

Saurav's dream

FROM PAGE 13 carried out by a panel of selectors that Ganguly himself will organise. According to information available from Ganguly and other members of Percept D'Mark, Warne will make four three-day trips to India.

"A contract to this effect is being finalised shortly," said the Indian skipper over his cell phone. "The clinics will not just be confined to India. Two talented cricketers from the clinics will also be sent to the Academy in Stellenbosch (near Cape Town in South Africa). We will also involve the Board and the national selectors who will nominate the two youngsters."

Nasser's highest

FROM PAGE 13 Hoggard has two caps to his name. Leicestershire paceman Jimmy Ormond one, while Somerset's Richard Johnson is still awaiting his debut as they all prepare for the task of bowling on lifeless pitches that put a premium on accuracy.

Only five members of the 16-man squad have played more than 20 Tests and just two players -- Hussain and left-handed middle-order batsman Graham Thorpe -- have more than 50 appearances to their name.

Hussain admitted he could understand queries about such a novice side going to India. "Everyone is sceptical about most things. All we can do is go out and play and give ourselves a chance by being in the right frame of mind."

"I'm not worried about questions from the press. The questions that need answering are about how we bowl to great batsmen like Sachin Tendulkar and whether we can face Anil Kumble on a turning, spitting wicket," he said. "We are going to be tested and the sooner we adapt to the conditions the better."

England are due to play three Tests at Mohali, Ahmedabad and Bangalore during the tour. They will then return home for Christmas before coming back to India mid-January for a series of five one-day internationals.

SQUAD
Nasser Hussain (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Mark Ramprakash, Usman Afzaal, Michael Vaughan, Craig White, Warren Hegg (wicketkeeper), James Foster (wicketkeeper), Ashley Giles, Richard Dawson, Jimmy Ormond, Matthew Hoggard, Richard Johnson, Martyn Ball.

Goran aces Guga out



AFP, Sydney

Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic slammed down 28 aces as he scored a stunning upset win over defending title holder Gustavo Kuerten in the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup at the Sydney SuperDome on Tuesday evening.

The powerful Croatian left-hander downed the top-seeded Brazilian 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 in the Ken Rosewall Group of the eight-man round-robin event, dealing a blow to Kuerten's hopes of ending the year as the world's top-ranked player.

The mop-haired Brazilian currently leads the ATP Champions Race but Leyton Hewitt and Andre Agassi are breathing down his neck.

Kuerten is aiming to become only the seventh player to end as number one in successive seasons but had won only one of his last five indoor matches leading into this event and will almost certainly need to win both of his remaining group matches to make the final four.

Eighth-seeded Ivanisevic opened brilliantly, taking the opening set in just 25 minutes as he slammed down six aces and hit 15 outright winners.

Blistering forehands and surprising speed were the keys to his success as he sealed the set with a second break of serve.

Kuerten took the second set in the tiebreaker but Ivanisevic then bounced back from saving five break points on his own serve to break the Brazilian for 2-1.

The break proved decisive as Ivanisevic kept his composure despite disputing a couple of doubtful line calls and won in 1hr 51mins.

Ivanisevic, the 1995 Grand Slam Cup winner, qualified for this event by winning Wimbledon and is seeking his 23rd career title. He has decided to postpone rotator cuff surgery on his left shoulder and continue playing for another two years.

The match was played in an atmosphere resembling a soccer match with Kuerten's fans banging drums and dancing while Ivanisevic's supporters chanted and waved red and white flags.

It was only Ivanisevic's second win in seven meetings with Kuerten, who won this event in Lisbon last year and



PHOTO: INTERNET
Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten in action against Croatian Goran Ivanisevic in Sydney yesterday.

has won six titles this year, including the French Open.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who said he is still suffering from jet-lag, gathered steam in mid-match and fought his way to a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 win over rising Spanish star Juan Carlos Ferrero in the other match in the group.

Fifth-seeded Kafelnikov started poorly but reeled off seven straight games mid-contest on his way to a victory that was in doubt until the very end.

Kafelnikov, playing in a year-end championship for the seventh straight season, looked sluggish before rediscovering his forehand and lifting his consistency to win a 2hr 17min struggle.

