



MAY I GET UP NOW! Thai tennis star Paradorn Srichaphan was granted a royal audience with King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Chitralada Palace in Bangkok on November 14. The King gave Paradorn the "Phra Mahajanaka" medal honouring his recent achievements.

No dodging draft

Tennis
AP, Bangkok

The rising career of Thai tennis star Paradorn Srichaphan could be put on hold if he's required to serve in his country's armed forces next year.

Paradorn, who reached a career-high rank of 16 on the ATP tour last month, will report for boot camp April 7, as required by law, his father and coach, Chanachai Srichaphan, told The Associated Press.

"The law is law, which every-

one has to be abide by. There is no exception," Chanachai said.

The 23-year-old player might not have to serve. The country's lottery system allows some candidates to avoid the draft. All Thai men age 20 to 23 are required to report to a military camp to fill a limited number of draft openings. Usually, there are more men than jobs.

The vacancies are filled when the men pick a rolled piece of coloured paper from a covered bowl. A red paper means he has to serve, while a black ballot frees him from his responsibility. The odds of getting the black slip vary from camp to camp.

Chanachai hinted that he would welcome an exception being made in the case of Paradorn because of the honor he has brought for his country.

"I cannot say what kindness the elders could help him with, but only hope and pray that he deserves to get something in return for the good deeds he has been doing for the country," Chanachai said.

Staying out of circuit for two years probably would end Paradorn's career, his father said. "As you are aware, the ATP ranking is updated every week," Chanachai said.

Chanachai and Paradorn are scheduled to have an audience

with King Bhumibol Adulyadej later Thursday, but it is not known whether he will bring up the draft issue before the monarch.

Paradorn has become a sensation in Thailand, going from obscurity to the top player in Asia. He started 2002 ranked No. 126 and finished the season at No. 18. Over the last six months, he beat top-ranked Lleyton Hewitt and No. 2 Andre Agassi.

The Thai government rewarded him with a diplomatic passport, and the national Thai Airways gave him three million free air miles. Residents of his hometown, Khon Kaen, presented him with a gold racket on Monday.

Int'l cricket to go on at Oval

AFP, London

The Oval, the London home of English county champions Surrey, will stage international cricket for at least another 20 years after the club signed a long-term staging agreement with the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Thursday.

The deal will also provide financial assistance in helping Surrey modernise the ground and expand its capacity from 18,500 to 23,000.

"This is one of the most significant milestones in the club's history," said Surrey chairman Michael Soper.

"It will contribute enormously to our ability to redevelop the ground and support the ongoing success of Surrey cricket both on and off the field."

The Oval is England's oldest international ground. It staged the first Test match ever held in the country, against Australia, back in 1880.

Ferrero a semifinalist

AFP, Shanghai

Spanish fourth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero beat the Czech Republic's Jiri Novak 7-5, 6-3 to take the last semifinal berth at the 3.75-million-dollar Masters Cup here Friday.

Ferrero joined compatriot Carlos Moya, Australian Lleyton Hewitt and young Swiss star Roger Federer in the semis, which will be played Saturday.

Hewitt qualified earlier in the day without having to hit a ball after Spaniard Albert Costa, who had to win to take the second spot in the Red Group, lost to Moya 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Moya, already assured of a place in the weekend action with wins over Hewitt and Marat Safin in the Red Group of the tournament's initial round-robin stage, seemed to suffer a let down and struggled for consistency from the baseline.

Pakistan start

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This, in any event, is the opinion of Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell, who pointed out that this was the main reason for the home side's defeat, rather than the 169 runs partnership of century makers Inzamam-ul-Haq and Taufeeq Umar on the third day.

Despite the huge impact of Inzamam's 112 scored in 103 balls and his reaching 6000 runs in Test cricket, Taufeeq has been the main success of the tour so far by scoring, in a manner beyond his 20 years, 111 and 75 in the first Test. And he got 84 a few days earlier against Zimbabwe A.

Zimbabwe also had too many batting failures for their own liking at Harare, Campbell's 2 and 30 once again belied his true capabilities. Guy Whittall, who once hit a century off Pakistan, scraped up nine runs in the two innings.

