

Hampshire gets ODI status

REUTERS, London

Hampshire's new Rose Bowl Stadium on the outskirts of Southampton has been selected as a one-day international venue from 2004, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said.

ECB chief executive Tim Lamb said on Tuesday the 17-million-pound stadium, which hosted its opening first class match in May, would also be considered for Test matches if one-day internationals were a success there.

He said: "This is a historic day for Hampshire and richly-deserved reward for all those within the club who have worked so hard to make the Rose Bowl such a splendid setting for cricket."

The ground becomes the fifth new venue to host one-day internationals since the 1999 World Cup after Bristol, Canterbury, Cardiff and Chester-le-Street.

US will win WC someday

AFP, Los Angeles

The United States is destined to win the World Cup one day, but it is unlikely that will be in the finals in South Korea and Japan next June, said the vice-president of US Soccer Sunil Gulati Monday.

"The US will win the World Cup. The question is when," he told a symposium here.

"To say that the United States will never win the World Cup is just crazy," he added.

For next summer's finals, Gulati said that it was important for the Americans to do better than in France in 1998 when they failed to qualify from the first round.

"I will be disappointed if we do not reach the round of 16 and my dream is to reach the quarter-finals.

"Is this unrealistic? No, I don't think it is," he added.

The United States have been drawn in Group D along with hosts South Korea, Portugal and Poland.

Pabna soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Agrani (Red) defeated Millenium Club 1-0 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League at the local stadium yesterday.

Ripon scored the match-winner.

McGrath to take

FROM PAGE 13
"You're bound to have one series that's not as productive every now and again," McGrath said.

"I was happy with the way I bowled. In Hobart and Perth I couldn't have been much happier -- it just would have been nicer to get a few more wickets.

"Sometimes you have to look beyond the results and look at the processes and I'm happy with the way I'm bowling.

"Everything's going well -- if I keep bowling the way I have been then I will take wickets."

White hits

FROM PAGE 13
Tendulkar not out 2
Extras: (b-4, lb-2) 6
Total: (For 2 wkts in 36 overs) 71
Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-64

To bat: Sourav Ganguly, Venkatesai Laxman, Virender Sehwag, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Jagavaj Srinath, Tino Yohannan

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	7	2	10	0
Flintoff	9	4	11	1
Giles	15	5	22	1
Dawson	4	0	21	0
White	1	0	1	0

Umpires: Avi Jayaprakash (India) and Ian Robinson (Zimbabwe).

Argentina halt hosts



AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Argentina finally lived up to their reputation as they defeated Malaysia 2-1 in the Champions Challenge here on Wednesday.

With the win, the South Americans joined the previously undefeated Malaysians at the top of the standings with nine points.

It was a fast and furious match with both sides playing solidly. Malaysia had the better of the first half chances and only lady luck denied a healthy lead at the break.

The hosts opened the scoring in the 18th minute when Logan Raj finished off a three-man move to shoot from the top of the semicircle, his attempt whizzed past Pablo Moreira in the Argentine goal.

The South Americans turned on the style in the second half and duly found their equaliser in the 46th minute when Jorge Lombi's reverse stick hit finally defeated Roslan Jamaluddin in the Malaysian goal.

Roslan was, however, easily the man of the match as he made numerous saves to thwart the South Americans.

But he was powerless to stop Lombi from scoring the winner with just a minute remaining.

Meanwhile, India finally found their scoring touch as they thrashed Japan 3-0 in an earlier match.

India's last match is against Argentina on Thursday and a win over the South Americans will give the Asian giants their ticket to the tournament's finale.

Japan now have nothing but pride to play for after their third

defeat from four matches. "The boys started the match defensively but we were a different team in the second period.

"This tournament is quite open and anybody can win it," said Indian coach Cedric d'Souza. There is immense pressure on myself and the team to do well here and I'm glad we came through with the three points today.

"Argentina will be a tough game and event though we lost to them in July, the boys have promised to avenge that defeat."

India had their first look at the Japanese goal in the 11th minute when they earned a penalty corner and, although Baljit Singh Dhillion's shot sounded the board, it was not given.

Just as it looked like Japan had survived the opening 35 minutes unscathed, they were undone by an unlucky deflection in the last second of the first half.

Deepak deflected a shot off a defender's stick, which looped over Jun and fell nicely into goal as India finally got the goal their attack play deserved.

