

Inter-Cadet College swimming meet

PRESS RELEASE, Chittagong

Hosts Faujdardhat Cadet College emerged champions with 51 points and Barisal Cadet College finished runners-up with 48 points in the Inter-Cadet College swimming competition, which concluded here on Sunday.

A total of 132 cadets belonging to Faujdardhat, Jhenidah, Mirzapur, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Rangpur, Barisal, Pabna and Comilla Cadet Colleges took part in the four-day meet.

Defence secretary KM Ehsanul Haq witnessed the final day's events and later distributed prizes.

Pioline signs off from tennis

REUTERS, Paris

France's Cedric Pioline has announced his retirement from professional tennis after losing in the doubles final at the Paris Masters with Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten.

Pioline, 33, who turned professional in 1989, won five career titles and reached the U.S. Open final in 1993 and the Wimbledon final four years later -- losing to American Pete Sampras on both occasions.

He reached a career high ranking of fifth in 2000, the year that he achieved his best ever result by winning the Masters Series event in Monte Carlo.

Last year he teamed up with Fabrice Santoro in the Davis Cup final against Australia in Melbourne, beating Lleyton Hewitt and Pat Rafter to give France a crucial 2-1 lead as they claimed their ninth title. He was also part of the successful 1996 Davis Cup team.

Eng-Q'land

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It is not known how long Harrison's shin splints will keep him out of action but the flare-up was just the latest in a series of problems which have plagued the England bowlers.

Tudor is the second player to be called up to bolster the England squad after allrounder Craig White came in while Flintoff went to Adelaide to hasten his rehabilitation from a double hernia operation in mid-year.

But despite the bowlers' problems, opener Vaughan retained a positive outlook after he had saved England from the potential embarrassment of following-on on a wicket which both teams described as flat.

"We've had three good weeks of hard practice in Australia, where every game is tough, and all the players are ready for Thursday - the sooner it starts, the better," Vaughan said.

"We've gone all right and it was a very hard game for the bowlers here because of the flat wicket."

Vaughan was dropped on 45 and 75 but he looked in control outside those moments, charging to his 27th first-class century in 169 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third and final day of the cricket tour match between Queensland and England at Allan Border Field here on Monday:

QUEENSLAND: First innings 582 (M Love 250, S Law 68; A Giles 3-124)

ENGLAND: First innings 46
Trescothick run out 46
Vaughan lbw b Hauritz 127
Hoggard c Seccombe b Kasprowicz 1
Butcher c Seccombe b Noffke 45
Hussain c Kasprowicz b Hauritz 28
Crawley c Law b Hauritz 7
Stewart not out 30
Flintoff c Maher b Carseldine 3
Giles not out 7

Extras: (lb-8, nb-20) 28
Total: (For 7 wickets in 102 overs) 322
Fall of wickets: 1-100, 2-107, 3-199, 4-259, 5-275, 6-292, 7-308

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kasprowicz	20	0	106	1
Noffke	21	6	58	1
MacKenzie	16	1	62	0
Symonds	11	2	26	0
Hauritz	24	7	48	3
Carseldine	10	4	14	1

Result: Match drawn.

Kenyan rule NY

Athletics

INTERNET, New York

Rodgers Rop led home a Kenyan one-two-three in the New York Marathon on Saturday while his compatriot Joyce Chepchumba won the women's race.

Rop beat countrymen Laban Kipkemboi and Christopher Cheboiboch into second and third as the East African country confirmed its distance pedigree.

"I think to win the New York marathon, it's one of the largest marathons in the world, and that makes you want to be famous all over the world," said Rop.

"I think it's great for our country for us to win, both men and women. I think it will bring our country up."

Chepchumba won the women's race from Russia's Lyubov Denisova, but the Republic of Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan could only finish a disappointing 12th. "I knew I would win when I broke away," said Chepchumba.

The leading American woman was Marla Runyan, the first legally blind Olympian, who was attempting a marathon for the first time.

Runyan came in fifth ahead of defending champion Margaret Okayo.

In the men's race Rop became the fourth man to win both the Boston and New York Marathons in the same year.

He made his first serious move on the downhill stretch just after the leaders crossed the 59th Street Bridge into Manhattan, about two-thirds of the way through the race.

Other runners occasionally pulled alongside him but he was

clearly in control over the final five and a half miles, finishing in a time of two hours, eight minutes and six seconds.

Cheboiboch came home 10 seconds behind with the third Kenyan, Kipkemboi, a further 23 seconds back.

Rop was near the lead for most of

Chepchumba and Denisova.

The pair ran stride-for-stride until the 24th mile, when the Kenyan made her move.

She threw off her black wool gloves and looked over at Denisova before pulling away just before entering Central Park.

