

Ganga gets WI A going

BBC, Birmingham

Daren Ganga's half-century put West Indies A in control on a rain-affected first day of their tour match against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Ganga remained unbeaten on 51 as rain swept in after tea. Devon Smith chipped in with a brisk 46 to leave the visitors well placed on 123 for one.

Rain wiped out the morning session, though Ganga was keen to bat after winning the toss. Smith immediately set about an average Warwickshire attack, the left-hander latching onto some wayward bowling.

Smith looked set for a big score before he was trapped leg-before by Mohamed Sheikh. He hit eight fours and a six, facing only 58 balls.

The usually aggressive Dwayne Bravo joined Ganga, but was content to play the ball around. Ganga reached his half-century with his ninth four, with Bravo not out on 14 when another heavy shower drove the players from the ground.

West Indies A will probably look for quick runs tomorrow, and have big-hitting Rumako Morton in the side to bolster the run-rate. With only a week of the tour left, the last thing they need is more rain.

Lanka A team to tour Pakistan

INTERNET, Lahore

The Sri Lankan A cricket team will tour Pakistan next month to play unofficial Test and one-day matches against the Pakistan Under-19 team.

A member of the national selection committee and a coach of the Muridke Regional Academy, former Test paceman Aaqib Javed told journalists that the number of the matches were yet to be decided.

He said that the Sri Lankan cricket board had agreed for the tour, but the details of matches were yet to be decided.

It was learnt that the negotiations are underway to hold two Tests and three one-day matches during the tour.

Udal wrecks

FROM PAGE 13 through to veteran wicketkeeper Adrian Aymes.

Dravid had carried on regardless as wickets fell at the other end but his stylish innings was ended not long after his captain had departed when he was clean-bowled by medium-pace Mascarenhas.

Dravid faced 119 balls including one six and 10 fours. Venkatsai Laxman (38) produced some fine shots before he was taken at slip by Johnson off Udal, the bowlers working their way through the rest of the order without too much difficulty.

But India responded positively when Hampshire opener Will Kendall was well caught at third slip by Sehag off Sanjay Bangar for a third ball duck.

However, Johnson then gave the India attack plenty to think about, striking five boundaries in a 28-ball offensive.

Gough proves a point

Cricket

BBC, Headingly

Yorkshire's Darren Gough proved his fitness for England Test duty as Lancashire were put under early pressure in a tense Roses clash at Headingly on Saturday.

Question marks were still hanging over Gough's fitness when he was named in the England squad for the first Test against India, which begins on Thursday.

But he dealt with the doubters in typical Gough style, taking two wickets in his opening six-over burst.

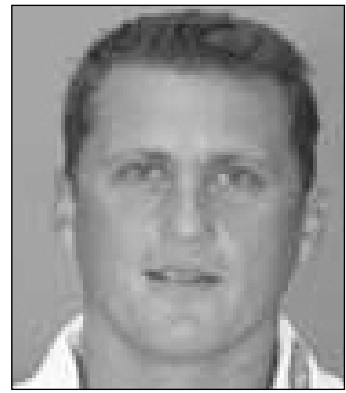
He removed Mark Chilton with his 11th Championship delivery of the season, before getting some assistance from the pitch to remove David Byas' middle stump with one that kept very low.

Byas, making his first championship return to the Headingley ground where he captained Yorkshire for five seasons, was greeted by a mixture of applause and boos as he walked to the crease.

But his departure, at the hands of

a man with whom he shares a mutual antipathy, saw Lancashire rocking at 28 for two.

Alec Swann and Stuart Law shepherded the visitors to 89 for two at the close - a deficit of 426.



DARREN GOUGH

Earlier, Darren Lehmann and Anthony McGrath shared the biggest third-wicket stand in Roses history as Yorkshire made their best first-innings score of the season.

After coming together at the perilous position of 24 for two on the

first evening, the pair added 317 to help Yorkshire to 515 for five when they declared shortly after tea.

Lehmann, who had made six consecutive Championship half-centuries before this innings, bludgeoned his way to 187, and McGrath made a career-best 165.

The Yorkshire captain ran James Anderson to third-man to reach his 155-ball hundred, and then proceeded to add another 50 runs in just 41 balls as the Lancashire attack were put to the sword.

