

Das' timely hundred

AFP, Chelmsford

India opener Shiv Sunder Das pushed his case for a recall to the Test side with an unbeaten 165 on the opening day of the four match against Essex here Wednesday.

Das has not featured in either of the first two Tests but, with India 1-0 down in the four-match series ahead of next week's third Test at Headingley, he took his chance to impress with style.

In all he faced 260 balls including one six and 25 fours as India finished the first day of four on 331 for six.

Earlier both Sanjay Bangar (21) and Test opener Virender Sehwag (37) fell to off-spinner James Middlebrook after promising starts.

Venkatsai Laxman (46) shared an 85-run partnership with Das before he was caught at point by Darren Robinson off fast-medium bowler Joe Grant.

Wasim Jaffer (19) became Middlebrook's third victim while Parthiv Patel (32), whose debut heroics with the bat at Trent Bridge helped India save the second Test, also fell before stumps.

Ajay Ratna (one) was the sixth batsman dismissed.

But India captain Sourav Ganguly will resume Thursday on three not out.

Cash supports Hewitt

AFP, Sydney

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has voiced his support of Lleyton Hewitt, describing the ATP's insistence that the world No.1 do a pre-match interview as ridiculous.

The feisty 21-year-old Australian faces a 103,000 dollars fine by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) for not fulfilling his media commitments at the Cincinnati Masters tournament earlier this month.

Hewitt is appealing against the fine and Cash - the last Australian to hoist the coveted Wimbledon trophy until Hewitt broke through last month - is right behind his compatriot.

"There's no other sport in the world that has pre-match interviews - not soccer, not football, not golf, not rugby, not anything," Cash said at his book launch here on Thursday.

"It's the only sport in the world. It's the most ridiculous rule in the world." Under the program introduced in 1998 to promote the ATP, all players are obliged to give up to two hours to the media at each tournament they contest.

Cash acknowledged that "rules are rules", but he opposed the logic behind them.

He claimed the collapse of the ATP's 10-year agreement with Swiss-based marketing company ISL had contributed to situations such as the one in which Hewitt is embroiled.

Aravinda revives

FROM PAGE 13
De Silva not out 73
Jayawardena c Kirsten b Telemachus 32
Vaas c Boje b Donald 18
Chandana c and b Kallis 0
Arnold run out 10
Fernando not out 1
Extras: (lb-3, w-3, nb-2) 8
Total: (For seven wickets in 50 overs) 267

Fall of wickets: 1-84, 2-88, 3-146, 4-216, 5-246, 6-246, 7-263

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollack	10	0	44	0
Telemachus	10	0	59	1
Kallis	10	1	47	2
Donald	10	0	47	2
Klusener	7	0	43	1
Boje	3	0	24	0

Umpires: Srinivas Venkataraghavan (Ind) and Simon Taufel (Aus)
Third umpire: Daryl Harper (Aus)
Match referee: Gundappa Viswanath (Ind)

Pakistan bounce back

Cricket

REUTERS, Tangiers

Devastating batting from Younis Khan and Abdur Razaq followed by a disciplined bowling display ensured Pakistan a 28-run victory against Sri Lanka in the second match of the Morocco Cup triangular tournament in Tangiers.

Younis Khan hammered an unbeaten 56 from 39 balls while Razaq was even more ruthless, smashing 29 from 11 as they added 50 runs in double quick time to push Pakistan's total to 279 for five from their 50 overs.

Younis' innings on Wednesday included five fours and two sixes, both in the last over which cost Sri Lanka 25 runs. Razaq also hit a six and a four off seamer Chaminda Vaas in the final over.

In reply Sri Lanka were restricted to 251 for eight and they now face an awkward game against in-form South Africa on Thursday.

Opener Saeed Anwar laid the foundations for Pakistan's daunting total with a controlled 70 from 77 balls which included seven fours and a six.

But it was the ruthlessness of the last 10 overs, which yielded 99 runs, that took the game away from Sri Lanka.

Despite reaching 116 for the loss of just one wicket by the 22nd over, mainly due to captain Sanath Jayasuriya's crisp 36 from 33 balls, Sri Lanka were never able to main-

tain the required scoring rate and lost wickets regularly.

Opener Marvan Atapattu's pedestrian 42 from 73 balls dragged the run chase down while Kumar Sangakkara (38) and Mahela



YOUNIS KHAN...m-o-m

Jayawardena (32) both required in excess of 50 balls to accumulate their runs.

Earlier Sri Lanka's master spinner Muttiah Muralitharan had fought a lone battle to control Pakistan's batsmen with a crafty return of one for 35 from 10 overs. But the three frontline seamers, Vaas, Pulasthi Gunaratne and Dilhara Fernando conceded 186 runs between them.

