj Smriti batted first to collect 214 runs losing six wickets in the stipulated 25 overs.
 In reply, JP Club went all out collecting 95 only runs in 22.3 overs.
 In the second match, Mukti Sangha defeated Rajpara Cricket Club by three wickets.
 Rajpara batted first and collected 103 runs for eight in the stipulated 25 overs.
 In reply, Mukti Sangha reached the target of 104 runs losing seven wickets in 16.3 overs.

2 Pak cricketers held for robbery

KARACHI, Nov 29: Karachi police have arrested two first-class cricketers for allegedly stealing travellers cheques worth 700,000 dollars from a local American Express branch, officials said Wednesday, reports AFP.
 Leg-spinner Tanweer Ahmed, 35, and middle-order batsman Nasir Jamal Wasti, 32, along with Mazhar Iqbal, a cashier at the company's Karachi airport branch, were arrested Tuesday, city police chief Tariq Jamil told this news agency.
 "All three have confessed to the offence and will face trial," he said.
 Police said Iqbal arranged a duplicate key to pester the travellers cheques deposited at American Express by businessman Raza Riaz Rizvi on November 25.
 Police said the stolen cheques had been recovered from the trio.

Ahmed played for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and has also represented Pakistan's under-19 team.
 "I am really shocked to hear his name as he was a fine cricketer who had toured with Pakistan under-19 and the Pakistan-A team in 1987 and 1988," said a former Test cricketer, requesting anonymity.
 Wasti is an instructor at Asif Iqbal Cricket Academy and has also played first-class cricket, police said.

Hodge in the runs again

MELBOURNE, Nov 29: Brad Hodge has scored almost 600 first-class runs for the season after reeling off a century for the fourth consecutive match for Victoria here on Wednesday, reports AFP.
 Hodge dominated an undermanned Queensland attack on the opening day of the Sheffield Shield match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.
 Hodge celebrated his call-up to the Prime Ministers XI match against the West Indies next month by scoring 103 not out against the competition leaders as the Victorians ended the day at 237 for three.

All season the diminutive right-hander has carried the Victorian batting in the absence of injured opener Matthew Elliott, but Wednesday proved tremendous assistance from Elliott's regular opening partner Jason Arnberger.
 The former New South Welshman batted all day in scoring an even 100 but lost concentration in the third-last over, slashing at a wide one from Adam Dale to be caught behind.
 However the pair's 190-run partnership rescued Victoria from a precarious 44 for two after Shawn Craig (8) and Matthew Mott (7) went cheaply.

Davis Cup Hewitt, Rafter to lead Aussies

SYDNEY, Nov 29: Lleyton Hewitt and Pat Rafter will lead Australia's defence of the Davis Cup against Spain in next month's final in Barcelona, reports AFP.
 Captain John Newcombe said Wednesday from the Cofa del Sol team camp at Marbella that Mark Woodford and Sandon Stolle would play the doubles in the Dec 8-10 clash.
 "The guys are going great over here. It's been an intense week as we prepare for the challenge. We're really all focussed. We want this win and we'll do whatever it takes to get it," Newcombe added.
 It will be Newcombe and coach Tony Roche's last Davis Cup in charge. They hand over to John Fitzgerald and Wally Masur next year.
 Australia are chasing their 28th Davis Cup without staying unbeaten. Mark Philippoussis who clinched victory in last year's final in France.
 Spain, who are seeking a maiden victory, have discarded former world number one Carlos Moya and gone for Alex Corretja, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Albert Costa and Juan Balcells.



Andy Flower of Zimbabwe poses with the man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series trophies after the second Test against India in Nagpur yesterday. —AFP photo