The Russian traditionally does well in Australia, having won the Australian Open in 1999 and the Olympic gold medal here last year.

Ferrero, still just 21, has won four titles this year, finished in the top 10 for the first time and taken over as the top-ranked Spaniard but he couldn't combat the more experienced Kafelnikov's counter-punching style.

Ferrero took 47 minutes to win the opening set of a grinding baseline battle. The pair exchanged early breaks but fourth-seeded Ferrero broke to love for 3-2 and held on.

The bearded Russian quickly hit back to take the second set 6-1 and take a 4-2 lead in the decider before Ferrero climbed back to force the tiebreaker.

This was Kafelnikov's 139th match of the year but he outlasted Ferrero for his second win in three meetings with the Spaniard.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Kafelnikov said. "He fought very hard and it was very close. It just came down to one or two points in the tiebreaker."

"Five days is not enough, really, to adjust to the time change and I felt a little tired in the beginning. It took me a long time to get going, but once I woke up I started to feel a little better."

Ferrero said he believes he can still qualify. "I can be more aggressive with my backhand and I think if I serve like I did today and play a little bit better with my backhand I can win the next two matches," he said.

The top two players from each pool advance to the semifinals on Saturday with the final to be played on Sunday.

In the John Newcombe Group, US Open champion Hewitt and American veteran Agassi each have a win and play each other on Wednesday. Pat Rafter plays Sebastian Grosjean in the other match in that group with both players seeking their first win.

The winner of the Tennis Masters Cup will earn at least 700,000 dollars while the total prize money for the week is 3.7 million dollars. Any player going through the tournament undefeated could earn as much as 1.52 million dollars.

Cairns boosts Test ratings

REUTERS, London

New Zealand all-rounder Chris Cairns, who took his side to the brink of an improbable victory against Australia in Brisbane, has consolidated his position in the world Test batting and bowling ratings.

Following his first Test of the year, after being sidelined with a knee injury, he rose to 18th in the batting rankings and climbed one place to eighth in the bowling top 10.

Zimbabwe's draw against Bangladesh on Monday has seen Andy Flower's lead over Sachin Tendulkar in the batting ratings drop to just eight points.

Leading ratings sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers and issued on Monday:

Player	Points
Andy Flower	888
Sachin Tendulkar	880
Steve Waugh	861
Inzamamul Haq	818
M Jayawadene	805
Adam Gilchrist	804
Brian Lara	769
Jacques Kallis	758
Rahul Dravid	758
Mark Waugh	724
Daryll Cullinan	724
Top bowlers	
Glenn McGrath	911
Shaun Pollock	904
MMuralitharan	864
Allan Donald	793
Darren Gough	746
Shane Warne	724
Waqar Younis	686
Chris Cairns	682
Saqibain Mushtaq	678
Jason Gillespie	665

Darren feels honoured

AFP, Adelaide

Australian Darren Lehmann says it is an honour to become the first foreign captain of English county cricket champions Yorkshire.

South Australian skipper Lehmann said Monday he had been appointed to take over from David Byas, who retired at the end of last season.

Lara leads

FROM PAGE 13

Paceman Charitha Buddhika, 21, made his Test debut for Sri Lanka after playing four one-dayers in a recent triangular series in Sharjah. The West Indies also strengthened their spin department by including left-arm spinner Neil McGarrell, who came in place of injured paceman Reon King.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and the West Indies on Tuesday:

WEST INDIES: First innings	
Ganga c Jayawardene b Vaas	47
Gayle c Sangakkara b Vaas	9
Sarwan b Muralitharan	88
Lara not out	117
Hooper not out	34
Extras: (b-6, lb-5, nb-5, pen-5)	21
Total: (For 3 wks in 97 overs)	316
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-95, 3-240	

To bat: Marlon Samuels, Ridley Jacobs, Neil McGarrell, Mervyn Dillon, Colin Stuart, Dinanath Ramnarine

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	18	3	58	2
Buddika	12	2	46	0
M'tharan	41	8	108	1
B'tilleke	12	2	43	0
Jayasuriya	6	1	17	0
S'weera	6	0	24	0
Arnold	2	1	4	0

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, Hashan Tillakaratne, Thilan Samaraweera, Chaminda Vaas, Niroshan Bandaratilleke, Charitha Buddhika, Muttiah Muralitharan.