Hamilton Masakadza, who hit a century off West Indies here in his maiden Test innings last year, also managed only nine runs.

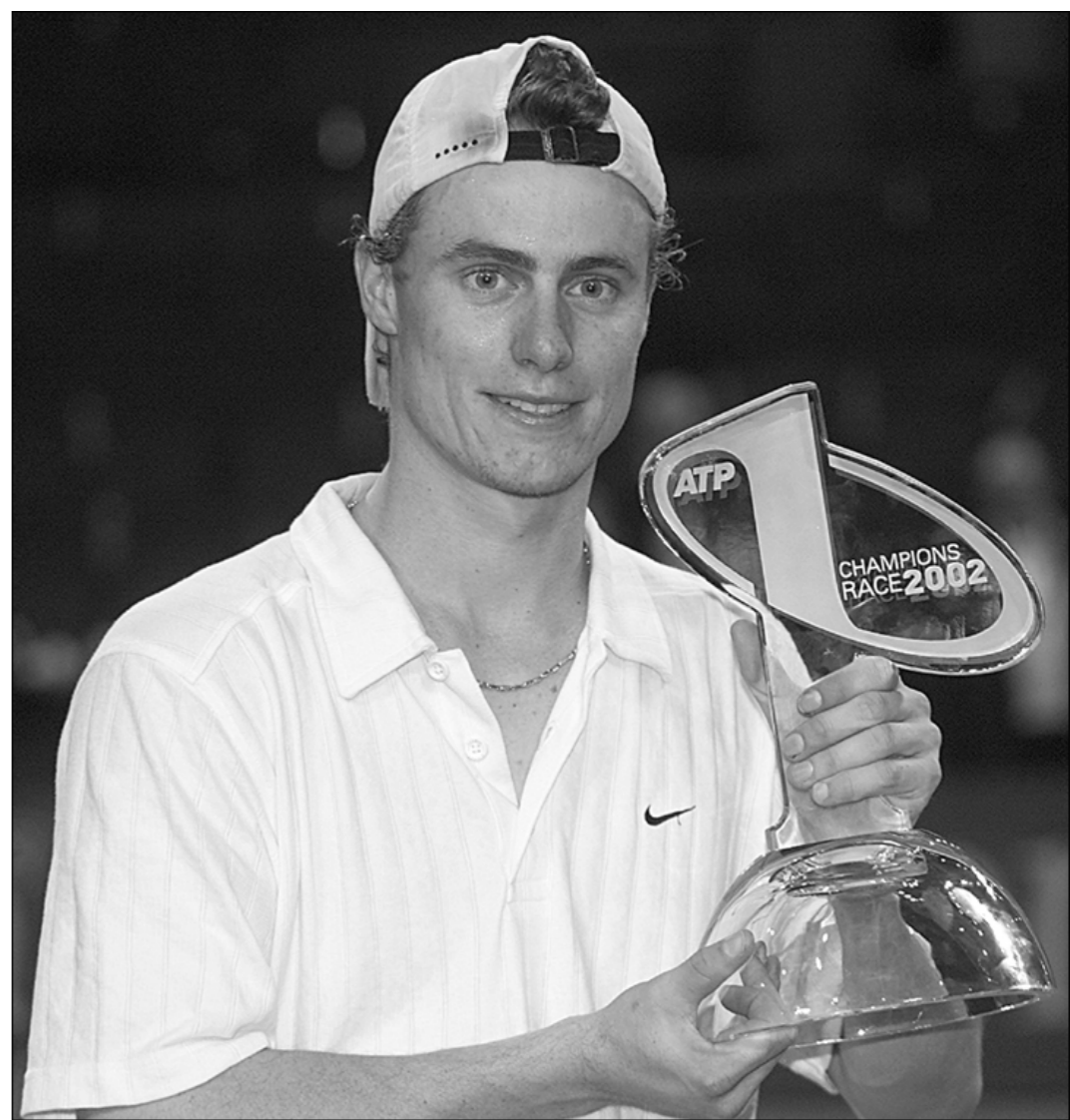
That Zimbabwe made a match of it was due to Dion Ebrahim and the Flower brothers Grant and Andy, with some improbable half century help from the wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu and the flamboyant former model Andy Bignaut.