Andy draws second Test

NAGPUR, India, Nov 29: Andy Flower hit a brilliant unbeaten 232 to steer Zimbabwe to a draw in the second cricket Test against India here on Wednesday, reports AFP.
 The tourists, made to follow on 227 runs behind, batted through the fifth and final day to finish with 503-6 in their second knock, an overall lead of 276.
 India, however, took the short series 1-0, having won the first Test in New Delhi by seven wickets last week.
 The prolific Flower, who scored 183 not out, 70 and 55 in the previous three innings, once again proved a thorn in India's side with his first Test double century and ninth three-figure knock.
 He ended the series with 540 runs from four innings for a staggering average of 270. It earned Flower the dual awards of man-of-the-match and -the-series.
 "The match was called off during the mandatory overs, leaving Flower just 34 runs short of Zimbabwe's highest individual score of 266 by Dave Houghton against Sri Lanka in Bulawayo in 1994.
 The left-hander batted for nine hours to pull Zimbabwe out of the woods after India had them against the ropes at 61-3 on Tuesday afternoon.
 Flower put on 209 for the fourth wicket with Alistair Campbell, who compiled 102, and 113 for the sixth with Dirk Viljoen (38).
 Rookie off-spinner Sharan-deep Singh picked up 4-136 in the second innings for a haul of six-wickets in his first Test.
 Indian captain Sourav Ganguly, however, rued the absence of injured leg-spinner Anil Kumble after 10 bowlers failed to dislodge the rock-solid

Flower.
 "Kumble would have loved to bowl on this wicket which had some bounce even on the last day," Ganguly said.
 "When more than 1,500 runs are scored in three innings, you know the bowlers are in trouble."
 "We had a chance, provided we could get Andy Flower. But he just went on and on," Ganguly said.
 Zimbabwean captain Heath Streak paid handsome tribute to Flower, saying it was almost a one-man battle against the Indians.
 "If he had got out early, it would have been difficult to save the match," Streak said.
 "But his patience and stamina are incredible. We owe it to him for the draw."
 On his previous tour of India in 1993, Flower scored 115 and 65 in the one-off Test in New Delhi.
 "These Indian wickets are great for batting," Flower said. "I knew I could hang out there the whole day if I did not do anything silly."
 The high-scoring series also saw India's Rahul Dravid run up 200 not out, 70 and 162, while Sachin Tendulkar hit 122 and an unbeaten 201.
 The batting form of the two teams augurs well for the five-match one-day series starting in Cuttack on Saturday.
 The Test appeared headed for a keen finish when India grabbed two quick wickets in the first hour to make it 292-5.
 But the Zimbabwean batsmen showed no signs of panic as they added 97 runs from 31 overs in the two-hour morning session, 32 of them in the first 30 minutes.
 Flower and Campbell, who began the day on 88 and 83 respectively, raced to their hundreds with a flurry of boundaries.
 Campbell hit three fours in

SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard of the second cricket Test between India and Zimbabwe at the Vidarbha Cricket Association ground on Wednesday.

INDIA: First innings 609-6 decl (S Tendulkar 201 not out, R Dravid 162, S Das 110)

ZIMBABWE: First innings 382 (G Flower 106 not out, G Whittall 84)

ZIMBABWE: Second innings G Whittall c Tendulkar b Sharan-deep 11
 G Rennie c Ganguly b Sharan-deep 37
 b Sharan-deep 8
 Carlisle c Tendulkar b Sharan-deep 8
 Campbell c Joshi b Zaheer 102
 A-Flower not out 232
 G Flower c Ganguly b Joshi 16
 Viljoen c Ganguly b Sharan-deep 38
 Streak not out 29
 Extras: (b-12, lb-14, nb-4) 30
 Total: (For 6 wks in 161 overs) 503
 Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-60, 3-61, 4-270, 5-292, 6-405

Bowler O M R W
 Zaheer 17 5 48 1
 Agarkar 14 3 29 0
 Sharan-deep 49 10 136 4
 Joshi 41 6 153 1
 Tendulkar 11 3 19 0
 Srinath 15 5 53 0
 Ramesh 3 0 14 0
 Dravid 7 0 15 0
 Ganguly 1 0 3 0
 Das 3 0 7 0

Result: Match drawn and India won the two-Test series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match and the-series: Andy Flower.

Harper leaps to Lara's help

PERTH, Nov 29: (Reuters) West Indies coach Roger Harper has defended Brian Lara against claims that at bringing his lingerie model girlfriend on tour has distracted him from playing his best cricket.
 English pin-up girl Lynnsey Ward, 18, has been accompanying Lara, 31, on tour.
 The West Indies were thrashed in the first Test of the five-match series against Australia in Brisbane last week by an innings and 126 runs.
 Lara, the team's star batsman who holds the world record for a Test innings of 375, made 0 and 4.
 Team policy actually allows the players to bring their girlfriends and wives on tour providing they have the permission of team management," Harper told reporters on Wednesday.
 "As a matter of fact, as the tour progresses a number of us will have our families here.
 The strange thing is that during the first Test last week I didn't see the press mention the fact so many members of the Australian cricket team had their families in Brisbane.
 I don't understand why