Chepchumba finished in two



Joyce Chepchumba (L) and Rodgers Rop

last year's race but was hampered by leg cramps and finished third behind Tesfaye Jifar, who was forced to drop out this year near halfway because of stomach problems.

For the first time the women's race started half an hour ahead of the men's, partly to try and alleviate the problem of crowded roads.

However, there was still some bumping, with the most serious incident seeing Olivera Jevtic and Kerryn McCann tangling and falling over.

Jevtic recovered to finish third but she was unable to go with

hours 25 minutes 55 seconds, 20 seconds ahead of Denisova, while O'Sullivan trailed home in a time of 2:32:06.

"My legs were getting stiff as I'm not used to running that slow, even when training," said O'Sullivan, who headed advice not to go off too quickly.

"I suppose inexperience did come into it. Now I'm thinking I should have gone off and run my own race."

"With hindsight, knowing what pace I can run at, I should have gone off much quicker."

Rafter hints return

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Australian Pat Rafter on Monday gave his strongest indication yet that he may resume his stalled tennis career.

Rafter helped launch former Davis Cup captain John Newcombe's autobiography here

and was enjoying life without tennis and certainly not missing the grind of the constant training and travelling.

But he hinted Monday that the prospect of a comeback had at least been on his mind when he said any possible return would have to be for at least two years.

"If you do come back, it's probably of a couple of years of hard grind again. And then that's the decision that I've got to work out -- whether or not I want to do that," he said.

admitted to feeling pressure from the public to pick up the racquet again.

He said he felt a responsibility to play Davis Cup for his country, but said ultimately he would make the final decision.

A Davis Cup triumph and a Wimbledon title, after two close calls, remain the biggest gaps in Rafter's tennis CV.

Newcombe has long been urging his former Davis Cup charge and regular golf partner to resume his career and try to complete his "unfinished business".

Newcombe said he believed Rafter was still capable of doing so, although in his book he said he did not expect Rafter to be seen on the court again.



A file photo of Australian Davis Cup player Pat Rafter punching the air after defeating Sebastien Grosjean of France in the second rubber of the Davis Cup final.

and conceded he was close to deciding whether to launch a comeback in the new year.

Rafter has not played since last year's Davis Cup final loss to France but has received the all-clear from doctors to start playing competitively again.

"The stress fracture in my arm has settled down. I had that tested and the body seems to be in pretty good shape at the moment," Rafter said.

"But (the body) doesn't say that if I did come back, it wouldn't break down again. It's hard to say."

Rafter has played his cards close to his chest all year, often saying he

"It's hard to imagine I couldn't come back full scale. My schedule would be probably very limited."

The 29-year-old Australian refused to speculate when exactly he would return, if he did.

Rafter and his partner Lara Feltham celebrated the birth of their first child in August, but the couple's son would not stand in the way of the one-time world No. 1's return.

"That just means if I did come back the little fella would have to be beside me," he said.

"Lara and Josh would have to be there with me."

Rafter, the 2002 Australian of the Year and dual US Open champion,

No reserve day at WC 2003

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Reserve days for rain-affected pool matches at next year's World Cup have been scrapped, the tournament's organising committee said.

World Cup executive director Ali Bacher said the decision had been taken because hotel rooms, air travel and satellite television would have had to be double-booked to accommodate reserve days.

"Logistically for the teams, their supporters, the local and overseas media and the organisers this created several potential risks to the tight schedule and had the potential to disrupt the remainder of the tournament," he said.

"In the end, there was little option but to move away from the reserve days for the first round."

Reserve days will still apply to all matches from the Super Six stage of the tournament from March 7. Two reserve days have been set aside for the final at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on March 23.

Points will be shared at pool matches between February 9 and March 4 if no result is possible on the day of the match.

The Duckworth-Lewis system of recalculating target scores in rain-affected matches will be used in all matches.

Lillee feels

FROM PAGE 13

Lillee's tally of 355 wickets from 70 Tests was a world record when he retired in 1984 and he still stands 13th in the all-time standings.

But some of those wickets were taken during Ashes reverses, as well as triumphs, against England.

By contrast no player in Hussain's party knows what it is like to win an Ashes series. England's last series victory over Australia came during Mike Gatting's 1986-87 tour.

England have since lost seven successive Ashes series.

Adam's elbow

FROM PAGE 13

train straight away and interrupt the build up to the Test match but I'm working on the basis this is a frustration and nothing more," Gilchrist said.

"I'm keen to get back on deck as soon as possible and my expectation at this stage is that I will be fully fit and ready to play in the Test match come Thursday morning."

Australia now has two injury problems leading into the Test with pace bowler Jason Gillespie trying to prove his fitness from a calf strain. Gillespie trained lightly in the nets on Monday and will have an extended workout on Tuesday.

Alcott said Gillespie had felt "a bit stiff" from his 10 overs for South Australia in Saturday's one-day Cup match against NSW in Adelaide.