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis also endured a torrid day, conceding 77 runs in his 10 overs but Razaq (3-36), Mohammad Sami (1-39) and Shahid Afridi (1-36) created enough

pressure between them to ensure victory.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Morocco Cup one-day international between Pakistan and Sri Lanka here on Wednesday:

PAKISTAN: 279 for five in 50 overs (S Anwar 70, Inzamam 63, Y Khan 56)

SRI LANKA

Jayasuriya c Nazir b Akram	36
Atapattu c Razaq b Afridi	42
Sangakkara c Akram b Razaq	38
Jayawardena c Afridi b Razaq	32
Chandana c Youhana b Waqar	15
Arnold not out	37
De Silva lbw b Sami	2
Vaas c Afridi b Akram	31
Gunaratne b Razaq	0
Fernando not out	1
Extras: (lb-7, w-7, nb-3)	17
Total: (For eight wickets in 50 overs)	251

Fall of wickets: 1-55, 2-116, 3-141, 4-161, 5-187, 6-191, 7-249, 8-250

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akram	10	0	56	2
Waqar	10	0	77	1
Razaq	10	1	36	3
Sami	10	0	39	1
Afridi	10	1	36	1

Result: Pakistan won by 28 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Younis Khan (Pak)

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and Simon Taufel (Aus)

Third umpire: Srinivas Venkataraghavan (Ind)

Match referee: Gundappa Viswanath (Ind)

Sanath blames bowling

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Captain Sanath Jayasuriya believes that, while his batsmen need to work on converting good starts, the bowlers were responsible for Sri Lanka's defeat to Pakistan.

Jayasuriya won the toss for the second ODI of the Morocco Cup and asked Pakistan to bat first. Although Sri Lanka kept the Pakistan batsmen roughly in check for most of the innings, they lost the plot in the last ten overs.

Sri Lanka conceded 99 runs in this period (25 runs came off the final over alone) and let Pakistan slip off the hook with 279.

"They had a lot of wickets in hand, which is why they got a lot of runs in the last ten overs," Jayasuriya explained.

"We did not bowl that well. We were not consistent and did not maintain a good line and length," he added.

Had the Sri Lankan bowlers been more economical at the end of the first innings, they might well have won the match. It was only under the pressure of a climbing required run rate in the second innings that Sri Lanka lost wickets.

Nonetheless, the captain wanted better organisation amongst his team's batsmen. Although almost all of Sri Lanka's batsmen made more than 30, not one made a half-century.

"We cannot afford to do that," Jayasuriya asserted.

"It has been happening for the last few games and I think we have to stop it as quickly as possible. Getting 30s and 40s is not enough somebody has to get in the 70s or 80s. That way we can get a winning score of 279."

"It was nice to see Chaminda Vaas getting a few runs and the lower-order. We got 250, which is a plus for us, but we need to think through our bowling," the captain concluded.

Aussie striker to miss Champs hockey

AFP, Sydney

Australian striker Jeremy Hiskins on Thursday failed a fitness test on an injured ankle and will miss this month's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament in Germany.

Coach Barry Dancer said Hiskins has been replaced by Ben Bishop, who will make his international debut at the Champions Trophy in Cologne, which starts on August 31.

Dancer said he was disappointed for Hiskins, but saw this as an opportunity for another player.

"It is a triple disappointment for Jeremy because he missed the Four Nations tournament with illness, was left out of the Commonwealth Games team, and now he is injured for the Champions Trophy," Dancer said in a statement.

The Kookaburras, who retained the Commonwealth Games men's title in Manchester with a 5-2 win over New Zealand earlier this month, leave for Germany on Saturday.

Tiger gunning for treble

Golf

AFP, Minnesota

Tiger Woods goes for an unprecedented "US Slam" here at the 84th PGA Championship, trying to become the first man in golf history to win all three American golf majors in the same season.

Woods and Ben Hogan are already the only players to win three majors in the same year, but Woods lost the Masters in his epic 2000 run and Hogan was unable to play in the 1953 PGA after winning the British Open because event schedules conflicted.

Masters and US Open champion Woods, the first man in 30 years to achieve that double, lost his bid for the calendar-year Grand Slam with

a career-worst 81 in the stormy third round of last month's British Open.

But Woods does not lack for motivation. The 26-year-old superstar could capture his ninth major title, halfway to Jack Nicklaus' all-time record, and capture his third PGA crown in four years with a triumph here at Hazeltine National Golf Club.

"I have had a great year," Woods said. "Any time you can win one major in a year it's going to be a successful year. Winning two in one year has been even better. I would like to make it three."

Woods, who has won seven of the past 12 majors, admitted there is a let-down in the PGA atmosphere - even with a majors record 98 of the world's 100 top-ranked on hand - because so many fans hoped he would be going for the Grand Slam.

Many fans who discovered golf

with Woods lack the historic perspective on winning majors -- a hard feat Tiger makes look easy.