Brian is being singled out."
 "Former West Indies captain Vivian Richards, a former coach of the team, said his partner on tour was "my cricket bat."
 "When you are on tour you have a group of guys and this is what you're here on tour for. You enjoy things together and achieve things together," Richards said.
 Harper said the media coverage was a distraction but insisted the side were thinking only of Friday's second Test in Perth.
 "Naturally (the publicity) can be a source of distraction and naturally it's a great challenge to stay focused but that's what it's all about," Harper said.
 West Indies team manager Ricky Skerritt said one or two other players would be joined by their girlfriends soon, but at the moment Lara was the only one.
 "She's out here as Brian's guest. She came out when we came out and has been based in Sydney on an assignment and she's been visiting from time to time," Skerritt told Reuters.
 Meanwhile, former Australian skipper Allan Border, suggested Lara should be protected

Richards already a loser

PERTH, Nov 29: (Reuters) Former West Indies batting star Sir Vivian Richards has already conceded one of his team's most prized cricketing records will be lost to Australia this weekend, reports AFP.
 Speaking in Perth, the former great said Wednesday that he expects Australia to beat the struggling West Indies in the second Test starting Friday, handing the home team a record 12th consecutive Test victory.
 "That would pass the lofty 11 mark set by the powerful West Indies team of the mid-80s and equalled by the Aussies after

their crushing innings victory over the once-mighty Calypso Kings last weekend.
 "Nothing can convince me now from what we have seen that it's going to get any better," he said.
 "I believe we're going to get a little bit more hiding before we get our act together."
 He said a lack of planning during the West Indies' reign of supremacy was the catalyst for their fall, which has included a wretched losing run away from home.
 Richards will be at the WACA Ground this weekend but he said watching his team's record fall would be "part and parcel of sport."
 He might also witness the demise of another personal milestone with Australian captain Steve Waugh closing in on his runs aggregate.
 The West Indian is fifth on cricket's all-time list with 8540 runs, but Waugh is within touching distance after bringing his tally to 8414 runs after last week's opening Test in Brisbane.
 Pakistan's Javed Miandad is next with 8832, followed by England's Graham Gooch (8900), Sunil Gavaskar of India (10122) and Australian Allan Border (11174).
 Brian Lara (5812) is the best of the West Indies' current brigade but the left-hander has been in poor touch since arriving in Australia, scoring zero and four in the first Test.

Windies cost Packer cash

SYDNEY, Nov 29: Kerry Packer's Nine Television Network is facing advertising losses of 1.5 million dollars (780,000 US) for every day of Test cricket lost through the poor performances of the visiting West Indies team, reports AFP.
 Industry sources estimate the network could lose as much as 15 million dollars (7.8 million US) over the five Tests if the Caribbean side does not snap out of its woeful form.
 Losses would be about 25,000 dollars (130,000 US) an hour in sponsored coverage.
 The first Test in Brisbane last week finished after only three days and a similar outcome looks likely in the second Test starting at Perth on Friday.
 Nine TV sells packages to its cricket sponsors that promise to reschedule ads where a game finishes early to later Test matches.
 A Nine TV spokesman said Wednesday to comment on how the network would fare with the Test series would be "an exercise in crystal ball-gazing."
 Harold Mitchell, head of media buyers Mitchell and Partners, said some of his clients, who include Nine sponsors, were watching the situation very carefully.
 West Indies cricket officials are also concerned about sponsors.
 "We don't have any hammer hanging over our heads in the short term, but if the team was to continue this margin of loss without showing growth, it could have some impact on our sponsorship," team manager Ricky Skerritt said.
 The West Indies have plummeted from cricket's pinnacle, but are still drawing crowds, with almost 50,000 at Brisbane's Gabba ground over the three days.