Meanwhile Zimbabwe have dropped all-rounders Whittall and Blessing Mahwire from the team named late Wednesday.

Batsman Mark Vermeulen and all-rounder Mluleki Nkala were named in the side that will attempt to square the two-match series.

Two days after the completion of the Pakistan tour, a full solar eclipse will race across the western extremities of Zimbabwe and come close to Bulawayo.

On the evidence of the first Test, a cricketing eclipse might have already happened if the Zimbabweans don't improve in all departments.



NUMBER ONE: Australian Lleyton Hewitt holds an ATP number one trophy at an awarding ceremony in Shanghai on November 14.

Enough is enough

Tennis
AFP, Shanghai

A jubilant Lleyton Hewitt said Friday he was looking forward to celebrating being crowned the world's number one player for the second year in a row here by having a "few quiet beers" with his mates back in Australia.

Hewitt, 21, claimed the top ranking after Andre Agassi, his only challenger going into the season-ending Masters Cup in Shanghai this week, bowed out of the tournament in an epic battle with Juan Carlos Ferrero on Thursday night.

After Agassi's loss, Hewitt ensured there would be no doubt he deserved the ranking by beating world number three Marat Safin in a scintillating three-set encounter at Shanghai's New International Expo Centre.

"I feel incredible right at the moment," Hewitt told reporters in an early Friday morning press conference following his 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 win.

He said the most special thing about finishing the year number one was being able to hold on to the ranking throughout the year, especially after battling a depleted immune system following a bout of the chicken pox in January.

"I feel pretty run down at the moment," Hewitt said. "So I have just got to put the feet up for the next few weeks. I'm going to enjoy having a few weeks off."

Hewitt is only the fourth player in the history of professional tennis to reign atop the world rankings for a full calendar year, joining the elite group of Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl and Pete Sampras to have achieved the feat.

"I know Sampras has said a lot of the time that it's a lot harder to hold the number one position. There's no doubt about that. It's bloody tough," he said.

Hewitt is likely to qualify for the semifinals of the Masters Cup, which would give him possibly two more matches to finish off the year, but the gritty baseliner indicated his mind had already drifted towards barbecues and parties back in Australia. "Obviously I'll go home straight after I'm done here... there's a lot of people I have still got to thank and celebrate with when I get back," he said.

"I might have a quiet few beers with a few of the boys back home."

Hewitt then publicly thanked his mates who had travelled with him at different times throughout the year. "They have really helped me and sort of kept my mind off tennis at important times and they weren't able to be here and celebrate it," he said.

"So it really means a lot to the people I'm closest to, including my former coach, Peter Smith, who I got coached by from when I was (aged) six to 16."

However Hewitt warned his rivals his trademark determination and intensity would be back for the Australian Open in January.

"It would be one of my dreams to win at Melbourne Park but I haven't been past the round of 16 yet," he said.

"So if I get to the round of 16 or the quarters then I reckon I'd have a pretty good chance."

Stopping fans

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Except the main pavilion and the media centre, the rest of the 22,000-capacity Indian Petrochemicals Limited (IPCL) ground here has been ringed by the nets, organiser GM Oza said.

"It may not be the most beautiful sight in the world, but it will work," Oza said.

Local officials said they had tested the effectiveness of the nets by throwing bottles, food packets and stones at them.

"I am satisfied that no missile will penetrate the nets," Oza said.

England, needing to find some answers after last weekend's 384-run pummeling by Australia, were 50 for one in reply at the close.