He was closing in on a double-century when 19-year-old James Anderson made him pay for his first mistake of the day, Lehmann top-edging a pull square of the wicket for John Wood to take a spectacular catch.

McGrath bettered the 142 he hit against Middlesex in 1999, before being bowled by slow left-armer Keedy shortly before tea.

In contrast to the more flamboyant Lehmann, he was at the crease for five and a quarter hours for his century, but his grinding innings helped to give the home side maximum batting points.

Kent gain control

Cricket

INTERNET, London

Kent took a substantial first-innings lead over Surrey, bowling the Championship leaders out for 225 in their first innings at Canterbury. Despite another blistering century from Adam Holloake, who made an unbeaten 122 off 103 balls, and 34 from the re-habilitated Mark Butcher, no other Surrey batsman reached double figures.

Martin Saggers took five for 66 and Amjad Khan four for 91. When rain brought an early close Kent, on 172 for six, had extended their lead to 321, with Robert Key unbeaten on 61.

Another career-best innings, from Robin Martin-Jenkins, took Sussex to a massive 589 for seven at Taunton, a lead of 319 over Somerset.

After Tony Cottee completed a century earlier in the day, Martin-Jenkins made an unbeaten 171, adding 238 for the eighth wicket with Mark Davis undefeated on 91.

Division Two leaders Middlesex go into the final day in a strong

position against third-placed Essex. Although Ronnie Irani went on to complete an unbeaten 182, the visitors' total was still 97 runs short of Middlesex's effort.

By the close Andy Strauss batting on 55 and Ben Hutton (44 not out) had taken them to 116 for one, a lead of 213. Dominic Cork celebrated his England recall with three wickets as Derbyshire took control of their game against Nottinghamshire at Derby.

After eventually reaching 353 in their first innings, the hosts reduced Notts to 182 for eight at stumps. Matthew Downam also took three wickets, with Kevin Pietersen making an unbeaten 72.

An unbeaten 79 from Ian Fisher helped Gloucestershire reach 438 against Glamorgan at Cheltenham before Robert Croft ended the innings, taking his wicket tally to three. In reply Glamorgan closed on 204 for four, with Matthew Maynard unbeaten on 48.

At Worcester, an unbroken fourth-wicket partnership of 188 between Ben Smith (104 n.o) and Vikram Solanki (91 n.o) has given the hosts a good chance of overtaking Northants' 387. Worcester's ended the day on 273 for three.

Adelaide Oval for sale

INTERNET, Adelaide

The South Australian Cricket Association is considering selling the naming rights to Adelaide Oval in an effort to raise funds for renovation and extension of the historic ground.

"Selling the naming rights to the ground or particular parts of the Oval is definitely something we are thinking about," said Ian McLachlan, the president of SACA.

SACA are under greater pressure to raise funds after a change in local government left the association with a budget shortage of 11million Australian dollars.

"We are considering various types of ways to raise money to fund the development," McLachlan told a local newspaper, "including naming rights, sponsorship and selling naming rights to various parts of the ground."

Test cricket was first played at the Adelaide Oval in the first Test of the 1884/85 Ashes series. Since then Australia have played 55 Tests at the ground, winning 25 and losing 15 Tests.

The Adelaide Oval has hosted 52 ODIs, of which Australia have played 29 and won 16. McLachlan feels the Labour Party's attitude to cricket in the state will adversely affect SACA's chances of hosting Australia's centre of excellence.

Graveney not pleased

INTERNET, London

England Chairman of Selectors, David Graveney, says he's disappointed that young English players have not taken the chance to grab a place in the national team.

Graveney was talking after the announcement of the squad to face India in the upcoming Test series and he stressed that it was particularly young batsmen with whom he was disappointed.

"It is obviously difficult for the guys to work on their form in the off-season, especially on the coast. They now have something to build on until we meet again at the end of the month."

Tendulkar

FROM PAGE 13 has been selected by Sachin, Narang added, "So it is truly a reflection of his personal taste."

An assortment of currently popular international cuisine, as well as Indian dishes and other Eastern favourites will be served at 'Tendulkar's'. Many of the diminutive batsman's personal favourites will also be available.

Women's cricket NZ clinch series

INTERNET, Chester-le-Street

England's women slipped to a comprehensive 63-run defeat at the hands of New Zealand in the final of the 2002 tri-series tournament at Chester-le-Street.

