

Tamarine enters final

AFP, Busan
Thailand's top-seeded Tamarine Tanasugarn expects her toughest challenge yet when she faces second seed Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan here Thursday in the Asian Games women's tennis final.

Tamarine, 27th in the WTA rankings, defeated Japan's Shinobu Asagoe 6-3, 6-2 while 40th-ranked Tulyaganova rallied to defeat South Korea's Cho Yoon-Jeong 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, in semi-final matches here Wednesday.

Tulyaganova's trickier and deliberate pace should be a test for Tamarine, who has lived up to gold medal expectations thus far.

"It's not going to be an easy match for me," Tamarine said. "She's a very tough gal, especially on these slow courts. She hits a lot of spins and high balls."

"I'm just going to concentrate on my game. If I get a gold medal I will be very happy. I would be very proud for myself and my country."

MCG renovation concerns ACB

AFP, Melbourne
The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) is concerned about a clash between the Ashes Test series with England and redevelopment of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

Ground capacity will be reduced by about 20,000 this southern hemisphere summer to about 75,000 with the demolition of the Ponsford Stand.

The December 15 one-dayer between Australia and England and the opening day of the Boxing Day fourth Test are two dates expected to attract a capacity crowd if the weather is favourable.

"That's a concern for us because I think the last time England played here in a one-day match we had 85,000 or something like that," ACB chief executive James Sutherland said here on Thursday.

"That's certainly a concern that (ground capacity) will drop off, but the opportunities are there and people will have to get in early."

"At the end of the day, the facility will be a fantastic one for cricket."

While Sutherland added the ground had attracted 70,000-plus crowd "only three or four times in recent times", he conceded those matches usually involved England.

ASIAN GAMES MEDALS TABLE

AFP, Busan

Asian Games medals table after day 12 on Thursday (under gold, silver, bronze, total):				
China	127	66	55	248
South Korea	67	64	71	202
Japan	39	64	57	160
Kazakhstan	16	16	20	52
Thailand	9	11	7	27
India	9	8	8	25
Taiwan	7	13	18	38
North Korea	7	11	11	29
Uzbekistan	7	8	12	27
Singapore	5	2	9	16
Saudi Arabia	5	1	0	6
Iran	4	7	12	23
Qatar	4	5	4	13
Hong Kong	4	3	9	16
Malaysia	3	7	8	18
Indonesia	2	6	7	15
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Vietnam	2	3	4	9
Bahrain	2	2	2	6
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	4
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	10	12
Kuwait	1	0	1	2
Lebanon	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	5	5	10
Kyrgyzstan	0	4	7	11
Pakistan	0	2	5	7
Tajikistan	0	2	1	3
UAE	0	2	1	3
Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
Jordan	0	0	1	1
Nepal	0	0	1	1
Syria	0	0	1	1
Yemen	0	0	1	1

Nasser spurs mates on



AFP, London

England captain Nasser Hussain has set the tone for the upcoming Ashes series by warning his players they must be psychologically ready to beat Australia instead of settling for just competing with them.

Hussain's squad head for Australia next week looking to end a run of seven successive defeats in Test series against their oldest opponents.

And despite a revival in their fortunes under their Indian-born skipper, few pundits give them much chance of pulling off their first Ashes series win since 1986-87, when Mike Gatting's side triumphed Down Under.

The fiercely competitive Hussain however is not one to let history overwhelm him. "Things like that are there to be broken," he said. "When we went off to the sub-continent facts like that were thrown at our team and we turned that round."

Hussain's own commitment to the cause has been underlined by his decision to fly his pregnant wife Karen out to Australia rather than have to interrupt the tour for the birth of his second child.

Hussain, his wife and their 16-month-old son Jacob were due to fly out on Thursday, six days earlier than the rest of the squad because Karen would not be able to fly much later.

The new baby is due on November 20, the day before the second Test starts in Adelaide.

Hussain said England had to go into this tour with a new attitude.

"The old days of going out to compete are gone. We've got to get on with it and look at ways of beating them rather than telling everyone how good they are."

"There are field settings and tactics you can beat Australia with. It's up to me as captain and Duncan Fletcher as a coach to work that out as soon as possible," the 34-year-old said.

