

BTF picks 52

DNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation (BTF) initially picked up 52 paddlers...

Steve's birthday bruise!

AGENCIES, Worcester
Australia's inspirational captain Steve Waugh's 36th birthday celebrations...

Fits the bill

Cricket

AGENCIES, Manchester

Michael Vaughan's maiden Test century against Pakistan was not just a personal landmark...



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

Coach Duncan Fletcher will add steel to a top order already blessed with another young up-and-coming player, Marcus Trescothick.

1999. Fletcher said: "Michael has shown us the talent for some time now and we've been waiting to give him an opportunity there...

There is no doubt that Vaughan benefited from batting with Thorpe who, in his current form, must rank among the best batsmen in the world.

England's dramatic collapse on Saturday, with the last eight wickets falling for 75, reminded their supporters of the bad old days...

By the close on the second day of the three-day match on Saturday, the touring team led by a massive 424 with six second-innings wickets left.

Div I cricket

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Boys Club and Wari Club won their respective relegation league matches of the Metropolitan First Division Cricket at different city venues yesterday.

At the Dhaka University Jagannath Hall ground, Bangladesh Boys registered a convincing seven-wicket victory over Dhaka Wanderers Club.

In the day's other match at the Dhanomdi Cricket Stadium, an all-round performance by Towhid Nakib enabled Wari Club beat Indira Road KC by 38 runs.

BRIEF SCORES

DHAKA WANDERERS CLUB: 82 for 8 in a reduced 25 overs (Jewel 32, Monju 23, Shafique 10, extras 7; Torey 3/10, Shohag 2/9.)

Tourists poised for win

REUTERS, Worcester

Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting both struck 65 as the Australians stayed on course to open their tour of England with a comprehensive victory over Worcestershire.

Indians enjoy run-fest

Cricket

AFP, Dhaka

A streak of ruthlessness is an essential part of modern international cricket and India revealed theirs against the Zimbabwe Academy youngsters on the second morning of the second of a three days match here.

India had embarked on a run scoring bonanza Saturday and they pressed on with the policy Sunday.

The diminutive Shiv Sunder Das and V.V.S. Laxman both voluntarily retired upon reaching their centuries with flourish in their different styles.

It was Das' 13th century in first class cricket and Laxman's 29th. And the slaughter continued. Hemang Bedani helped himself to an undefeated century and Saurav Ganguly became the third batsman to retire when he had reached a half-century.

By the lunch break Academy lost two wickets. Dion Ebrahim falling to Javagal Srinath for nine and Terry Duffin was victim of Zaheer Khan for seven.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after India first innings on the second day of three day match between Zimbabwe Academy and India on Sunday:

INDIA: First innings
Sunder Das retired 110
Ramesh c Sibiza b Soma 42
Laxman retired 100



Indian opener Shiv Sunder Das raises his bat to the crowd after completing a century against the Zimbabwe Academy team on Saturday.

Table with columns: Batsman, Runs, Balls, 4s, 6s, Wicket

Martyn Waugh's man

Cricket

INTERNET, Worcester

Australia's established middle order is under pressure to retain their Test places ahead of Damien Martyn according to Australian captain Steve Waugh.

The 36-year-old skipper backed Martyn's claims for a regular Test spot on the back of his 108 in the match against Worcestershire.

He has given everyone notice that they have got to score runs otherwise he's going to be in there playing Test cricket, which is important.

That's what he wants. He's been so close on a number of occasions. We know how good a player he is and we know he is ready to play Test cricket.

Martyn, who has played in just 11 Test since making his debut nine years ago, was "at the peak of his career" said Waugh.

Waugh's sentiments are echoed by Martyn's former Western Australian teammate Tom Moody who feels the right-hander has what it takes to make the grade at Test level.

He made his return to Test cricket in March last year against New Zealand and then returned as a replacement for the injured Waugh against West Indies in the third Test in December.

His Test average stands at a healthy 42.53 and Waugh feels the 29-year-old is "ready to play Test cricket" in addition to his 70 one-day international starts.

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13

ing England's Andrew Caddick and Pakistan's Rashid Latif and Azhar Mahmood that happened while the home side slumped to 357 in their first innings.

"Match referee Brian Hastings held separate meetings with the captains of both sides, regarding an incident on the pitch during England's innings," a statement issued on his behalf read.

Teams

FROM PAGE 13

ing England's Andrew Caddick and Pakistan's Rashid Latif and Azhar Mahmood that happened while the home side slumped to 357 in their first innings.

He also spoke to Andrew Caddick, Rashid Latif and Azhar Mahmood and in respect of these meetings has issued a warning to both teams that their behaviour was not acceptable.

However, the statement added that Hastings would not be taking any further action.

Waugh made 48 while left-arm spinner Matthew Ravensley bowled Hayden after cracking 10 fours in 63 balls. By the time Ponting was out, he had hammered one six and 11 fours in making his runs off 62 deliveries.