Good start

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South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Centurion Park on Friday:

SRI LANKA: First innings
Atapattu c Kirsten b Kallis 17
Mubarak c Smith b Pollock 48
Sangakkara c Pollock b Hall 35
Jayawardene not out 35
Tillakaratne not out 31
Extras: (lb-5, nb-2) 7
Total: (For 3 wks in 57 overs) 173
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-90, 3-108
To bat: R Arnold, H Fernando, C Vaas, C Gamage, D Fernando, M Muralitharan

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|----------|----|---|----|---|
| Pollock | 13 | 5 | 29 | 1 |
| Ntini | 11 | 2 | 36 | 0 |
| Elworthy | 11 | 2 | 33 | 0 |
| Kallis | 12 | 2 | 50 | 1 |
| Hall | 10 | 2 | 20 | 1 |

SOUTH AFRICA: S Pollock, G Smith, H Gibbs, G Kirsten, J Kallis, A Prince, N McKenzie, M Boucher, A Hall, S Elworthy, M Ntini
Umpires: Daryl Harper and Russell Tiffin.

Doesn't Love England

Cricket
AFP, Hobart

Martin Love smashed a second double century in as many weeks off England's bowlers as Australia A compounded the tourists problems ahead of next week's second Ashes Test.

Love again tormented England, smashing an unbeaten 201 as the Australians cruised to 353 for three declared off 75 overs on the first day of the three-day match.

England, needing to find some answers after last weekend's 384-run pummeling by Australia, were 50 for one in reply at the close.

After hitting an unbeaten 250 for Queensland against England a fortnight ago, Love continued to underline his status as the best top order batsman outside the Test team.

England rested three of their frontline bowlers, Andy Caddick, Matthew Hoggard and Ashley Giles, but they did use two of their formerly walking wounded, Steve Harmison and Andrew Flintoff, and replacement Alex Tudor.

Two of the three are likely to be picked for the second Adelaide Test.

Chris Silverwood, who was flown out from England this week as another replacement, was made 12th man and is presumably not in the Test frame.

The pace attack's performance left assistant coach Graham Dilley

exasperated.

"On a flat track you have very little margin for error," the former England fast bowler said.

"You need discipline, patience and luck and we're nowhere near any of those."

Love agreed the English bowlers didn't make the most of the early conditions, bowling too short and wide.

However he warned that Harmison, with whom he's played at Durham, could turn matches on his good days.

Harmison was by far the quickest, but consistency was not his forte.

Love said he didn't know how close he was to a Test debut.

"All I can do is keep scoring runs and putting pressure on the guys in the team," said Love, who faced 243 balls and hit 25 fours in just 301 minutes.

Acting captain Marcus Trescothick continued the English habit of sending the Australians in and again lived to regret it.

In a willing opening burst on an initially lively Bellarive Oval wicket, Tudor and Harmison gave England early hope.

Matthew Elliott had an unhappy return to this level when a rising Tudor delivery crunched into his right elbow on the first ball of the match.

He needed stitches, but an x-ray cleared him of serious injury and he could have returned to the crease.

Shortly afterwards Tudor caught Jimmy Maher's edge and the Australia A captain was gone for six.

But once the first hour was weathered, the bowling attack fell away and Love and Greg Blewett, who was not at his fluent best, put on 140.

Blewett was bowled by Craig White for only 25 but England's woes continued when 21-year-old Michael Clarke arrived.



Australia A double-centurion Martin Love ducks a delivery on the opening day of the three-day match against England yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cruncher's target area
4 Check
8 Oxen's burden
12 Attack dog's command
13 Restfulness
14 "Portnoy's Complaint" author
15 Depot list
17 Garfield's pal
18 "Wayne's World" rejoinder
19 Building
21 They have 88 keys
24 Go down slopes
25 Swiss peak
26 Glutton
28 Borden bovine
32 Dry dishes
34 Without delay
36 Beige
37 Impertinent
39 Choose
41 That girl

DOWN

1 Pompous one
2 Pen name?
3 Strong liquor
4 Variety of lawn
5 — de Cologne
6 Land in the water
7 Can't do without
8 Brief
9 California city
10 Ear-related
11 Roller coaster cry
16 Many millennia
20 Marie's man
21 Feline foursome
22 Pelvic bones
23 Sermon subject
27 Sticky stuff
29 Taught
30 Incenses
31 New coin
33 Art lover, perhaps
35 New Deal initials
38 "You bet!"
40 Vagrants
43 Night life venue
45 Gilbert & Sullivan's "Princess —"
46 Dandies
47 Homely
48 Reunion group
49 Indiv. rights org.
53 Smack
54 Teeter-totter quorum
55 Last of the 26

Solution time: 27 mins.