Hussain said it was vital he set the right tone from the outset.

"I've got to try to captain in a positive, aggressive sort of manner. Rather than go out and say you (Australia) are great, whatever you want is fine by us and we worship you lot."

"Everyone knows Australia are a great side. But I don't see why you should be intimidated by them."

"They play really tough but you get a great deal of enjoyment from doing well against them."

"The one thing that is intimidating is their style of cricket. I hope every-

one is ready for it."

Hussain's optimism has been tempered by Darren Gough's revelation that he might not be fit for the first two Tests.

The Yorkshire fast bowler has not played Test cricket for over a year and has undergone three operations in the past seven months as he bids to regain fitness following a knee injury.

Hussain, while understanding of Gough's situation, said his comments were not what he wanted to hear in the build-up to the Ashes.

"When the side was selected, we knew Darren wouldn't be getting off the flight and straight into 100 per cent cricket."

"He needs rehab like every fast bowler coming back from major injury. Obviously, it's disappointing to hear him - and it might have been Darren being a pessimist because he's had a rough year - ruling himself out of the first two Test matches."

"I want each individual player believing that the purpose of them being out there is to be fit and playing for England, not a 'wait and see' sort of attitude."

Gough has not played Test cricket since August 2001 and made only a single first-class appearance for Yorkshire last season.

Khulna football

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Udayan Sangha defeated Challengers' Soccer Club 1-0 in National Bank Second Division Football League at the Khulna Circuit House Maiden yesterday.

In the other match of the day, Young Muslim Sporting Club also earned full points beating Sher-e-Bangla Smriti Sangha at the same venue.

Record Rahul

FROM PAGE 13

Laxman fell at the stroke of tea, stumped by Ridley Jacobs off leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo.

Nagamootoo triggered a late-order collapse after Dravid's departure, dismissing Anil Kumble and Zaheer Khan off consecutive balls as India lost three wickets for one run.

The West Indies' successes, however, came too late to put pressure on India as Dravid had already served his team with a commendable knock.

Javagal Srinath (31), returning to Test cricket after announcing his retirement in June, then chanced his arm as he struck one six and three fours during a 49-run stand for the last wicket with Parthiv Patel (21 not out).

Dillon was the most impressive bowler, finishing with 3-54. Nagamootoo (3-132) and paceman Cameron Cuffey (2-88) also chipped in.

Dravid thwarted the West Indies after the tourists had struck back with the second new ball, claimed in the first over of the morning.

Dillon and Cuffey dismissed Tendulkar and Ganguly in the space of 15 runs in the opening six overs.

Tendulkar disappointed a large number of fans when he fell at his overnight score of 35 in the day's third over, edging Dillon to Jacobs after sharing a 68-run stand for the third wicket with Dravid.

India suffered another blow when Ganguly was trapped leg-before for four by Cuffey.

The reliable Dravid then made the West Indies struggle for wickets for more than a session as he pulled his team out of trouble with Laxman.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between India and the West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

INDIA: First innings (overnight 278-2)

Bangar c Sarwan b Dillon	55
Sehwag c Jacobs b Dillon	147
Dravid ret'd hurt	100
Tendulkar c Jacobs b Dillon	35
Ganguly lbw b Cuffey	4
Laxman st Jacobs b Nagamootoo	45
Patel not out	21
Harbhajan c Jacobs b Cuffey	0
Kumble c Hooper b Nagamootoo	0
Zaheer lbw b Nagamootoo	0
Srinath c Jacobs b Hooper	31
Extras: (lb-7, nb-9, w-3)	19
Total: (All out in 163.4 overs)	457
Fall of wickets: 1-201, 2-213, 3-281, 4-296, 5-401, 6-407, 7-408, 8-408, 9-457	

Bowler O M R W
Dillon 31.2 9 54 3
Collins 28 7 76 0
Cuffey 28.4 6 88 2
N'mootoo 47 12 132 3
Hooper 11.4 3 40 1
Hinds 4 0 11 0
R Hinds 10 0 40 0
Gayle 2 1 3 0
Sarwan 1 0 6 0

