

Bacher defends WC anthem

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Executive director for the ICC 2003 Cricket World Cup Dr Ali Bacher on Wednesday rejected a claim that the World Cup Music Committee had been split along racial lines over the tournament anthem.

The Sowetan quoted musician Chicco Twala on Wednesday, claiming a song he had written for the event had been rejected as "too African" by white members of the music committee.

It further asserts that the row "had divided the committee into two racial camps - one white, which says the music is too African, and the group consisting of blacks, who say the music is suitable for the occasion".

"We really want all the different population groups in the country to feel it is their World Cup. We don't want to marginalise any one of those groups," said Bacher on Wednesday.

"If one looks at the volunteers one will see they are fully representative, something that will also come through strongly at the opening ceremony. We also want music to come through very strongly at the World Cup."

WI in Kumble

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the Indian spinners for 147 minutes before being surprised by the bounce of a Kumble delivery to be caught behind in the last session.

Kumble then trapped Ryan Hinds (9) leg-before with the one that kept low and went on to dismiss Mervyn Dillon and debutant Jermaine Lawson.

There was no respite from spin for the West Indian batsmen as Harbhajan continued to keep pressure from the other end.

Harbhajan had provided the breakthrough when he had Gayle caught by Sachin Tendulkar. The left-hander fell just when he had begun playing strokes, caught at point while attempting an ambitious on-drive.

Wavell Hinds offered no stroke to a Kumble delivery and was adjudged leg-before, while Sarwan inside-edged a Srinath ball on to his stumps.

Harbhajan then made a short work of the West Indies' tail, having Ridley Jacobs (9) and debutant Gareth Breeze (4) caught by Sehwaq at forward short-leg.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the second cricket Test between India and the West Indies at the Chidambaram Stadium here on Thursday:

WEST INDIES: First innings
Gayle c Tendulkar b Harbhajan 23
Hinds lbw b Kumble 18
Sarwan b Srinath 19
Chanderpaul c Patel b Kumble 27
Hooper c Ganguly b Zaheer 35
Hinds lbw b Kumble 16
Jacobs c Sehwaq b Harbhajan 9
Breeze c Sehwaq b Harbhajan 5
Dillon b Kumble 4
Collins not out 1
Lawson c Ganguly b Kumble 0
Extras: (b-8, lb-1, nb-1) 10
Total: (all out in 79.3 overs) 167
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-46, 3-62, 4-117, 5-135, 6-142, 7-161, 8-166, 9-166

INDIA: First innings
Bangar not out 6
Sehwaq not out 24
Extra: (w-1) 1
Total: (in 8 overs) 31

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|-----------|------|----|----|---|
| Srinath | 10 | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| Zaheer | 10 | 3 | 21 | 1 |
| Bangar | 6 | 3 | 29 | 0 |
| Harbhajan | 29 | 13 | 56 | 3 |
| Kumble | 23.3 | 10 | 30 | 5 |
| Sehwaq | 1 | 0 | 8 | 0 |

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|---------|---|---|----|---|
| Dillon | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Collins | 2 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Lawson | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 |

Umpires: David Shepherd (Eng) and Asoka de Silva (Sri)
TV umpire: K Hariharan (Ind)
Match-referee: Mike Proctor (Rsa)

Agassi hits top gear



AFP, Madrid

With the lure of world number one driving his game, Andre Agassi returned to tennis with a second round victory over compatriot Jan-Michael Gambill at the 2.95-million-dollar Masters event here Wednesday.

Agassi, who was playing his first match since losing the US Open final to Pete Sampras nearly six weeks ago, was on top form and brimming with confidence after dispatching Gambill 6-4, 6-4.

"You just try to get better from any loss," said the 32-year-old American, who has solid mathematical chances of surpassing Lleyton Hewitt to end this season as the world's top ranked player.

Hewitt is out this week with a reported virus - but he was in the stands in Zurich this week as girlfriend Kim Clijsters won a match at a women's event.

He and Agassi are the first two qualifiers for the eight-man Masters Cup in Shanghai on November 11-17. The remaining places are still up for grabs and will be contended over the next couple of weeks.

Hewitt currently leads on 697 with Agassi trailing on 554, although he has a good chance of gaining ground on the Australian.

As well as Madrid, Agassi will play Saint Petersburg and at the wrap-up Masters Series in Paris while Hewitt won't be back on court until Paris, according to his schedule.

Meanwhile there was injury trouble for top seed Tommy Haas, forced to quit with a blister on his hitting hand.

Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, a dangerous qualifier who has done damage to big names in the past, earned a 7-6, 4-1 win into the third round as the German quit in pain.

"I couldn't train for the past two days because of it," said Haas. "In the second set, I couldn't hold onto the racket."

Haas stood just outside the qualification zone, in ninth spot, going into Madrid but will surely fall farther behind as rivals including Spaniards Juan Carlos Ferrero, Carlos Moya and Swiss Roger Federer make up ground.

Federer, the 12th seed, took a comfortable win over Marcelo Rios 6-4, 6-2, winning just three days after claiming an indoors title at Vienna - a five-set epic which he said took its toll.

"It's lucky I'm a seed, so I had a bye. Otherwise I would have had to play Tuesday," said Federer.

"That would have been difficult. I would have had no time to train and get ready. Maybe there should be just best-of-three finals before Masters tournaments and Grand Slams."

Haas led a string of seeds out of contention on the day.

American number 10 seed Andy Roddick was knocked out by Russian Mikhail Youzhny 6-3, 6-4.

Wimbledon finalist David Nalbandian beat fellow Argentine Guillermo Canas, the number 13 seed, in a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 win while Croatian Ivan Ljubicic accounted for Dutch number 14 seed Sjeng Schalken 7-6, 6-4.

The 15th-seeded Thomas Johansson, returning from injury and attempting to enter the Shanghai Masters Cup fray, beat Swedish compatriot Magnus Norman 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the third round.

Johansson, the Australian Open champion, has a chance to play in the season's finale if he can surpass French Open holder Albert Costa in the final standings.

Johansson's chances were helped when a back injury forced Costa to quit before his second-round match, handing a place in the draw to Argentine Jose Acasuso.

"I don't want to do anything crazy," said the Spaniard who lifted his first major title with a win over compatriot Juan Carlos Ferrero at Roland Garros this season.

Costa said that he tried to train earlier in the day, but knew it was a lost cause. "I could practice, but I didn't have to make any brisk movements."

"I can serve, but cannot maybe follow the whole point though. I think in three or four days I'll be okay. But if I went on to the court now, I'd hurt myself."

Acasuso was to face Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti in the second round. Costa had been given a first-round bye like all 16 seeds.



IT'S SHOWTIME: A file image of former Wimbledon champion Australia's Pat Cash standing with five lookalikes of Russia's Anna Kournikova a day before this year's event at the All-England Club.

Tennis Australia rewards Cash

AFP, Melbourne

Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash will be inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame.

Cash will be the only 2003 inductee and the 25th player given the honour.

It recognises his 1987 Wimbledon victory, two Australian Open finals and his part in the 1983 and 1986 Davis Cup wins.

"My relationship with Tennis Australia hasn't always been good over the years and it's nice to be able to start afresh now that I'm back in Australia and to work on building the future of tennis in Australia together," Cash said on Wednesday.

The induction ceremony will take place before the 2003 Australian Open men's final on Australia Day (January 26).

A bronze bust of Cash will be made for display along with the other members of the Hall in the garden outside Rod Laver Arena at Melbourne Park.

Becker aide refutes tax deal

AFP, Berlin

The advisor to German tennis legend Boris Becker on Wednesday denied an agreement had been reached with the authorities over the retired star's tax wrangle.

Robert Lubenoff was responding to a report in the Stuttgarter Nachrichten.

The journal claimed Becker was preparing a plea bargain to avoid going to prison over failure to pay millions of euros in back tax by paying 2.5m euros plus a six figure fine in return for receiving a two-year suspended jail term.

However Lubenoff said there "is no deal with judges or lawyers." Lubenoff told sports agency SID that "everything will be decided at the trial" which is scheduled to take place in Munich on October 23.

The 34-year-old Becker's run-in with the authorities relates to the 1991-93 period when he listed his home as the tax haven of Monaco whereas he was reportedly living mainly in Munich.

Wauchs not over

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"The stupid thing about it is that one good score gets everyone off your back and that's a bad thing as well, it proves that it is not constructive."

"I am sure the team don't think as lowly of the two Wauchs' presence in the team as the media do at the moment."

Healy said a player's age - the Wauchs are 37 - should have no bearing on selection, a point backed up by West Indies legend Sir Garfield Sobers and England keeper Alec Stewart.

"I will never believe that age has anything to do with ability. I believe that if a player is still performing it doesn't matter how old he is, as long as he's performing," said Sobers, here promoting his book.