After winning the toss and putting the tourists in, England started well with two quick wickets. Isa Guha induced an outside edge from Nicola Payne in the first over and Laura Harper held the catch at first slip. Emily Drumm was dismissed two balls later when she top-edged for wicketkeeper Mandie Godlman to take the catch.

However a superb half-century from Katherine Pulford enabled New Zealand to recover to 161 before they were bowled out in the 49th over.

England's run-chase began slowly, and wickets fell steadily throughout their innings. Opener Claire Taylor top-scored with 32, but only two other England players reached double figures as they were bowled out for 98 in the 44th over.

SA coach happy with camp

INTERNET, Pretoria

South Africa's new coach Eric Simons has concluded his first training camp with the squad that will play in Morocco and has declared himself satisfied with proceedings.

"It was very good to get the guys together," said Simons. "They were obviously a bit rusty after the break, but everyone looked very happy to get out there on the grass and train. Basically they looked in good shape."

The team met in Centurion on Wednesday and the camp ran through until Friday. It is the first time a squad has been gathered since the Australians toured South Africa at the end of last season.

Since that tour the South African team management has undergone an extensive overhaul a consequence of which is Simons's appointment.

"The team is definitely looking forward to the new season," Simons continued.

"You are only as good as your last game and it has been some time since they have last played. They have not had another series to get the disappointment of the Aussie tour out of their mind."

South Africa lost 2-1 in the Test series and 5-1 in the ODI series at home to the Australians.

"It has been a long time that they have had to put up with that result," the Capetonian remarked.

South Africa begin a packed season when they travel to Morocco for a triangular tournament against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Although they face demanding tours thereafter, the Proteas will play with the expectations of World Cup success thereafter.

"For myself, it is the first time I have got the guys together. I have had a chance to see what everyone is capable of and now we can get going with our preparations for Morocco," the coach continued.

"It is obviously difficult for the guys to work on their form in the off-season, especially on the coast. They now have something to build on until we meet again at the end of the month."

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Fed Cup

Belgium owe Callens

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Veteran Els Callens came to the rescue of Fed Cup holders Belgium on Saturday to keep alive her country's hopes of making it to the semifinals of this year's event.

Callens, who will be 32 next month, had been drafted into the team when Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin, the world number five and seven players, opted out preferring to concentrate on their build-up to the American hardcourt season which starts next week.

But Callens, ranked 84, did not let her country down as she beat Italy's Rita Grande 6-2, 6-1 on the clay courts of Bologna.

Italy then levelled the tie at 1-1 when the experienced Silvia Farina Elia easily saw off 18-year-old Caroline Maes, ranked 278 in the world, 6-2, 6-1.

Meanwhile, Slovakia and France were locked at 1-1 after the first day of their quarter-final clash in Bratislava.

Wimbledon quarter-finalist Daniela Hantuchova beat Frenchwoman Nathalie Dechy 7-5, 7-5 in the opening singles before Amelie Mauresmo, a semi-finalist at the All England Club two weeks ago, defeated Janette Husarova 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Hantuchova took 92 minutes to see off Dechy but the French girl had her chances in the second set where she led 4-2 at one stage

before she lost three games in a row.

The Slovakian wrapped up the match when Dechy served up a double fault on second match point.

World number 10 Mauresmo levelled the tie with her win over Husarova despite a lapse in concentration when she lost serve twice to surrender the second set.

Mauresmo hit back to take the match enjoying two breaks of her own after 103 minutes on court.

In Mallorca, Spain took a huge step towards the semi-finals by opening up a 2-0 lead over Germany.

Aranxa Sanchez-Vicario came back from a set down to beat Barbara Rittner 4-6, 7-6, 6-3 before Marta Marrero easily disposed of Martina Muller 6-1, 6-1.

At Portschach, Austria, who knocked out the United States in the last round, also set their sights on the last four after winning the two opening singles against Croatia.

Barbara Schwartz defeated former French Open winner Iva Majoli while Barbara Schett defeated Jelena Kostanic 6-2, 6-1.

AUSSIES BACK IN WORLD GROUP

In Wollongong, Australia kept its place in next year's Fed Cup World Group with a 3-2 victory over the Netherlands in a relegation tennis play-off here on Sunday.

Alicia Molik and Rennae Stubbs clinched victory with a tense 7-6, 7-6 win over Dutch pair Miriam Oremans and Kristie Boogert in the decisive doubles rubber.