"Tomorrow we'll have a good session and we'll review him then," said Alcott, who rated Gillespie's chances of playing as "pretty good".

Gillespie's inclusion would leave selectors a choice between Brett Lee and Andy Bichel to be 12th man for the first Test.

Australia's other matter to sort out this week is some changes to fielding positions.

Mark Waugh's axing from the Test team means a new second slip will have to be found with Ricky Ponting or Damien Martyn favoured for the job.

Australia may also be looking for another candidate to field at short leg with Justin Langer reportedly wanting a change due to medical advice after five blows to the head in the past 12 months.

"Hopefully my prowess in the gully could perhaps have me overlooked for that position," said Langer's close friend and opening partner Matthew Hayden.

"I guess the versatility shows that most of the side can field anywhere though."

Marat leaves his mark

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Russia's Marat Safin bagged a belated first tournament of the season here Sunday in nailing world number one Lleyton Hewitt 7-6, 6-0, 6-4 in 2hr 20min to win the 2.8

months - so it's wonderful to have won again," smiled 22-year-old Safin, who said he had decided to go for the jugular right from the start.

"My tennis is 90 per cent risk. To beat Lleyton in three sets it just can't be any better. I think the second set was about perfect tennis for me."

Despite the loss Hewitt will almost certainly end the season as the top-ranked player in the world,

performance. He was too good for everyone this week. He thoroughly deserves it."

Adelaider Hewitt will now have to wait until his Chinese jaunt for a chance to land a fifth Tour title of the campaign and 17th of his career.

This season the 21-year-old had seen off allcomers at San Jose, Indian Wells, Queen's and Wimbledon.

Safin, playing his third final in four seasons at the event here, pocketed a cheque for 402,000 dollars while Hewitt picked up 211,000 dollars for his efforts.

The Aussie battler was far from his usually indefatigable best Sunday as Safin, once he had shrugged aside some early inaccuracy, tore into the favourite after snatching the opening-set tiebreak.

The protagonists had traded breaks in the fourth and seventh games with Safin drawing first blood to streak 3-1 clear before a volley wide let Hewitt back in.

Safin got away 5-2 in the breaker when Hewitt drove long on serve and although he staved off one set point an impetuous Hewitt forehand into the net sent the Russian a set clear.

Safin, who says he is playing better than when he won the US Open in 2000, then raised his game to new heights, breaking for 1-0 in the second set and then saving three break points to hold.

Those missed chances effectively broke Hewitt's spirit and two more dropped service games handed him his first 0-6 set since the Rome semi-final two seasons ago at the hands of Swede Magnus Norman.

In the third set Hewitt, broken in the fifth game, saved triple match point to hold for 4-5 and then led 30-0 on the Safin serve before whipping a return wide in the next game as his rival completed the job at the fourth attempt.

Safin, who will be back here for the Davis Cup final against France in three weeks time, will first join Hewitt, Agassi, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Carlos Moya, Roger Federer, Jiri Novak and Albert Costa in the elite Shanghai field to bring the curtain down on the ATP season.

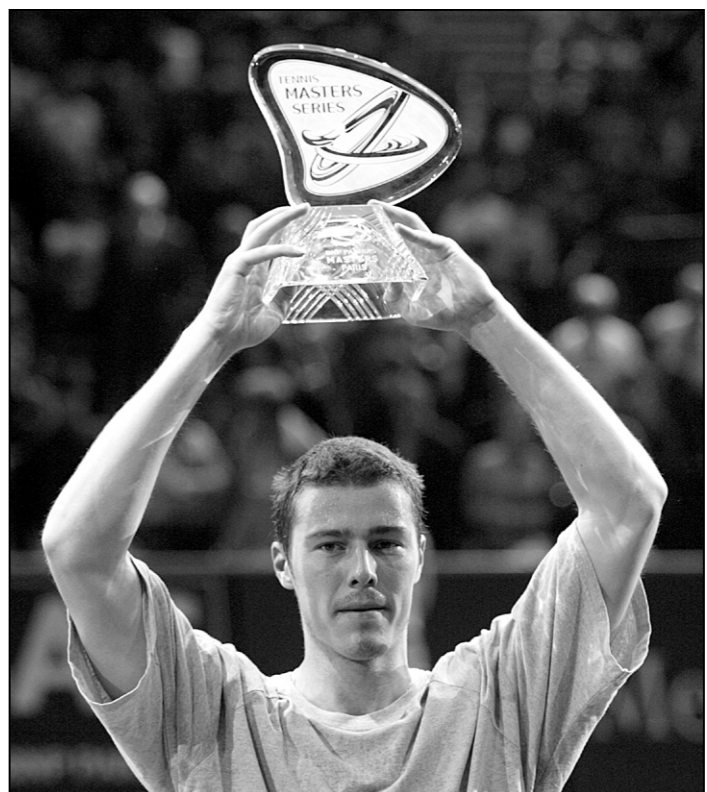


PHOTO: AFP

million dollar Paris Masters Series for the second time.

