

## Rains ruin both ODIs

REUTERS, Kingston

Heavy rain forced the second one-day international of a five-match series between India and West Indies to be abandoned without a ball being bowled, a day after the first one was washed out.

Match referee Mike Procter made a visit to Sabina Park early in the morning to look at the condition of the ground and decided to call off the game because of huge puddles on the outfield.

"There is just too much rain," Procter told Reuters. "We have called off the match because there is no way we'll be able to play on that ground even if the rain stops now."

It rained all through Saturday night and Sunday morning in Kingston.

"It's really sad for all involved, for the fans and the players. We don't even have a chance to make up for this loss because of the tight schedule. It's effectively a three-match series now," Procter said.

The next match is scheduled for Barbados on Wednesday with India looking to salvage some pride after going down 2-1 in the Test series, which finished last week.

India were expected to leave out Vangipurappu Laxman for the Jamaica one-dayers, despite his 474 runs in the Test series, and ask Rahul Dravid to keep wickets as they went for a young side packed with one-day specialists.

West Indies had shortlisted 12 players, leaving out all-rounder Gareth Breeze.

The series will end with back-to-back matches in Port of Spain, Trinidad on June 1 and 2.

## Foster to help Perera rectify

INTERNET, undated

Sri Lanka are looking to Daryl Foster to help paceman Ruchira Perera erase the flaws from his action.

Bowling 'guru' Foster arrives back in London on Monday to assist the Lankan after making a trip home to Australia for family reasons.

And his main priority will be to work with left-arm Perera, who was reported to the International Cricket Council by the umpires following the first Test against England at Lord's.

"Physically he needs to get the idea of being smooth and fluid.

"It's in the umpires' report that the problem occurs when he strives for extra pace," said Sri Lankan coach Dav Whatmore.

"He has enough natural pace as it is, and we're already working on it indoors."

Perera took five wickets at Lord's but his action was questioned by both TV and radio commentators.

The Sri Lankan camp say he is unaffected by the controversy and it looks increasingly likely that he will play in the second Test at Edgbaston with Sri Lanka's support seamers short of match practice after two days of their game with Glamorgan were washed out.

"He's alright. He is still bubbly and bouncy. It must play a little bit on his mind, but he doesn't read too many papers." Whatmore added.

The ICC has a three-stage process for bowlers reported in international cricket.

Perera is now at stage one, which means that he can continue to play while working with a specialist advisor appointed his own national board.

He will only be banned from bowling if he is reported twice more within the next 12 months.

Perera is the fourth Sri Lankan to have his bowling action investigated in the last six years.

Muttiah Muralitharan was no-balled in Australian in 1996 and two years later left-arm Kumar Dharmasena was reported but both were cleared.

It was the international furore that surrounded Muralitharan, and Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar, that led the ICC to alter its rules governing the reporting process.

## Daddy Hollioake

AFP, London

England cricketer Adam Hollioake's daughter Bennaya was born in Perth, Australia, on Saturday.

Surrey captain Hollioake has not played for his county this season following the death of his brother, teammate and England all-rounder Ben in a car accident in March.

Following the accident in Western Australia, where the Hollioake brothers were spending time with their family, it was announced Adam would not start the new English season and would instead stay in Perth.

Bennaya -- named in memory of Ben and his girlfriend Janaya who was seriously injured in the accident -- was born on Saturday morning, weighing 7lb 10oz.

Wife Sherryn and daughter are reportedly doing well, and the trio are expected to return to Britain in a week or so.

## What to watch

FROM PAGE 13

Soccer World Cup Heroes

Pele

Repeat at 3:00 pm

Sportline Tonight

Sport News

Live at 10:30 pm



Goal-mouth action during the Bangladesh Railway-Usha Krira Chakra encounter of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

## Green Delta hockey MSC whack Wari

SPORTS REPORTER

Holders Mohammedan Sporting Club whacked Wari Club by 4-0 in their return leg clash of the Green Delta Premier Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium on Sunday.

The winners led the first half 2-0. Ace forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal netted twice in the 9th and 39th minutes while Shamsuddin Tuhin and Pakistani Mohammad Shafqat added one each in the 17th and 69th minutes respectively to help the black and whites register their tenth win in eleven matches. Mohammedan are leading the ten-team league with highest 31 points. On the other hand, it was the sixth defeat for Wari in 11 matches that kept them glued to their previous collection of nine points.

In the day's other match,

Bangladesh Sporting Club blanked Ajax Sporting Club 5-0.

Meanwhile, Abahani returned to the second position yesterday with a 5-0 drubbing of Farashganj Sporting Club.

Indian Ronald Kiran, Shamim Reza, Russelluddin, Ramij and Shishu scored one goal each for the winners, who led the first session 3-0.

Abahani have now 27 points from 11 matches. Farashganj meanwhile tasted their eleventh defeat in as many matches.

Usha Krira Chakra registered a 5-2 win in the other match against Dhaka Railway.

Habul struck thrice while Indian Brojen Singh stabbed in the other two for the winners. Sudhir and Navbeer Singh of India reduced the margin for Railway.