Safin brightens his prospects

LISBON, Nov 29: Marat Safin increased his hold on top spot in the ATP Champions Race on Tuesday — but the broadest grin on the opening day of the Masters' Cup belonged to Aussie teen Lleyton Hewitt, who hammered Pete Sampras, and Andre Agassi, who ousted Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten in three sets, reports AFP.
 Safin fought back from the brink of defeat as he snuffed out Sampras' lingering hopes of a seventh year-end finish as number one after edging Spaniard Alex Corretja 6-7, 7-5, 6-3 in 2hr 35min having been a set and 3-5 down.
 "I was so much more straightforward for Red Group rival Hewitt, who made for shorter work of Sampras with a 7-5, 6-0 win achieved in 1hr 14min.
 Kuerten, dubbed "The Portuguese" by the local media eager to claim him as their favourite, meanwhile disappointed local fans as Agassi, who beat him in the opening phase of last year's season wrap-up, fought back from a set down to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in 1hr 56min.
 That result moved Safin to the brink of sealing the end of season number one accolade as Kuerten's expense.
 Agassi was "pleasantly surprised" with his win as he came back from an enforced three-weeks away from competition with a hip flexor injury suffered at Lyon, France.
 "It wasn't very comfortable at first. Just lack of playing I felt. I was pretty fortunate to hold on in the second set and then played a good game to break for the set.
 "I felt like once I got to the third I could kind of relax into my game."
 Agassi also benefited from Kuerten's enforced slowdown after the South American, often troubled with back problems this year, had to have a back massage late in the second set.
 Sampras, meanwhile, acknowledged it hadn't been a great day at the office.
 "I've been a while since I lost 6-0 — it definitely wasn't pretty out there," said the 29-year-old, who last suffered that indignity in the French Open semi-final four years ago against Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