Pat under pressure



AFP, Sydney

Pat Rafter is hoping his body holds out until the end of the season.

Despite several weeks of rest, the Australian is still troubled by an injury to his right arm as he contests the Tennis Masters Cup and prepares for Australia's Davis Cup final with France in Melbourne from November 30.

The two-time US Open champion was beaten 6-2, 6-4 by American Andre Agassi in his opening round-robin match of the Masters Cup on Monday night and later revealed he is unable to serve at full power.

"It's a little better, but I'm still serving probably only about 75 per cent out there and just not getting the kick on the serve that I want," Rafter said. "The arm wouldn't hold up for three matches if I was to do that now."

Rafter bypassed the autumn indoor season in Europe hoping his injury would recover. The 28-year-old plans an indefinite break from the sport at the end of the year and the Masters Cup could be his final tournament appearance.

Woolmer scared

AFP, Nairobi

Bob Woolmer, appointed high performance manager by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in October, has acknowledged that he faces a tough task preparing Canada, Kenya, Namibia and the Netherlands for the 2003 World Cup.

"There is a lot of work to be done in the 15 months," the former South African cricket coach said here on Monday at the end of his inspection tour of the four countries he will be helping to prepare for the World Cup.

Woolmer said he would present his report to the ICC on November 17 and hopes the training programmes would commence in the four countries by the end of November.

Adoring Anna?



INTERNET, Cape Town

The most recognisable, marketable and arguably the most popular public figure on the Women's Tennis Tour (WTA), Anna Kournikova, is also the most reviled and unpopular person on the Tour.

The London Times in a feature article earlier this year said in women's tennis, the Williams hate Hings, and Hings hate the Williams, and Davenport hates Mauresmo, and everybody hates Kournikova.

What is it about this 20-year-old Russian tennis player that so riles people?

It is a well-recycled statistic that Kournikova, currently the top earning women's tennis player, has never won a singles title on the WTA tour since joining the tour in 1996. She has however won 13 doubles titles (mostly with partner Martina Hings) and has been a consistent presence in the world top ten for the past four years.

What separates Kournikova from the rest is her profile outside tennis. Anna has become part of the pop culture of our times alongside people like Britney Spears, David Beckham and others. She has a profile and presence that is marketable to an audience that normally would not be able to distinguish between a Hings, Davenport or a Coetzer.

In 2000 Kournikova earned 7.2 million pounds, 650 000 pounds coming from on-court earnings, while her endorsements totalled 6.55 million pounds for the year. Andre Agassi, the top-earning men's player earned 11.75 million pounds. There are no complaints that Agassis earning the majority of his money from endorsements. Even in 1997, when Agassi dropped out of the top 100 on the men's tour, he still earned millions in endorsements.

The underlying complaint against Kournikova seems to be that she is more presentation than substance, more spin than policy or plainly put, a pretty face that is overrated as a player. Over the past decade the same substance v presentation complaint has been hurled at a number of public figures.

In Great Britain, Tony Blair has been accused of putting more emphasis on the presentation of his political message than on the substance of the

message. In pop music, since the arrival of the Spice Girls in the 90s, a plethora of boy and girl bands have been hijacking the pop charts with manufactured images and so-called "manufactured" songs. Politics, sport and music have



ANNA KOURNIKOVA

always been part of popular culture, but since the mid-90s with the rise of the internet and other forms of media, celebrities have risen to new heights. Sports celebrities are feted like movie stars and some of them are starting to earn the same kind of money.

The distinction between sport and entertainment has blurred. Soccer, tennis and rugby must all compete with the latest Harry Potter movie or a new version of Sony's PlayStation 2. People expect to be entertained whether they go and watch their favourite band perform or their favourite teams play.

Most sports have tried to adapt. The laws in rugby are constantly changing to ensure a more open and attractive game. The introduction of night cricket, with music and coloured clothing for the players, had nothing to do with the evolution of the game. It was all about money and entertainment.

Like most forms of entertainment, the Americans have been the leading exponents of the cult of celebrity. Their leading sports stars are paid more than anyone, but they also do more for the celebrity and endorsement train. It is part of the package.