## Age-gr cricket Khulna lift U-17 title

UNB, Dhaka

Khulna Division became champions in the Under-17 Age Group development tournament beating Dhaka Metro Blues by four wickets in the final at Rajshahi Stadium yesterday.

Dhaka Metro Blues scored 139 runs all out in 43.5 overs after deciding to bat first.

Arafat Ali made 32, Alim 24 and highest 37 runs came from extras. Raqibul Islam picked up three wickets for 22 and Faizul Islam three for 31 runs.

Khulna Division reached the target of 140 runs losing six wickets in 39 overs.

Rakib Ahmed scored highest 38 runs and Manikul Islam 36.

Sunny took two wickets conceding 27 runs and Maruf Ali one for 16 runs.

## Malaysia cricket BD A emerge champions

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh A emerged unbeaten champions in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge with a thumping seven-wicket victory over USA in the final held at the Royal Selangor Club ground in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Alok Kapali hammered a timely half-century as Bangladesh A, chasing a paltry 127 in 38 overs, reached 131 for the loss of three wickets and with four overs to spare. The match was curtailed because of soggy ground caused by overnight rain.

USA, electing to bat first, were caught in the spin maze of Sabbir Khan and Mohammad Rafique. Sabbir took three wickets for 12 runs and Rafique two for 21 as the USA could muster only 127 losing eight wickets. Both the tweekers bowled eight overs each.

Kapali was adjudged player for his 70-ball 57. The right-handed Sylhet all-rounder hit five boundaries to help Bangladesh beat USA for the third successive meeting in the three-nation meet which also involved hosts Malaysia.

Kapali apart, opener Hannan Sarkar scored a run-a-ball 42 with nine fours.

The Aminul Islam-led Bangladesh side were scheduled to return home last night.

## Viv chief WI selector

REUTERS/INTERNET, Kingston

Former captain Vivian Richards has been appointed as the new chairman of the West Indies selection committee.

The 50-year-old from Antigua replaced former Test wicketkeeper Mike Findlay and was given the post for a two-year period, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) announced.

Former West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge also joined the three-member panel, in place of former fast bowler Joel Garner. The third member of the committee, Joey Carew, was given another term.

Richards, who scored a West Indian record of 8,540 runs in 121 Tests, was named as one of the five cricketers of the last century by Wisden two years ago.

Meanwhile, WICB president Reverend Wesley Hall has revealed that the Board has suffered a loss of 7.5 million dollars for the financial year ending in September 2001.

Hall has attributed the loss to proceedings with development plans despite decreased revenues.

The WICB has lost 15million dollars over the past three years but officials have projected a break-even budgetary estimate for the 12-month period, which ends in September 2002.

The loss experienced over the last two or three years are of grave concern to me and to this board," Hall told the board's annual general meeting.

"The main reason for the loss last year was to maintain financing to the development component of the strategic plan, including the expansion of the Red Stripe Bowl and Busta Cup.

"Key factors contributing to decreased revenues were commitments to the ICC's ten year tour plan and unfavourable fee structure, losses from home tournaments, television production cost of the South Africa series that could not be offset by the sale of rights and losses on investments in the stock markets.

He said the board had obtained a bank loan in order to finance the medium-term cash flow and that strengthening the finances of the board was a priority matter.

## Steffi stands by Andre

REUTERS, Berlin

German tennis great Steffi Graf believes her husband Andre Agassi is fit enough to win the French Open, and that age will not count against him.

Graf wrote in an article published in Welt am Sonntag newspaper on Sunday that the 32-year-old American's intensive weight-training was one of the secrets of his success.

"It's impressive for me to see how his training method has enabled him not only to maintain his fitness but even heighten it in recent years," Graf wrote.

"That has preserved him from major injury over a period of 15 years."

Graf, who has retired, said Agassi's withdrawal from tennis for two years may have helped him to keep up his motivation and work on his fitness even harder.

"People keep saying older players lose motivation because they get other goals in their life," Graf said.

"Family, their own children. I say that a family that stands behind you can give you new motivation and new goals. Age in no way rules out success."

While Graf said she did not expect Pete Sampras to win the French Open, she added: "Whoever wants to win in Paris must be absolutely fit but for me it's not a question of age."

## Hewitt, Venus stroll

Tennis

REUTERS, Paris

Lleyton Hewitt and Venus Williams have led a procession of seeds into the second round of the French Open in early Roland Garros action.

Men's top seed Hewitt put in a solid performance on Court Suzanne Lenglen to beat Brazilian Andre Sa 7-5, 6-4, 7-5 while Williams spent just 65 minutes sweeping aside Germany's Bianka Lamade 6-3, 6-3.

Hewitt just managed to finish his match before rain forced play to be halted on all 16 courts at Roland Garros.

He was joined in the second round by last year's runner-up Alex Corretja. The Spaniard, seeded 18th this time round, dispatched Czech Bohdan Ulihrach 6-1, 6-4, 6-1.

Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson put aside his discomfort on clay to beat Argentine Franco Squillari 6-2, 7-6, 6-2.