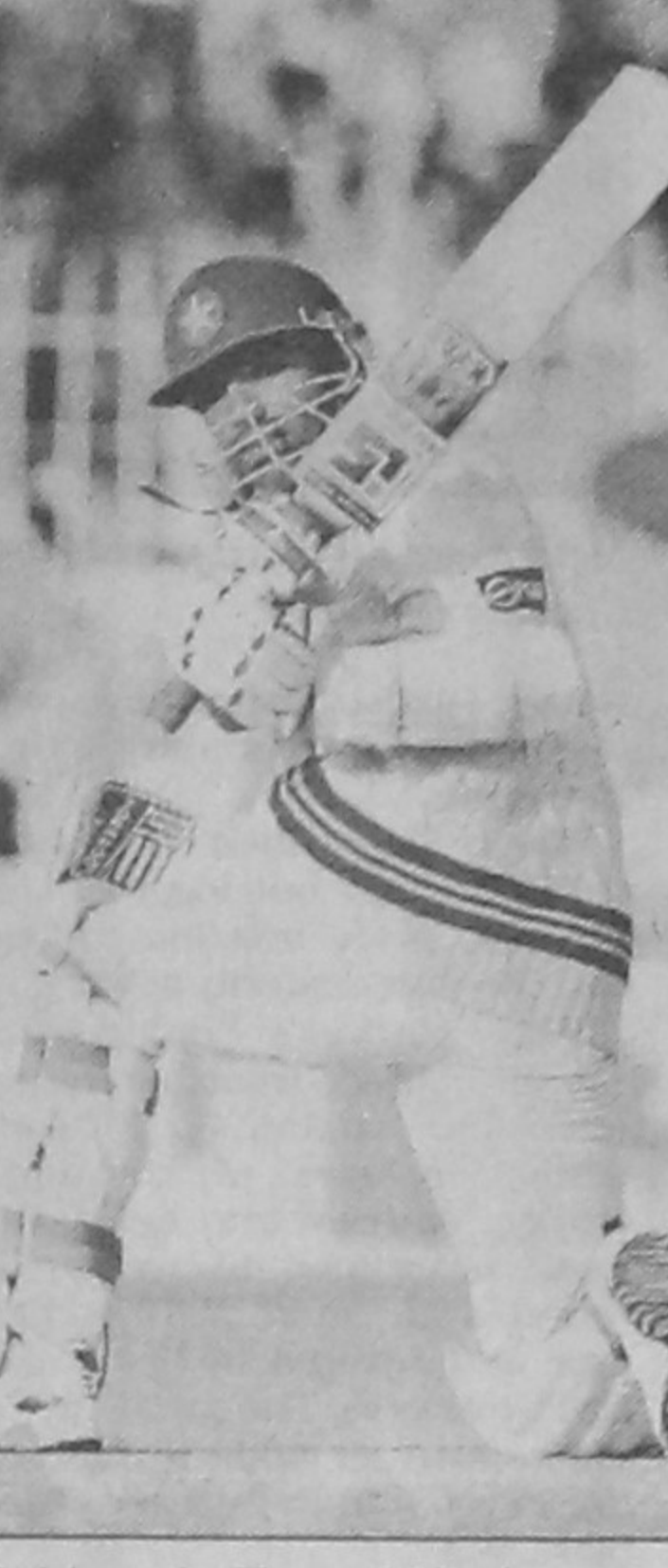
Nigeria want SA punished

LAGOS, Nov 29: Nigeria on Wednesday urged the African Football Confederation (CAF) to impose heavy sanctions on South Africa following crowd violence that forced the final of the African Women's Cup to be abandoned, reports AFP.
 "What happened in Johannesburg was a disgrace and we have asked CAF to ensure it does not happen again," secretary general of the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) Tijani Yusuf said here.
 Nigeria were leading 2-0 against hosts South Africa on Saturday when the match was called off as the home fans went wild, throwing missiles at the teams and officials.
 The match was later awarded to Nigeria.
 The Nigerian media have strongly condemned the incident, saying South Africa has robbed Nigeria the glory of successfully defending the African championship.
 "Meanwhile, the coach of the victorious Nigerian Super Falcons Ismaila Mabo has quit so as to give other coaches the chance to lead the team"
 Mabo, who was also in charge when the team won the African championship at home two years ago, has been under fire since the Falcons lost all three group matches at the Sydney Olympics.

Honours even on Day One

FAISALABAD, Nov 29: Middle-order batsman Yousof Youhana and captain Moin Khan led a Pakistani fight back with a gutsy partnership on the first day of the second Test against England here on Wednesday, reports AFP.
 When stumps were drawn eight overs early due to bad light, Pakistan were 243-5 with Youhana on 61 and Moin on 57, sharing a badly needed 92-run sixth-wicket stand.
 Youhana followed his career-best 124 in the drawn first Test in Lahore with another display of patience peppered with

reaching 50 after just nine overs despite a fearsome opening spell from Darren Gough, who hit opener Shahid Afridi twice with attempted bouncers, including once in the back of the head.
 Afridi replied to the second body-blow with some brutality of his own, clubbing the next ball with a straight pull shot ball back over the bowler's head for four.
 But Gough had the last laugh when Afridi edged the following delivery to the slips with just 10 runs to his name.
 Then with the score 96-1 Pakistan had a mini-collapse, losing Saad Anwar and in-



Pakistan's Yousof Youhana sweeps on the first day of the second Test against England in Faisalabad yesterday. —AFP photo

tentative push forward saw the ball roll onto his stumps.
 Anwar had received good support from Salmi Elahi, who was eventually out for 41 when he swiped a wide delivery from Giles to Michael Atherton on the covers. The pair had put on 63 runs for the second wicket.
 Youhana, however, was patience personified as he helped to get Pakistan's innings back on track after lunch.
 He and Moin repaired the damage with some cautious batting, as the boisterous crowd celebrated every stroke with drum beats and music.
 Youhana reached his 11th fifty in 157 minutes off 128 balls, Moin, the more adventurous of the two, reached his 15th half-century with a six off Giles.
 The match has added significance for Pakistan as it is the 100th Test for former captain Wasim Akram.
 Pakistan dropped the out of form Mushtaq Ahmed and Qaiser Abbas from the line-up in the drawn first Test while England made no changes.
 Nineteen-year-old leggy Danish Kaneria made his Test debut while off-spinner Arshad Khan earned a recall for Pakistan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and England at Iqbal Stadium on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings Anwar c Thorpe b Giles 53
 Afridi c Thorpe b Gough 10
 Elahi c Atherton b Giles 41
 Izzaman b Giles 0
 Youhana not out 61
 Razzak b White 9
 Moin not out 57
 Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-2) 12
 Total: (For 5 wks in 75 overs) 243
 Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-96, 3-96, 4-130, 5-151
 To bat: W Akram, S Mushtaq, A Khan and D Kaneria

Bowler O M R W
 Gough 14 1 60 1
 Caddick 13 3 42 0
 White 16 4 45 1
 Giles 22 7 57 3
 Salisbury 10 0 29 0