It was Molik and Stubbs' first win in four Fed Cup doubles matches together, while defeat for Oremans and Boogert was only their second in nine pairings.

With the tie locked up at 1-1 after Saturday's opening singles matches, world No.71 Molik put Australia ahead with a 6-2, 6-3 win over the 99th-ranked Oremans in Sunday's first reverse singles.

The 158th-ranked Boogert dived world No.107 Evie Dominikovic 7-5, 5-7, 6-1 to keep the Dutch team's playoff hopes alive heading into the doubles.

DAVENPORT LEADS USA

Meanwhile, in Springfield, Lindsay Davenport did her part to help the Americans against Israel in the World Group playoffs, returning from a knee injury that has sidelined her since November and defeating Anna Smashnova 6-3, 6-3 in Saturday's first singles match.

American Monica Seles followed with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Izipora Obziler to give the US a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five tie.

The two will play in reverse singles on Sunday and Meghann Shaughnessy and Lisa Raymond will team up in doubles against Hila Rosen and Shahar Peer.

The winners in the playoffs earn berths in the 2003 Fed Cup world group while the losers compete in their respective zonal qualifying groups.

Novak's pain, Canas' gain

Tennis

AFP, Stuttgart

Top seed Jiri Novak suffered a painful collapse here on Saturday to hand a place in the final of the 500,000-dollar ATP tournament to Argentine Guillermo Canas 6-4, 6-0.

Novak, from the Czech Republic, lost eight games in a row from 4-4 in the first set with Canas completing the rout after just 61 minutes on court.

Novak had played three semifinals at the hilltop Weissenhof club which looks down on the German car-making capital.

Though he was desperate to break out of the rut, the Czech's game fell apart, with numerous unforced errors against his third-seeded opponent.

Canas will be the clear favourite in Sunday's final against Russian Mikhail Youzhny, who needed three sets and over two hours to stop German Lars Burgsmuller 6-3, 4-6, 7-5.

The home player had knocked out holder Gustavo Kuerten in the second round and had been hoping to be the first German since Michael Stich 11 years ago to play for the Stuttgart trophy.

But Youzhny emerged the winner in a baseline battle, reaching the title match on his first appearance at the event while Canas is playing the final here for the second straight year after losing to Kuerten in 2001.

The winner on Sunday will also drive away in an expensive sponsor's coupe, a sweeter prize than the prize packet of nearly 65,000 dollars.

Novak could do little right on a sunny afternoon as he played a

semi-final for the fifth time this season, and his sixth appearance in Stuttgart became an exercise in despair.

"Nothing worked in my game. I really wanted to reach the final at least once," said the Czech.

"But I was facing one of the best clay court players in the world. Canas is a real fighter, and it was a tough match."

Canas won his second career trophy in Chennai last January and lost to Younes El Aynaoui in the Casablanca final in April.

His best Grand Slam result came on the clay at Roland Garros this year where he reached the quarterfinals after having defeated Carlos Moya and Lleyton Hewitt.

The 20-year-old Youzhny, who had lost only one set to reach the last four, will be competing in his first career final.

Hurt Tiger roars

Golf

AFP,

Tiger Woods' Grand Slam dream was finally quashed Sunday but he left the British Open with all guns blazing carding a final round of six-under par 65.

It was a majestic parting shot from the World No 1 although he knew even before teeing off that the damage had been done in Saturday's apocalyptic third round in which he shot 10-over 81, his worst ever 18 holes as a professional.

That weather-beaten effort left him tied for 69th with Jeff Maggert 11 shots behind South Africa's Ernie Els and needing a miracle to maintain his drive for the first-ever Grand Slam of golf.

The miracle was not to be. Woods though was far from despondent.

"I am very pleased with the way I hit the ball all week," he said.

"I just had one day when I wasn't able to hit the ball the way I wanted."

Woods came to Scotland halfway to history having won the Masters in April and the US Open in June. He needed to win here and at the USPGA in August to complete the set.

Comfortable opening rounds of 70 and 68 left him four under par and he needed to mount a charge at the weekend before he was hit full throttle by a vicious weather system which swept in wind and rain from the North Sea.