Stewart, who has defied the critics and is embarking on his seventh Ashes series aged 39, described the Wauchs as "two guys (who) have probably done more for Australian cricket than the majority in recent years".

It's good to lose



AFP, Madrid

Tim Henman will hurry home to London to await what should be a weekend birth of his first child after losing 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to fast-rising Thai star Paradorn Srichaphan Wednesday in the second round of the 2.95-million-dollar Masters Series Madrid.

Henman's mind was understandably not fully on his game as his wife Lucy awaits the new arrival, expected on Sunday.

"I was not fully on court mentally," said the 28-year-old, who had beaten Srichaphan in all four of their previous meetings.

"But I don't think I played too badly out there."

"It's not easy to concentrate on the tennis when there are more important things happening at home."

"I've had a tricky couple of days but now we'll see if we can have some fun back home."

"The phone's been switched on and every time it's rung and my home number's come up my heart's missed a couple of beats."

The Briton dealt his chances of making the field at next month's season-ending Masters Cup a serious blow as he slipped from provisional fifth in the eight-man field.

Spain's Carlos Moya moved into the fifth spot thanks to his second-round win on Tuesday. With the jockeying for position changing with almost every match played at the penultimate Masters, the race for a place is a work in progress.

"What will be, will be," said

Henman, who admitted that he's glad to have the chance to head home to be with his wife.

"It's no secret that getting there is a big goal for me."

"I didn't help my cause much today. It all depends on the baby's birth as to whether I play in Basel next week, but in an ideal world I'm planning to play in Paris (the last Masters starting a week from Monday)."

Henman said that a right shoulder injury, which has set back his game over the last two months, is progressing towards full fitness. He was icing the joint after his match.

"The shoulder was the second biggest bonus of the match - it was good. I thought that for the majority of the match, I was serving well, aggressively and with no inhibitions. That's obviously a positive."

Srichaphan said that he was glad for Henman's upcoming fatherhood but also pleased with his own win.

"I had the opportunity today and I was able to take it," said the Thai national sports hero, who could easily reach the top 20 when the regular season ends in a fortnight at Paris Bercy.



TIM HENMAN

Torrence's recognition

AFP, Indianapolis

American sprinter Gwen Torrence, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist in the women's 200 metres, was one of four individuals elected to the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Middle distance runner Steve Scott, pole vaulter Earl Bell and race walker Larry Young were also honoured on Wednesday.

"Earl, Steve, Gwen and Larry all contributed greatly to raising their events to a higher level in the US and around the world," said USA Track and Field chief executive officer Craig Masback.

Fletcher agrees new contract

REUTERS, London

England cricket coach Duncan Fletcher has agreed a one-year extension to his contract, which means he will continue until at least October 2004.

The 54-year-old Zimbabwean was appointed in July 1999 in succession to David Lloyd and has worked closely with England captain Nasser Hussain.

They won four test series in a row for the first time since 1979 including a double triumph in Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 2000-01.

England cricket board chief executive Tim Lamb said on Wednesday: "Over the past three years, Duncan has proved himself to be an excellent man-manager, a sound judge of talent and an astute tactician."

Fletcher said: "I'm pleased that this issue has been resolved now so that I can fully focus on the Ashes and the (2003) World Cup freed from any unnecessary distractions."

Waiting

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Australian side, it may be their captain and his brother Mark.

The twins, now 37, were dropped from the limited-overs side earlier this year and have been struggling with the bat in the test arena.

Steve's position seems safe because of his outstanding record as a leader but Mark may need to score runs quickly to hold off the queue of quality players lining up to replace him.

Both players, however, have usually saved their best for England and in the most recent Ashes Test, at the Oval last year, Steve made an unbeaten 157 and Mark 120 in a third-wicket stand of 197 that helped Australia complete a 4-1 series win.

The Ashes has always meant more to Australians than any other series, not the least because of their long-held determination to get the better of their old imperial masters and nothing is likely to change.

The 16-man English squad were due to arrive in Perth on Friday with their first warm-up game against an invitational XI on Tuesday.

The Australians will not return home until next week after completing their three-test series against Pakistan in Sharjah.

The opening Ashes Test is scheduled for Brisbane from November 7-11 followed by matches in Adelaide (November 21-25), Perth (November 29-December 3), Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 2-6).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP
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U C U A S A O B B V A O G A S L
L R N R Q H Q D D R H A G B
J C H T Q B V S A H H ?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I HEAR DOCTOR
JEKYLL KEEPS A SUNLAMP AT HOME, JUST IN
CASE HE HAS TO TAN HIS HYDE.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: U 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.