WEST INDIES: First innings
Gayle lbw b Zaheer
W Hinds c sub (Das) b Harbhajan
Sarwan not out
Dillon not out
Extra: (nb-1)
Total: (For 2 wks in 14 overs) 33

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-27
To bat: Carl Hooper, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Ridley Jacobs, Ryan Hinds, Pedro Collins, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Cameron Cuffey

Bowler O M R W
Srinath 4 1 12 0
Zaheer 4 1 10 1
Harbhajan 3 1 6 1
Kumble 3 1 5 0

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

Inter-services v'ball Army's

BSS, Jessore

Bangladesh Army won the title of the Inter-services volleyball championship at the Jessore Cantonment Wednesday.

They defeated Bangladesh Navy in straight 3-0 sets in the final, an ISPR press release said.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury witnessed the final as the chief guest and distributed prizes.

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Leander, Mahesh toil



AFP, Busan

India's Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi struggled but advanced to Friday's Asian Games men's doubles final while Bhupathi and Manisha Malhorta could also bring India mixed doubles gold. Top seeds Paes and Bhupathi, three-time Grand Slam doubles champions who reunited for their homeland after splitting up six months ago, ousted South Korea's Kim Dong-Hyun and Kwon Oh-Hee 6-3, 4-6, 6-

"We came here to win gold," Bhupathi said. "It's an ongoing pressure. It's a matter of fighting back and fighting together."

The final obstacle in their golden quest will be South Koreans Lee Hyung-Taik and Chung Hee-Seok, who denied an all-India final by beating Mustafa Ghouse and Vishal Uppal 6-4, 6-4.

India's bid to assure a gold medal by having both mixed doubles finals pairs also failed.

Bhupathi and Malhorta eliminated Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 but Paes and Sania Mirza were ousted 7-6, 7-5 by

Taiwan's Janet Lee and Lu Yen-Hsun.

Because two bronzes are awarded in each Asian tennis event, India is assured of two bronzes and no worse than two silvers, although Bhupathi and Paes are solid favourites.

Bhupathi, who split with Paes in March, shared the US Open doubles crown last month with new partner Max Mirnyi of Belarus. Their reunion was purely to bring India gold.

"It's always fun (playing with Paes)," Bhupathi said. "We always enjoy playing for India."

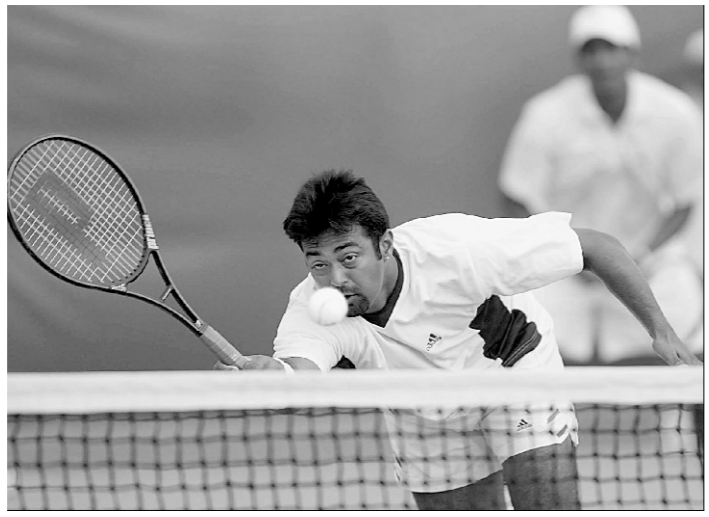
But the subject is clearly a tender one. Asked if he would consider extending the reunion with Paes to ATP events, Bhupathi replied, "Right now we're focused on the gold medal. There's no point in asking these questions."

Paes and Bhupathi had enough trouble in the present without looking to the future. The Koreans nearly ended the Indians' golden quest, breaking Bhupathi's serve on the way to a 3-0 lead in the second set.

Kim and Kwon fought back to level the third set after falling behind a break early. But Bhupathi and Paes broke Kim's serve in the final game to claim the match.

"They make a lot of returns. They hit a lot of balls," Paes said. "We got it back and made it very tough for them in the final set."