The goal was just what the doctor ordered for India, who came out for the second half on fire.

With Dhanaraj Pillay running havoc down both flanks, the former world and Olympic champions

needed only six more minutes before increasing their lead.

A long ball out from defence found Dhanaraj who weaved past three defenders before supplying a cross to Prabhjot Singh that left the Japanese defenders napping.

Prabhjot was on target at close range as the Indians doubled their lead. It could have been three in the 46th minute but Baljit, who found himself with only Jun to beat, hit his shot straight into the keepers pads.

The way India were playing, it was apparent that they had goals on their mind. They managed to repel Japanese attacks with ease while their forays into their opponents' half were becoming more dangerous.

The third goal was inevitable and six minutes from time albeit in controversial fashion.

A long ball out from defence by Thirumal Valagan's was brilliantly collected by Deepak.

He ran at the Japanese defence and his attempt to centre the ball to Dhanaraj was diverted into goal by the unlucky Atsushi Takekura.

The Malaysian umpire, Paramjit Singh, signalled for a goal even though it appeared that the cross was made outside the semicircle and should not have counted.

STANDINGS							
Country	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malaysia	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Argentina	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
India	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
S.Africa	4	2	1	1	8	7	7
Japan	4	1	0	3	4	8	3

McLeish new Rangers boss



AFP, Glasgow

Alex McLeish was unveiled as the new manager of Glasgow Rangers on Tuesday at a press conference held at the club's Ibrox stadium.

McLeish, given permission by Hibernian to talk to the Glasgow giants earlier Tuesday after initially being declined, replaces Dick Advocaat who is expected to move into the role of director of football.

He will be accompanied at Ibrox by Andy Watson, his trusted assistant during their time in Edinburgh.

"It's fantastic and a stunning feeling to be announced as the new manager of Glasgow Rangers," McLeish said.

"It is a phenomenal feeling and I'm really looking forward to what is a fantastic challenge in my football career."

McLeish said he was relishing the challenge with Rangers and admitted he was still coming to terms with his dream move.

"It's all a bit surreal. It's like a movie here and it will take some time to sink in," said the 42-year-old who began his playing career at Motherwell and went on to make 77 international appearances for Scotland.

"It's new territory, but that's part and parcel of climbing up the football ladder and that's why I came to this kind of level.

"It is stunning to be at this level and I suppose the pressure here will be quite enormous - I am relishing the challenge," he added.

Former Aberdeen star McLeish took Hibernian to the Scottish Cup final and third place in the Premier League last season.

Veteran Frenchman Franck Sauzee is believed to be favourite to take over at Hibs in a player-manager role.

By coincidence, Hibernian play Rangers in a rearranged Scottish Premier League fixture at Ibrox on Wednesday.

Rangers Dutch international Ronald de Boer insisted the team will do their utmost to give Advocaat a good send-off by taking all three points on Wednesday.

"They will be fired up. It will be Dick's last game so it would be nice to give him a decent going away present with a victory," De Boer said.

Salt Lake open for business

REUTERS, Utah

The 2002 Winter Olympics officially opened for business on Tuesday, as Salt Lake Organising Committee (SLOC) president Mitt Romney passed through the processing centre collecting the Game's first credential and uniform.

"For a long time everything was just in the planning stage and today we're beginning to get real, these things are happening," said Romney.

"We opened our first venue, we have our credentials, we have our uniforms, and it's clear now the Games are on the way.

"This is our first official venue, we've moved in we run it and it's doing what it's suppose to do."

While the Processing Centre (TPC) becomes the first operational venue of the Salt Lake Olympics it is not one that will be seen by spectators.

But before the flame is extinguished to close the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Games, more than 34,000 volunteers and staff will have

made their way to this industrial park west of the city to receive credentials, uniforms and flu shots.

With the Games still almost two months away the TPC, which will be manned by 200 volunteers and staff, will be one of the longest running centres in terms of days of operation.

After a brief ribbon cutting ceremony, a delighted Romney joked and laughed his way through the accreditation and collection process filling a specially designed carrying bag with a jacket, pants, hats, gloves, t-shirts, turtle-necks, skin care products and maps and information.

Almost immediately afterwards the Games rank and file began to follow the SLOC president through the process which can handle 100 people per hour.

"It was pretty fast for me but I was one guy and there was about 50 people here processing me so it took all of four minutes," smiled Romney. "Normally it will take longer as people try on jackets and pants to

find the right size. "And they had my accreditation ready in the computer all they had to do was laminate it."