ENGLAND: Nasser Hussain (captain), Michael Atherton, Marcus Trescothick, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Craig White, Andrew Caddick, Ian Salisbury, Ashley Giles and Darren Gough.
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Mian Mohammad Aslam (Pakistan).

zamanul Haq in the space of three balls to go to lunch at 97-3.
 Left-hander Anwar looked dangerous, hitting seven fours in his 25th half-century, before he skied a catch to Graham Thorpe at mid-wicket off Giles for 53 just before the break.
 Three balls later Izzaman was out for a duck when a

sweetly timed drives for eight boundaries.
 Moin hit five fours and two towering sixes off spinner Ashley Giles and Craig White to the delight of the 10,000-strong crowd at Iqbal Stadium.
 Pakistan elected to bat on a grassless pitch that has the potential to spin and keep low with time.

SA's time to wrap it up

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Nov 29: South Africa will be pressing for a victory to clinch the three-match series when they play injury-hit New Zealand in the second Test starting at St George's Park on Thursday, reports AFP.
 South African coach Graham Ford said he hoped for a "test pitch" to enable his team to maintain the momentum they gained when they won the first Test in Bloemfontein by five wickets last week.
 But Ford and his New Zealand counterpart David Trist will literally have to watch which way the wind blows in this coastal city.
 An easterly wind off the sea usually means help for swing and seam bowling, while a westerly land breeze tends to make St George's a batting paradise.
 Conditions, though, are likely to favour batsmen ahead of bowlers. After three years of Test matches, which ended within four days, on pitches which some critics felt were under-prepared and over-grassed, last season's Test between South Africa and England petered out in a draw on what Ford said was "one of the flattest pitches you could find."
 New Zealand will have the benefit of some local knowledge. Their coach, David Trist, was the coach of the Port Elizabeth-based Eastern Province provincial team in the early 1990s.
 Trist remained upbeat about his team's chances despite a crippling list of injuries. He also refused to write off the possi-

bility of seam bowler Andrew Penn being fit to play after suffering a side muscle injury during a three-day match against Border in East London which ended Monday.
 "We'll give him 24 hours to see how he responds to treatment and hopefully we will be able to pick from all our bowlers," said Trist. If Penn recovers, he will be a candidate to make his Test debut after setting up the victory against Border by taking five for 38 in the first innings.
 While New Zealand's bowling looks threadbare, the touring team's batsmen are all in form, with Nathan Astle and Adam Parore both enjoying success against Border after struggling for runs earlier in the tour. All were forced to follow on. "The pitch flattened out and it was really hard work," he said.

Star Sports will provide live coverage of the match from 2:20pm (BST)

Blow for Kuerten

LISBON, Nov 29: Brazilian star Gustavo Kuerten's hopes of overthrowing Russia's Marat Safin for the year-ending number one men's tennis ranking night in the balance Tuesday hung in the air he played through the pain barrier with a strained hamstring, during his Masters Cup defeat to Andre Agassi, reports AFP.
 "It was already too much to play my best tennis, said the French Open champion, who lost 6-4, 4-6, 3-6.
 He now has to win the season wrap-up tournament if he wants to prevent Safin becoming the youngest-ever end-of-season champion.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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 4 Depot (Abbr.)
 7 Pitfalls
 12—voyage!
 13 Coffee vessel
 14 "Monopoly"
 15 California purchase
 16 High-ranking official
 18 Put to work
 19 Willy Loman's stats
 20 Libretto
 22 Jerry—Lewis
 23 Verdi opera
 27 Donkey
 29 Discovers
 31 Texas mission
 34 Cupid's yokemate
 35 Compete
 37 Writer
 Deighton

DOWN
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 28 "Mayday"
 30 It's broken at parties
 31 Commotion
 32 Topper
 33 Past
 36 "Farewell"
 37 Military
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 41 Variety
 42 Humiliate
 43 Wild West show
 44 Doughnut shop
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 46 Catch sight of
 48—Rosen-kavaler!
 49—been horn-swoggled?
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Solution Time: 28 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

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V X W B U U R V T R L I
 Q P I Y W V Q W B U I T X E I
 X A A W R R Y E R P I W R
 L Q T T Y I A A

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THEY'RE THIRSTY, USED CAR SALESMEN WILL CUSTOMARILY ORDER LEMONADE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals L

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.