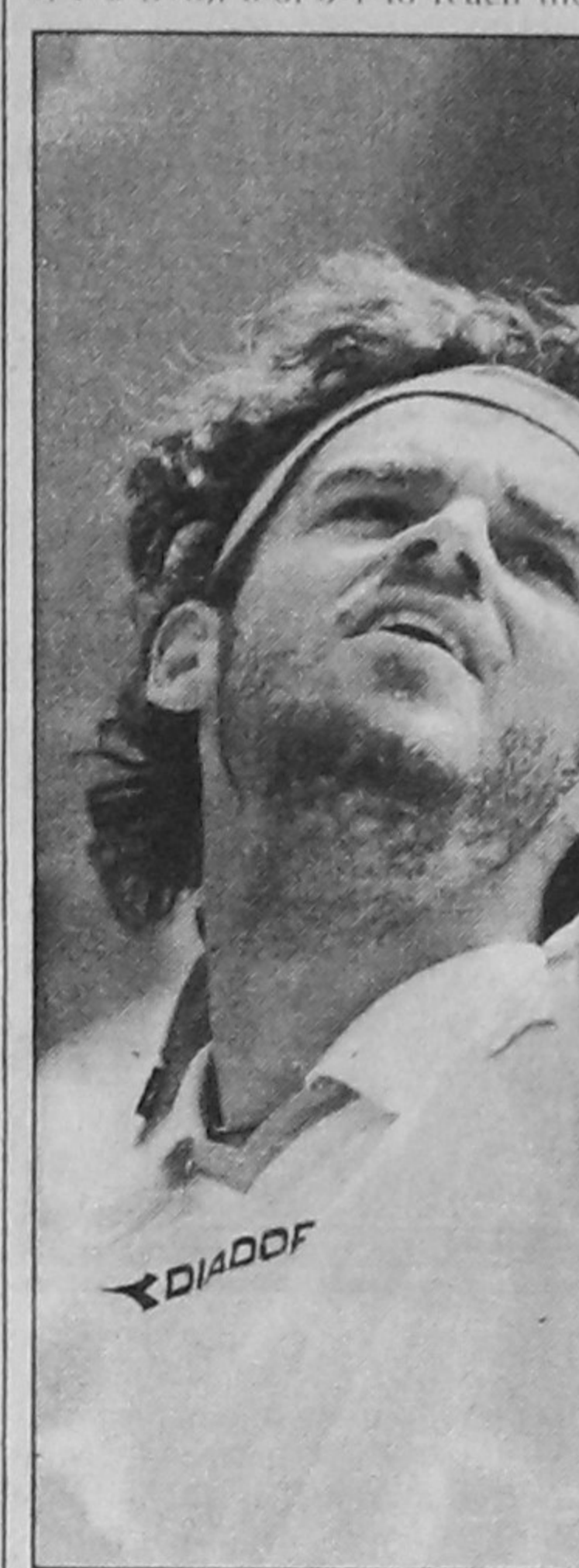
To bat: Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis

Gustavo tames a toughie

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Brazilian top seed and defending champion Gustavo Kuerten came back from the brink of disaster Sunday, saving a match point before beating qualifier Michael Russell of the United States 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3, 6-1 to reach the



Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten is about to serve against American Michael Russell during their French Open clash yesterday.

French Open men's singles quarter-finals. Kuerten, who needed 3hr 25min to get the better of a dogged opponent ranked just 122 in the world, next plays the winner of the match between 1996 champion and seventh seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and Tommy Robredo of Spain for a place in the semis.

Kuerten had not met Russell previously - but the samba star now knows only too much about the 23-year-old from Detroit, who

had staved off a match point in his opening qualifying match to get this far.

This time the boot was on the other foot as having come so close he just failed to finish the job on the Philippe-Chatrier Centre Court.

Kuerten, whose build-up to the event included winning the Monte Carlo Masters Series title, had

traces of nerves in the biggest test of his short career as he took the opening set on his third set point with a fearsome drive.

A spanking drive to Kuerten's feet gave Russell another break for 5-3 in the second set only for the Brazilian nicknamed 'Guga' to break back as Russell fired wide.

But a rasping backhand down the line left Russell two sets up and Kuerten looking skywards in search of some kind of divine inspiration.

Before he knew it he was 2-5 down in the third set after a break in the sixth game.

But Kuerten broke back for 4-5 as Russell spurned his big chance, the Brazilian wrong-footing him with a monster forehand.

Slowly but surely the pendulum inched back towards the favourite as Kuerten, forced the tiebreak and promptly raced 6-1 clear before taking it on his third set point.

The champion was now finding his shots from every angle whereas Russell was being engulfed by the rising tide against him.

He conceded the fourth set after spurning his sole break point and Kuerten wrapped things up in the fifth by putting away a simple smash on match point.