Aussie Hewitt, struggling in recent weeks after a virus forced him to miss the last Masters event in Madrid, had been aiming for his first title since lifting the Wimbledon crown in July.

But instead Safin, who also won here in 2000, broke a year-long drought stretching back to St Petersburg last season to move 4-3 clear in the pair's series.

"I didn't win a tournament in 13

his lead over world number two Andre Agassi now 88 points ahead of the Masters Cup in Shanghai, where 150 points are on offer to a champion who remains undefeated throughout the round-robin event.

Safin praised Hewitt for staying top of the rankings all year and congratulated him in advance for what he expects will be the Aussie's 'coronation' in China in two weeks time.

Hewitt returned the plaudits.

"Marat turned in a wonderful

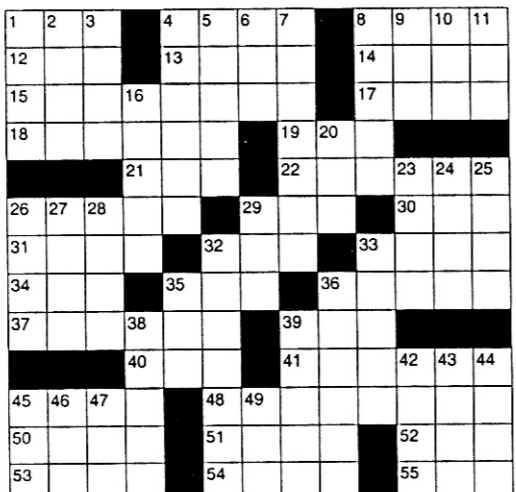


PHOTO: ISPR

Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Haq hands over the trophy the Faujdardhat Cadet College team, which won the Inter-Cadet College swimming competition on Sunday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS
1 Resort
4 Hormel product
8 Indeterminate amount
12 Drag along
13 Vacillate
14 "To — it may concern"
15 South Pole explorer
17 Biblical prophet
18 Songs of joy
19 Pitch
21 Witness
22 Half Moon captain
26 Friendship
29 Sprite
30 Have bills
31 "Munsters" mom
32 Festive
33 Show off those biceps
34 Annoy
35 Comprehend
36 Crux of the matter
37 Fiji discoverer
- DOWN
1 High-five, essentially
2 Cougar
3 Malaria symptom
4 Australian territory
5 Bandits' sort
6 Navigator
7 When most bills are due
8 Turf
9 Resistance unit
10 Guernsey greeting
11 Type movie
12 Metrical
13 "Wiedersehen"
14 Single performer
15 Mances
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- Solution time: 25 mins.
- ACROSS: 1. RESORT, 4. HORMEL, 8. INDETERMINATE, 12. DRAG, 13. VACILLATE, 14. TO — IT MAY CONCERN, 15. SOUTH POLE, 17. BIBLICAL, 18. SONGS OF JOY, 19. PITCH, 21. WITNESS, 22. HALF MOON, 26. FRIENDSHIP, 29. SPRITE, 30. HAVE BILLS, 31. "MUNSTERS", 32. FESTIVE, 33. SHOW OFF, 34. ANNOY, 35. COMPREHEND, 36. CRUX OF THE MATTER, 37. FIJI. DOWN: 1. HIGH-FIVE, 2. COUGAR, 3. MALARIA, 4. AUSTRALIAN, 5. BANDITS', 6. NAVIGATOR, 7. WHEN MOST BILLS ARE DUE, 8. TURF, 9. RESISTANCE, 10. GUERNSEY, 11. TYPE, 12. METRICAL, 13. "WIEDERSEHEN", 14. SINGLE, 15. MANCES, 16. , 17. , 18. , 19. , 20. , 21. , 22. , 23. , 24. , 25. , 26. , 27. , 28. , 29. , 30. , 31. , 32. , 33. , 34. , 35. , 36. , 37.



CRYPTOQUIP

PRSL YKCLU ANLSRLS KL
OAT LCWMTNQ PVRTLORPO P
UKKQ NO MCLWA AKCQ
"SKLT YRPPRKL."
Yesterday's Cryptogram: EVIDENTLY PING-PONG BALLS TEND TO MISBEHAVE A LOT. THEY GET PADDLED ALL THE TIME.
Today's Cryptogram Clue: P equals S
The Cryptogram 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.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashud Chowdhury (2nd from R) gives away the trophy to the BEXIMCO Phama team after the final of the cricket carnival on Friday. The event was organised by the Old DOHS Sports Club. On the right is the club's president Giasuddin Al Mamoon.