When you request "Kournikova" on the popular Internet search engine, google.com, it takes less than 10 sec-

onds to come up with 303 000 different site matches. Very few of these sites are focussed on Kournikova's tennis prowess. There are mostly picture sites and fan sites - more of a similarity to Star Wars than tennis wars.

Kournikova's celebrity profile has enhanced the profile of the women's tour. Along with the Williams sisters, Hings and Jennifer Capriati, she has helped to give a new vitality to a sport that was mired in baseline rallies and boredom for decades. With this new and improved profile for the sport more money has been coming into the game for all the players.

The recurring question for Kournikova is whether she has the hunger to become the top women's tennis player. Not since the days of Argentina's Gabriella Sabatini has a tennis player been such a sex symbol. Will the endorsements and all the non-tennis activities distract her from tennis?

Kournikova has certainly embraced her role as celebrity more than any other player before her ever did. She seems to revel in the attention of the camera. The links with the camera and the image that her pictures will project, not with any person behind the lens. Anna is communicating with her mass of fans. The "why" and "what" she is communicating is not important, but more the "how" she is communicating.

Kournikova said in a 1997 interview with Sports Illustrated Magazine. "If I had plastic surgery to make me look worse, maybe that would help. People ask me, 'why do you have to look good on the court? Why not just play?' But to me, whenever I'm on the court, it's like theatre, and I have to express myself. Why should I have to look ugly just because I'm an athlete?"

The majority of her fans are not really interested in whether she will some day win the Australian Open or Wimbledon. They will follow her progress through the pages of Sports Illustrated, Hello Magazine or You Magazine. Win or lose, they will follow.

For the rest that is still stuck somewhere in the twentieth century, she will always be an overpaid, overrated tennis player that is riding on her looks. The sniping will continue until she starts winning singles tournaments. Or will it?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tony territory

6 Alternatives to root beer

11 Sleinway products

12 Takes under one's wing

14 Get the computer going again

15 -- of dog figure?

16 Stick

17 "Garfield" cartoonist

19 White House mono-gram

20 Saharan

22 Crib

23 Voucher

24 Puzzle-page favorites

26 BBs

30 Reason to keep playing

31 Flair

35 Gentleman's windings

39 Body sci.

40 Clumsy craft

42 Latest fashion

43 Hole

44 Bluegill, for one

46 Heston's abbr.

47 Talisman

49 Drinking spree

51 FBI's French counter-part

52 Restless

53 Popeye's creator

54 Waikiki windings

DOWN

1 -- Madre take that as --?

2 City in Iran

3 "Can I take that as --?"

4 Suitable

5 Cornerstone abbr.

6 D.C. advisers

7 Keatsian ouput

8 Sad

9 Arizona native

10 Narrow channel

11 Tourney type

13 Memberships

18 Some-body

21 Coup --

23 Under-standable

25 Bracketed

27 Steven Tyler's daughter

29 Hire

31 -- Got a Brand New Bag?

32 Strong dislike

33 Character to

34 Previous to

36 "Ed Wood" Oscar winner

37 Way out

38 Weepy

41 Afghani- stan's capital

44 Type of blocker

45 Carte

48 Journey segment

50 Teachers' org.

Solution time: 23 mins.

GO TAB IS
ALL OT
BELLIA
GEO PAID
MILD BIE
ABIB EY
BEAR BIKERS
ALL EARS
SITL RITIO
HEIS MEIN

COE NITS
LITE AIR
ALL LOVER
BANE
PESTIO
PANAMA
GLAD
ROB LED
LOTUS
GIAKIA
WARES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			13
14						15			
16			17		18			19	
20		21		22				23	
24			25		26			27	
		28		29		30			
31	32	33		34		35		36	37
39				40		41		42	
43			44			45		46	
47			48			49		50	
51						52			
		53				54			

CRYPTOQUIP

V S O I M S X R D O O E C W

Z I D M X S F O Y E R U K T B T M I C E .

V S B S M R T E C Z I D U T J S

S C I D W U S F V I Y M I K .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I IMAGINE PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE AN AVID INTEREST IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals E

The Cryptquip 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.



Participants of the badminton competition of Dhaka Reporters Unity Sports Festival 2001 at the Wooden-floor Gymnasium of the National Sports Council on November 13.