"It's unbelievably difficult. It's the toughest conditions, the best players, in the world," Woods said. "It's tough. It really is tough."

Just ask Woods' playing partners in Thursday's opening round -- British Open champion Ernie Els of South Africa and defending champion David Toms.

"Give me a bigger set of blinders because there are going to be a lot of things going on, a lot of people out there," Toms said. "We've got a great pairing. I'm excited. I enjoy watching great golf and I think I'm going to see a lot of that."

"It will give me something to shoot for."

A victory here by two-time US Open winner Els would leave only the Masters among unclaimed major crowns for the man nicknamed "Big Easy".

"The next level, for me, would be to try and win as many majors as I can," Els said. "I'm trying to win all four at least once. That's my ultimate goal. I guess that's the next level, to really compete in the next five or six years of majors."

Thunderstorms are forecast from late Thursday through Sunday.

"I'm hoping to get a little rain to soften these greens because it's going to be very difficult to try to stop the ball anywhere around the hole," Toms said.

The PGA has been the first major win for such players as Toms, Vijay Singh, John Daly, Davis Love, Paul Azinger, Nick Price.

"I think it's just a numbers game," Toms said. "The courses the PGA of America selects and the way they set them up opens the field to a lot of players. From time to time there's going to be somebody that will sneak in there and win one."

Spain's Sergio Garcia and American Phil Mickelson are among those trying to break through for their first major title at an event.

"I feel like I should have (won a major)," Garcia said. "But it's not only about playing well. Everything has to be there. You have to get a good break at the right moment. I don't feel I've had that week at a major. But I'm still waiting for it."

Roddick routs Gimelstob

AFP, Washington

Second seed Andy Roddick opened defence of his title at the 800,000 dollar hard-court event on Wednesday with an easy 6-2, 6-2 victory over fellow American Justin Gimelstob.

Roddick, who received a first-round bye, continues his push to qualify for the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup.

With a 48-15 record, Roddick leads the ATP for match wins this year, ahead of world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt (45-9) of Australia.

Fifth seed Marcelo Rios of Chile, who entered as a wild card and also received a first-round bye, advanced with a 7-6, 3-6, 6-2 win over American wild card Bob Bryan.

No. 7 Thomas Enqvist survived a gruelling first-set tiebreaker to get past American qualifier Michael Russell, 7-6, 6-0.

Chile's Fernando Gonzalez, the ninth seed who reached the semi-final of last week's TMS - Cincinnati, fell to Guillermo Coria of Argentina, 6-4, 7-6.

Brian Vahaly, another American wild card entry, upset No. 15 Jan Vacek of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, and No. 16 Fernando Meligeni of Brazil ousted Hungary's Attila Savolt, 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

The recent surge of two-time Washington champion Michael Chang took a step back as the American fell to Jerome Golmard of France, 7-5, 6-4. Chang, who has just one title in the last four years, had won three of his previous four matches.

Lewis-Francis skips Glasgow meet

AFP, London

British sprinter Mark Lewis-Francis has withdrawn from Sunday's international athletics meeting in Glasgow with the hamstring injury that spectacularly ended his hopes of winning the Commonwealth Games 100m title.

Lewis-Francis, 19, had been due to run in the 100 metres in the match against the United States and Russia.

But after collapsing during the final of the Commonwealth event in Manchester two weeks ago, he was forced to sit out last week's European Championships in Munich and has not recovered in time for the Glasgow event.

A statement issued by UK Athletics on Wednesday, said that while Lewis-Francis was back in training he would not be fit to race this weekend.

However it added that he was looking forward to competing at the Grand Prix event at London's Crystal Palace on August 23.

Lewis-Francis' place in Sunday's 100m will now be filled by Jason Gardener.

Pak to name

FROM PAGE 13
definitely be played and we are in touch with the ACB," the PCB director said.

Mujahid thanked the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) for offering to send their team to play a one-day series in Pakistan.

"ZCU has sent an official offer and we are thankful to them for their goodwill gesture. Pakistan needs such support from the rest of cricket world."

The PCB has suffered huge financial losses in the wake of the September 11 attacks in the US last year and continuing US-led military action in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Pakistan had to shift its home series against the West Indies to Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates in February-March this year over security concerns and their Golden Jubilee one-day triseries, also involving Australia, is to be played at in Nairobi later this month.

Contract row

FROM PAGE 13
financial interests ahead of his ability to play for his country he needs to decide what is more important to him, the money or playing for his country.

"If it is playing for his country, he needs to find a solution and not look to the ICC to dilute its ambush marketing protections in order to solve his contractual issues."

"I must also emphasise that the ICC wants the best players in the world to play in the Champions Trophy and the World Cup and will do everything it can to make this happen."