Modelling one of the jackets he will wear during the Games Romney explained that uniforms were coloured according to function and that his mountain shadow blue kit will be no different than that worn by other administration workers. Sizes will range from triple-small to eight-extra large.

Questioned about the TPC's out-of-the-way location, Romney explained several venues were considered before deciding on one outside the city.

With the cost for the Games reaching \$1.9 billion certainly the price was right, the building provided free of charge to SLOC by an anonymous donor.

"The space was donated to us and it's very accessible and has great parking," defended Romney. "We looked at a location downtown but it would be very slow, with parking problems and traffic issues."

Ponomariov, Anand poised to reach final

AFP, Moscow

Ukraine's Ruslan Ponomariov and India's Viswanathan Anand became firm favourites to qualify for the final of the FIDE World Chess Championship after their third semifinal games in Moscow Tuesday.

Ponomariov, playing with the black pieces defeated Russia's Peter Svidler in 44 moves after getting the better of a queen-against-two-rooks ending.

The first two games in their series were drawn.

Anand, the FIDE (World Chess Federation) title holder, drew easily with Ukraine's Vasily Ivanchuk in 28 moves and will have the advantage of playing white in the fourth and final game on Thursday.

Their semi-final pairing remains all-square after three successive draws.

If either of the pairings remains tied after Thursday's games, rapid-play and, if necessary, blitz tie-breakers will be played on Friday.

The winners of the semi-final pairings will meet for an eight-game final series in Moscow beginning January 16.

A crucial transfer window

AFP, Paris

A window of opportunity is about to open up for French World Cup hopefuls trying to stake a claim for next summer's finals.

Nicolas Anelka, struggling and sulking through life at Paris Saint Germain, and Youri Djorkaeff, who played a prominent role in France's 1998 World Cup success and is currently marooned at Kaiserslautern, are just two of the players expected to feature as the annual winter transfer window opens up on December 22nd.

Monaco, Nantes, Marseille as well as PSG, who are enduring mediocre campaigns, are expected to be the first reaching for the cheque books when the five-week window opens.

Anelka has once again failed to settle into a regular place in the PSG first team amid reports of ongoing tensions between the striker and coach Luis Fernandez.

"Surely we have the right to discuss things and we are not always going to agree. We don't have to make a big fuss about it. There's no war at PSG," Anelka said in November when reports of a rift first appeared.

Eighteen 18 months after moving to the French capital from Real Madrid for 30 million dollars, Anelka, under contract until 2007, is suffering another slump - he has scored just twice in 17 league matches.

Djorkaeff, meanwhile, has made no secret of his desire to leave Bundesliga title chasers Kaiserslautern and sees a move as a means of rekindling his hopes of helping France defend their World Cup trophy.

Marseille have been linked with the midfielder since the summer, but Djorkaeff's salary demands are scaring his French suitors.

Bernard Diomedé is another French player with World Cup ambitions whose career is in the sidings.

Injury has put him out of the picture at English Premiership giants Liverpool and the 27-year-old striker, who moved to Merseyside from Auxerre for five million dollars in 1999, has started just one match this season, the 4-1 Champions League qualifying round victory over Haka.

Diomedé, who played for France during the last World Cup, told skysports.com that Marseille and Bastia had shown interest.

Collymore shatters SL



REUTERS, Colombo

Corey Collymore took a career-best five for 51 to give West Indies a 49-run win over Sri Lanka in their day-night match in the one-day triangular tournament on Tuesday.

He was helped by wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs who collected a record-equalling six scalps during the Sri Lankan innings.

Earlier, Brian Lara continued his remarkable scoring spree as he made 60 to aid a run a ball in the West Indies' 250 for eight from 50 overs at the Ranasinghe Premadasa Stadium.

Sri Lanka were dismissed for 201 in 43.2 overs, losing their last six wickets for 17 runs.

Collymore, hit for 22 runs off his first three overs, returned for a superb second spell which saw him take five wicket for 29 runs off 6.2 overs and with it the man-of-the-match award.

Jacobs helped Collymore by snaring four catches behind the stumps off his bowling. He held five catches and one stumping to equal Adam Gilchrist (Australia) and Alec Stewart's (England) record of six dismissals in one innings in a one-day international.