Hewitt, much more comfortable on quicker hard courts, was given a



PHOTO: INTERNET

Australian Lleyton Hewitt eyes the ball during his match against Brazilian Andre Sa in the first round of the French Open in Paris yesterday.

## Capriati's challengers

Tennis

REUTERS, Paris

Dreams are made and shattered on the red clay courts of Roland Garros every year but rarely do they encapsulate the kind of emotions surrounding Jennifer Capriati's fairytale triumph in 2001.

Determination and courage carried the former teenage rebel to the title 12 months ago but the top-seeded American will have to dig her heels deeper if she is to repeat the feat over the next fortnight.

While pretenders to her throne have been scrambling round tournaments to hone their clay-court

weeks ago, Serena has enjoyed a huge turnaround in fortunes.

Two finals appearances in eight days have propelled her to a career-high third ranking and provided evidence that the athletic American has at last found a way to adapt her game to the slow red clay despite her thundering serves not having the same devastating effect as they do on fast surfaces.

The results established Serena as one of the firm favourites for this year's French Open, a tag she was happy to accept following her Italian Open win last Sunday.

"Winning the French Open would be a dream come true. I really like it there and am definitely looking forward to doing well," said the

tough test in his opener against baseliner Sa as gusty and overcast conditions posed problems for both players.

The Australian world number one prevailed without too much trouble, however, and will next face either Russian Andrei Stoliarov or Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden.

Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten opened his defence against Swiss Ivo Heuberger. The Brazilian seventh seed was leading on centre court by two sets when the rain started.

Earlier on the main show court, Williams showed no sign of the wrist injury which caused her to pull out of the Italian Open in Rome two weeks ago as she motored into the next round.

"It was a tough test," she said. "It was a little tough this morning because it is so cold, but once I got warmed up it was okay."

"Really it is a lot of fun, clay-court tennis. Sometimes it can be tough if things aren't going your way, but it can be fun."

She was joined in the second round by 11th seed Daniela Hantuchova and 13th seed Elena Dementieva who also posted straightforward victories on the slow, red clay of the French capital.

Slovakia's Hantuchova gained revenge for a Miami defeat at the hands of Cara Black in March by dismissing the Zimbabwean 6-2, 6-3.

Russian number one Dementieva was made to fight a little harder before easing past Czech Adriana Gersi 7-5, 6-3.

myself and I know I can do well."

Venus, a winner on green clay at Amelia Island last month, raised doubts about her form when she suffered a freak wrist sprain while picking up luggage last week which forced her to pull out of the Italian Open.

"It makes me somewhat nervous before the French that I won't be able to play a tournament for two weeks. But hopefully it isn't serious," Venus said following her decision to withdraw just minutes before her match against Anna Kournikova of Russia.

Although the powerfully-built Venus is determined to dominate the tour like no player before and to reclaim the world number one



JENNIFER CAPRIATI

skills, the 26-year-old Capriati is the only player among the top five seeds not to have won a title on the surface this season.

The phenomenal Williams sisters and Belgians Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin have all tasted success in recent weeks, some of them at the expense of Capriati.

Serena Williams has been particularly ruthless in her treatment of Capriati and has won all three of their battles this year, including their semifinal clash in Rome last week.

For a player who had previously looked vulnerable on clay, having never advanced beyond the quarterfinals on the surface until two

American, who was runner-up to Henin in Berlin before she gained revenge in the Rome final.

Apart from Serena, German Open champion Henin is also a frontrunner for Paris and could claim her first Grand Slam crown if her superb all-court game is on song.

Having made her mark by being runner-up to Venus Williams at last year's Wimbledon, the 19-year-old Henin has proved her mental toughness by battling her way to five finals in 2002.

With her confidence at an all-time high, Henin -- beaten by her friend Clijsters in the semifinals in 2001 -- said: "I just have to believe in

ranking, her immediate concern must be to improve on her 2001 performance at the French when she was sent packing in the first round by Barbara Schett.

## Kuerten counts himself out

AP, Paris

Two-time defending champion Gustavo Kuerten played down his chances for another French Open title Sunday and said he probably will skip Wimbledon again.

Kuerten, who had hip surgery in February and returned to action in late April, said he's still not in top tennis shape.

"Maybe one of my goals will be, you know, playing in the second week. I think that would be a good effort for myself," Kuerten said.

After winning a second straight French Open last year, Kuerten skipped Wimbledon, pulling out with a sore groin. He also complained then about the seeding system at Wimbledon, saying it penalized clay-court specialists such as himself.

Now Kuerten says he most likely will use the time after the French Open to rest and rehab his hip instead of going to the grass-court Grand Slam tournament. His final decision won't have anything to do with Wimbledon's seeding system, which in 2001 was expanded to 32 players and gave weight to past performance on grass.

"I think there's a small chance only, because still maybe I'm a little bit afraid to go in the grass, you know," said the Brazilian, seeded No. 7 at Roland Garros.

"I'm probably going to prefer to, after here, take one more month to just take it easy, start again doing rehabilitation and then probably play a little more clay, if possible."