"They got a few lucky balls, but we finally made the shots and started putting them away," Bhupathi said.



India's Leander Paes returns a shot at the net during his Asian Games men's doubles semifinal.

Hosts' heart broken

FROM PAGE 13
Lee Dong-Gook, who had scored in all of Korea's matches at the Asian Games, came on to replace Kim Eun-Jung after 60 minutes.

Lee had a glorious chance to seal victory in the final minute but he pulled his shot from six yards out across the face of the goal.

The striker had another opportunity in the first half of extra-time, his header from a well-fought cross from captain Lee Young-Pyo flashing wide of the left upright.

A great ball from Lee Chun-Shoo found Lee Dong-Gook in the penalty area with just five minutes of extra time remaining but his shot shaved the far post.

JAPAN-THAILAND

Earlier a performance based on dogged defence, swift passing and a spectacular second goal by Keita Suzuki proved enough for the young

lions of Japan.

Japanese coach Masakuni Yamamoto said he told his side to soak up the early pressure and hit back at the Thais when the opportunities arose.

"We knew they would come at us from the start and I told them not to panic and try and keep the score at 0-0."

"It was important for the team to keep their shape because Thailand are a very quick side," added the coach who honed his skills working with Frenchman Philippe Troussier when he took the senior side to the second round of the World Cup.

"We have made history by reaching the final of the Asian Games for the first time and we are very happy and proud."

Thailand, semi-finalists on home soil four years ago, squandered several early chances and they

were made to pay for their recklessness after 23 minutes when Shohel Ikeda scored from close range.

Yuichi Nemoto's corner was headed back across goal by Hikaru Mita and as the Thai defence made a terrible mess of trying to clear, Shimizu S-Pulse defender Ikeda drove home with his left foot.

The second goal arrived just two minutes into the second half and it will go down as one of the best of the tournament.

As the Thai defence backtracked, Urawa Reds midfielder Keita Suzuki unleashed a 30-yard right-foot drive which left Kittisak Rawangpa no chance despite a desperate dive.

Satoshi Nakayama added the third, and his fourth of the tournament, when he slotted in a cross from Hayuma Tanaka with six minutes left.

Thailand coach Peter Withe said the scoreline flattered the Japanese and claimed his side were unlucky to lose by three goals.

"I don't think there was a three-goal difference tonight because we dominated the first half," he said.

"But they had one shot on goal and scored from it. Then they defended really well and limited our chances."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 RATHER's employer
4 In
8 Fail to include
12 Mined find
13 Hard to find
14 Coal byproduct
15 Sing-along setting, maybe
17 Like most schools
18 Aden citizen
19 Ostrich's kin
21 Damp
22 Toper
26 Mysterious characters
29 Skill ingredient
30 Test format
32 Don
33 One of the Three Bears
34 Thole insert
35 Import-export stat

DOWN
1 Replicate
2 Soft cheese
3 Juncture line
4 Hags
5 Custom
6 Glass of
7 Parts of
8 Happen
9 Cattle call
10 White House nickname
11 Bill's partner
16 Banister
18 Private retreats
19 Synthetic fabric
20 A well-come sight?
23 Ms. Drescher
42 Bear in the air
43 Lecherous look
44 Trade
45 P.E. venue
46 Ruler
47 Scotty's reply
49 Squire's hideout

SUGP L NUGGK PGGEN L
DVVE NUGLFWPD W
SVPEGF WT WJ UGLEN
TVF JUG QLL-QLL NUVK
Yesterday's Cryptquip: BECAUSE I'M A LUMBERJACK, I MUST ADMIT I PARTICULARLY ENJOY KEEPING A DAILY LOG.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: Q equals B

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.

CRYPTOQUIP

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12										
15		16							17	
18						19	20			
26	27	28				29			30	
31						32			33	
34						35			36	
37			38				39			
45	46	47				48	49			
50						51			52	
53						54			55	



Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury hands over the Inter-services volleyball championship trophy to the captain of the Army team after the final at Jessore Cantonment on Wednesday.



RELIEVED: Makhliid al-Otaibi (L) of Saudi Arabia prays after winning the men's 5,000m final in Busan yesterday.

Saha shows the way