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya hit a rapid 83 off 86 balls with two sixes and 10 fours and shared an opening partnership of 92 off 17.4 overs with Avishka Gunawardene (38).

But no other Sri Lankan batsmen

made any worthwhile contribution as they got out to loose shots.

An opening stand of 50 off ten overs between Chris Gayle (21) and Daren Ganga (50) set West Indies towards a big total on a good batting

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Muttiah Muralitharan was the most economical conceding just 35 runs in his ten overs for the wicket of Hooper.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the tri-series one-day international between Sri Lanka and the West Indies on Tuesday:

WEST INDIES: 250 for eight (Brian Lara 60, Daren Ganga 50, Ramnaresh Sarwan 38, Chris Gayle 21; Kumar Dharmasena 3-50, Sanath Jayasuriya 3-50)

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Gayle b McGarrell 83
Ganga st Jacobs b McGarrell 38
Atapattu run out 11
Jayawardene c Jacobs b Collins 2
Arnold lbw b Gayle 19
S'kara c Jacobs b Collymore 27
Perera c Jacobs b Collymore 4
D'sena c Jacobs b Collymore 0
Vaas c Jacobs b Collymore 4
Zoysa c Ganga b Collymore 5
Muralitharan not out 0
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-2) 8

Total: (All out in 43.2 overs) 201

Fall of wickets: 1-92, 2-119, 3-134, 4-138, 5-184, 6-192, 7-192, 8-192, 9-201

Bowler

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Collins	8	0	34	1
Collymore	9.2	0	51	5
Lawson	4	0	29	0
Hooper	8	0	20	0
Gayle	7	1	32	1
McGarrell	7	0	33	2

Result: West Indies won by 49 runs

Man-of-the-match: Corey Collymore.

Umpires: Asoka De Silva and Peter Manuel (both Sri Lankans).

Pan Pacific Open

Lindsay, Martina top two



AFP, Tokyo

Current and former world Tennis number ones Lindsay Davenport and Martina Hingis will spearhead the star-studded 1.224 million dollar Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament which start from January 29.

Davenport and Hingis have shared the Tokyo indoor title in the past five years with the American winning it in 1998 and 2001 and the Swiss Miss winning in 1997, 1999 and 2000.

The winner of this event, which carries the top prize of 182,000 dollars, eventually ended the year as the world number one in the past five years.

"I am very excited to be returning to Tokyo for the Pan Pacific Open. I am looking forward to starting 2002 with some great results in Australia and then Tokyo," said Hingis in a statement.

The 21-year-old Swiss injured her right ankle during a match against Davenport in Filderstadt, Germany, in October to be out of action for the rest of the season and lost her number one spot.

Both Hingis and Davenport have



LINDSAY DAVENPORT



MARTINA HINGIS

made an entry into the Sydney International in January, prior to the first Grand Slam event at Melbourne.

The most dangerous rival to the top two is American Serena Williams, who has seven wins and two defeats against Davenport and five wins and six losses against Hingis. Davenport has a 14-11 win-loss record against Hingis.

"For me, the year 2002 is looking very promising, and my goal is to become the number one player," said Williams, 20.

"I am really looking forward to matches at the Pan Pacific Open, where I will be playing for the first time and where I am sure I can meet expectations of the Japanese tennis fans."

Other top contenders will include Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia, the winner of the Italian Open, the Princess Cup in Tokyo and the Kremlin Cup in Moscow this season, and another former number one Monica Seles.

Other prominent players are Russian pin-up girl Anna Kournikova, Silvia Farina of Italy, Sydney Olympic silver medalist Elena Dementieva of Russia, and 1999 Wimbledon junior champion Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Matador's wear
 5 Triumphant
 8 Hearty gulp
 12 Grad
 13 Verily
 14 Obsessed seaman
 15 Dole's 1996 running mate
 16 Museum stuff
 17 Super-market stack
 18 Send overseas
 20 Writer Kingsley
 22 Killjoy
 26 Receded
 29 Help
 30 Conductor de Waart
 31 Sound of contentment
 32 Catcher's place?
 33 Jail
 34 Dander
 35 Summer sign
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DOWN
 1 Encrust
 2 Karras or Haley
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 47 Python
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 50 Ladder
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 52 A bit of shock?
 53 Santa's toys
 54 Bloke
 55 Rams' ma'ams

19 Strawberry or cherry
21 Frenzied
23 Stagnant marsh
24 Tend
25