In third-round matches held over from Saturday, Australia's Wayne Arthurs beat Nicolas Pietrangeli of France 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (7/4) while Swiss youngster Roger Federer completed a 6-4, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 win over Spain's David Sanchez.

Earlier, Belgian 14th seed Justine Henin overcame the loss of the opening three games to beat unseeded Austrian Barbara Schett 6-3, 6-4 to move into the women's quarter-finals.

Henin, 19, will now face 17-year-old Lina Krasnoroutskaya in an all-teenage battle after the Russian swept aside Silvia Farina of Italy 6-2, 6-4.

Both youngsters are through to their first Grand Slam quarterfinal. Krasnoroutskaya fluffed five match points against Farina, one of an Open Era record of three Italian women through to the last 16 of a Grand Slam, but kept her nerve to see off an opponent 12 years her senior.

Another of the Italian trio, Francesca Schiavone, did go through as she ousted Zimbabwe's Cara Black 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 in a battle of non-seeds.

FRENCH FRIES

Tennis

AFP, Paris

French Open diary on the seventh day of the tournament here Sunday: NEVER MIND THE HYPE, LOOK AT THE TROPHIES

Jennifer Capriati has provided a double dose of fresh air on the women's Tour this year.

Not only has she bounced back from a severe case of 'teenage burnout' to land her first Grand Slam singles title at the Australian Open but the 25-year-old American says she'll never get caught up in the hype which sports all-pervading in top class semi-finals.

After the highs and lows of the earlier part of her career when she became the youngest-ever Grand Slam semifinalist with her 1990 win in Paris before personal problems saw her almost disappear from view altogether.

But having broken her Slam duck Capriati is now very much relaxed about her life in the tennis goldfish bowl.

I have that sixth sense about who's genuine, who's sincere and who's not.

"I'm definitely not an attention-getter. I don't like all that hype, the media, the sponsorships and all that stuff."

KANDARR'S FED UP WITH THE 'CIRCUS'

Roman poet Juvenal once opined that life was all about bread and circuses, but for Jana Kandarr she could do without the tennis 'circus'.

The tall blonde German, who shocked French fifth seed Amelie Mauresmo in the first round of the women's singles, says it's a tough life on the Tour.

All the travelling, the whole circus. Today Rome, tomorrow Paris. It wrecks your relationships.

Kandarr, 24, has just completed a school study course and hopes to become a vet, having never quite cracked a place in the top 50.

She's also managed to carve out a niche modeling stockings.

The German also recently criticised Anna Kournikova in an interview, claiming the Russian pin-up someone treated others with a lack of respect.

DON'T CALL ME, I WON'T CALL YOU

French 17th seed Sandrine Testud understood doesn't want to be disturbed as she prepares to face world number one Martina Hingis, against whom she has a 0-14 record, for a place in the women's quarter-finals.

Asked where she could be

contacted in Paris, Testud said firmly: "I'm staying at the California Hotel."

"I will not give you the number of the room!"

MIRJANA'S STILL A BELIEVER

Croat Mirjana Lucic is still a believer in herself - even though little has been seen of her since her exciting run to the Wimbledon semis two years ago.

Assailed by injuries this year and last Lucic said she had still taken heart from her French Open campaign despite losing out to Jennifer Capriati in the third round of the women's singles.

"I still believe in myself. I know how good I can be and I know how good I'm gonna be," said Lucic, who won on home ground at 1997 Bol in her first event and then repeated the triumph a year later.

With her ranking down to 232 after shoulder and knee problems Lucic had to play the qualifiers here.

"Your ranking goes down, it's nothing shameful. You have to go through it, you have to play some qualifiers. I have no problem with playing qualifiers and getting my game up again," said the tall blonde who said being injured had made her realise how much she loves playing.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 "Char-lotte's..." 59 Whammy 16 Massachusetts chusetts cape 1 Londoner's last letter 40 I'll get you 1 Fast-steeds moving via 21 Charts 22 Green across? 23 Make clearly evident 27 Promptly 29 Haul 30 Of 14 "Got a Secret" e.g. 54 Aries 55 Update a text 58 Have bills 57 JFK predecessor 58 Like a beach 10 Elliptical 11 Pleads

Cryptogram puzzle grid with numbers 1-30 and letters B I O Q V V C X G P S B J P B P S S W Q S S D F F I K W Q I N L O O U O I P D F G V N P G I O V C X Q L O Q J B K O U O Q I 50 Guys Saturday's Cryptogram: ONE PRESUMES THAT AN ARTIST UNABLE TO SKETCH A SIMPLE CUBE HAS A MENTAL BLOCK. Today's Cryptogram Clue: I equals R

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 using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Sri Lankan Cricket coach Malcolm Perera (C) conducting a coaches' course of Rajshahi Division at the Dhanomdi Cricket Stadium on Saturday.