"It would be terrible for cricket that if just because a big business is not able to hijack an event it decides to resort to using the legal system to stop the best players in the world from playing for their country."

"That is clearly not in the interest of the game or the players."

"I hope that it does not get to this point and that the players are able to agree to play in these tournaments."



Briton Tim Henman eyes his return against Chilean Nicolas Massu at the RCA Championships in Indianapolis on August 14.

Tim, Greg advance

Tennis

REUTERS, Indianapolis

Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski have cruised into the third round of the RCA Championships in Indianapolis.

Rusedski beat Frenchman Lionel Roux with a straight-sets victory 6-3, 6-2, while Henman struggled to beat Chilean Nicolas Massu 6-3, 1-6, 7-5 in a match that lasted over two hours.

Croatian teenager Mario Ancic added another top name to his hit list, dumping former world number one Yevgeny Kafelnikov out of the second round on Wednesday.

Ancic, 18, who beat Switzerland's Roger Federer in the first round at Wimbledon earlier this year, overpowered the fourth-seeded Russian 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 to set up a third round match with 15th seed Arnaud Clement of France.

Kafelnikov took the first set comfortably enough but was broken in the first and fifth games of the second set, and then was broken to go 2-1 down in the third before rain interrupted play. When they returned, Ancic held on to his lead.

Kafelnikov could provide no explanation when asked the reason for his defeat.

"You are asking me a question I

cannot answer. I have no idea," Kafelnikov responded with a smirk. "He was doing everything better than me."

Ancic said afterwards that his career had been helped by fellow Croat and 2001 Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic.

"We are in contact all the time," said Ancic. "Sometimes I call him or he calls me. He is a very nice guy and has always taken care of the juniors, not just me."

"When he was a big player he was always coming to cheer us and we could speak with him and joke with him and it has stayed like that."

Kafelnikov's compatriot Marat Safin, the 2000 U.S. Open champion also left the tournament early after withdrawing due to a viral infection.

However number one seed Lleyton Hewitt, and fifth seed Tim Henman, both advanced to the third round with contrasting victories.

Hewitt, the world number one and Wimbledon and defending U.S. Open champion beat Spain's Alberto Martin 6-3 7-5, while Henman struggled to a 6-3, 1-6, 7-5 over Nicolas Massu of Chile in a match that lasted two hours 18 minutes.

Hewitt was unable to dominate his Spanish opponent, but did enough to win fairly comfortably.

"Obviously I want to go as far as I

can here, and if I win the tournament, great," said Hewitt. "If I don't, I still want to be improving my game going up to the U.S. Open."

"There are areas I can improve on, my movement and my serve. I've just got to sharpen up a little bit I think."

Henman took the first set from Massu on a single break of serve, struggled badly in the second and only just scraped a victory as Massu served four double-faults in the final game.

"He's not the easiest guy to play against and I did not think the tennis was particularly good, but it's a good match to get through," Henman said.

"We say it every week but the first rounds are difficult, as this one proved."

"At the end he was struggling with his second serve and I had to take advantage of that."

Other seeds to lose on Wednesday included seventh seed Younes El Aynaoui, who was beaten 7-6, 7-5 to Felix Mantilla, and 10th seed Max Mirnyi who lost to Nicolas Kiefer.

But there were victories for eighth seed Xavier Malisse, ninth seed Rainer Schuettler, 11th seed Andrei Pavel, 13th seed Michel Kratochvil, Clement and 16th seed Fabrice Santoro.

Dokic, Clijsters cruise

Tennis

AFP, Montreal

Third seeded Jelena Dokic advanced to the third round of the WTA Montreal tournament with a 6-3, 6-4 win on Wednesday over unseeded Slovakian Martina Sucha.

No. 4 seed Kim Clijsters, Belgium, also got past Nicole Pietrangeli of Austria, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 at the 1.2 million dollar hard-court event.

Despite an injury-filled year, the 19-year-old Dokic won titles at Sarasota and Birmingham, England, where she dropped just one set.

Dokic, who is considering a move to England because of problems in her native Yugoslavia, also reached the final at the Paris Indoor event, but defaulted to American Venus Williams due to a right thigh strain.

The same injury forced her to retire at Antwerp and to withdraw from Memphis and Scottsdale.

A stomach virus forced her out in the semi-final at Amelia Island and the thigh injury sidelined her in the

semis at Hamburg.

She was booed last week in Los Angeles after all but giving up midway through a straight set loss to American Chanda Rubin.

Rubin, fresh off her victory over Lindsay Davenport in the Los Angeles final, was one of four upset victims, falling to Austria's Barbara Schett, 6-4, 6-4.

While the 29-year-old Pratt is still seeking her first career WTA title, Clijsters already has seven championships at the age of 19, including Hamburg in May when she rallied to beat former world No. 1 Venus Williams.

The American got her revenge at the end of July when she won