Pictures of a rain-lashed and desperate-looking Woods filled the Sunday sports pages with the Daily Telegraph summing up the shock succinctly by headlining just "81"

But there was praise too for the way he handled the humiliation, pausing to talk to reporters and declining to blame the freak conditions for his collapse.

"We all understand that is just the

way the Open Championship is," he said.

"The weather is unpredictable and anything can happen and it has happened and I am sure it will continue to do so that way."

"I tried all the way around and I didn't bag it, but I hit poor shots on a tough day and that added up to a pretty high number."

Woods found himself in the uncouth position of getting up at the crack of dawn on the final day of a Major tournament and any lingering hopes he had were swiftly doused with a bogey five at the third.

But instead of pulling the plug on his efforts Woods went on the attack by rattling in two birdies and an eagle inside five holes to reach the turn in three-under 33.

Further birdies at 11, 13 and 15 dragged him back to level par for the tournament and he parred his way in from there.

A handsome ovation from a packed early crowd around Muirfield's 18th saw him take his leave of a British Open that will live long in his memory.

At 26, Woods will have many more opportunities to compile four Majors in a row in the same year.

But already, and despite his professed love of links golf, Woods has growing reasons to be wary of British Open week.

In eight efforts he has won just the once, at St Andrews in 2000, and in the last two years he has finished well down the field.

But he is unlikely again to come against such up a monster as Muirfield at its maddest.

Spanish showdown

AFP, Umag

David Ferrer and Carlos Moya set up an all-Spanish final here on Saturday at the 400,000-dollar Umag ATP event.

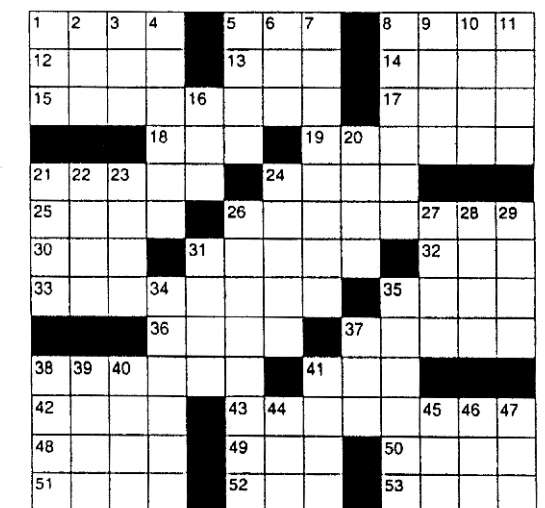
The 20-year-old Ferrer needed only 69 minutes to beat Croatia's Zeljko Krajan 6-2, 6-1 and to continue his fine run here which had started with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Wimbledon finalist and top seed David Nalbandian of Argentina.

Ferrer did not lose a single game on his serve, and had two breaks in the first and three in the second set.

"He played very aggressively. Simply, he was better."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Small suitcase 41 Turn on the wator-works 42 Racetrack 43 Platypus' pride 48 Fork 13 Columbus sch. 14 Legwear 15 Nags 17 Wished undone 18 Mork's home planet 19 XXX 21 " Foolish Things" 24 Family 25 "Gilligan's Island" actor Garbanzo 30 Einstein's birthplace 31 Slab 32 Listening device 33 Zero 35 Make coffee 36 Puts blades to biases 37 "The Time Machine" author



CRYPTOQUIP U N E I Q E Y I H R E D B D U A N I F F D A E H Y D W L Q D A C D A L S U B Y D A I . Y I S U C I U W R I B E U B F I H N Y D S W I F N . Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF COWS AND CHICKENS WERE SOMEHOW CROSSED, I RECKON WE MIGHT BE EATING ROOST BEEF. Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals M

UAE minnow

FROM PAGE 13 dence. The ACC has to come up with some solution," he said.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Asian Cricket Council Trophy final match between Nepal and United Arab Emirates at Kallang Ground in Singapore on Sunday.

Did not bat: Ahmed Nadeem, Mohammad Tauqeer, Mohammad Nadeem, Naeemuddin, Asof Ali.

Fall of wkts: 1-54, 2-61, 3-83, 4-142.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R. Rows include Khadka, Alam, Das, Gauchan, Pradhan, Regmi, Luniya, Saeed, Arshad, Khaliq, Tauqeer, Khuram, Asof.



American golf maestro Tiger Woods in action during his third round of the British Open Championship at Muirfield on July 20.