ACROSS
1 CRUNCHER
4 CHECK
8 OXEN
12 ATTACK DOG
13 RESTFULNESS
14 PORTNOY'S COMPLAINT
15 DEPOT LIST
17 GARFIELD
18 WAYNE'S WORLD
19 BUILDING
21 THEY
24 GO DOWN SLOPES
25 SWISS PEAK
26 GLUTTON
28 BORDEN
32 DRY DISHES
34 WITHOUT DELAY
36 BEIGE
37 IMPERTINENT
39 CHOOSE
41 THAT GIRL

DOWN
1 POMP
2 PEN
3 STRONG
4 VARIETY
5 DE
6 LAND
7 WITHOUT
8 BRIEF
9 CALIFORNIA
10 EAR-RELATED
11 ROLLER
16 MANY
20 MARIE
21 FELINE
22 PELVIC
23 SERMON
27 STICKY
29 TAUGHT
30 INCENSES
31 NEW
33 ART
35 NEW
38 YOU
40 VAGRANTS
43 NIGHT
45 GILBERT
46 DANDIES
47 HOMELY
48 REUNION
49 INDIV.
53 SMACK
54 TEETER-TOTTER
55 LAST

CRYPTOQUIP

MC'U LFCMVS LTJ XTF
CT GJMAZ PSJ GJSKILKUC
MA GSB UPS HTA'C CKIS
MC V XMAZ BTHA

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: MY MOTHER SAID I REALLY NEEDED TO GO ON A DIET. I TOLD HER I HAD NOTHING TO LOSE.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: U equals S

The Cryptiquip 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.

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|----------|----|---|----|---|
| Tudor | 19 | 3 | 79 | 1 |
| Harmison | 16 | 3 | 54 | 0 |
| Flintoff | 10 | 0 | 62 | 0 |
| White | 14 | 1 | 70 | 1 |
| Dawson | 16 | 4 | 70 | 1 |

ENGLAND: First Innings
Trescothick not out 5
Vaughan b Williams 8
Butcher not out 30
Extras: (lb-4, w-2, nb-1) 7
Total: (For 1 wkt in 13 overs) 50
Fall of wicket: 1-11

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|----------|---|---|----|---|
| Williams | 6 | 2 | 22 | 1 |
| Clark | 6 | 2 | 15 | 0 |
| Noffke | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 |

Lillee's salvo to Waugh

Cricket
AFP, Perth

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh is being challenged to keep his place in the world's best Test cricket side, legendary fast bowling champion Dennis Lillee said here

by 384 runs in the match ending Sunday — but Waugh failed with the bat in both innings.

He has already been dropped from the country's one-day team.

"I'm not calling for the Australian captain's head just yet," Lillee said.

"But if Waugh seriously entertains thoughts of touring the West Indies early next year, he had better start making a better fist of

"If Waugh is genuinely struggling to handle that calibre of fast bowling, it does not auger well for his prospects in the Caribbean.

"Although the Aussies will not encounter the pace and venom served up by the likes of Messrs Roberts, Croft, Holding, Marshall, Garner and Ambrose, what the West Indies gives you these days is still mean, at times dangerous and certainly unrelenting.

"For Waugh to have taken 71 minutes to score just seven in the first innings against England before falling victim to a short-pitched delivery from Andy Caddick was quite disturbing.

"And in the second innings Waugh, in making 12 without a boundary in 38 minutes, looked decidedly uncomfortable to short stuff around off stump.

"Either the Australian skipper is out of form or he was genuinely, as he approached 38, in trouble against the England pace attack.

"As you get older, your reflexes slow and sometimes it takes a little time to get the feet moving.

"They were not moving very well at the 'Gabba.'"

Lillee said that although Waugh was a loser in round one, his grit, determination and love of a challenge were well known.

"And, make no mistake, he is being challenged," Lillee said.



DENNIS LILLEE



STEVE WAUGH

England's fast bowling than he did in the first Test.

"That England's far from ferocious pace attack was able to get rid of Waugh cheaply twice at the 'Gabba' caused me to raise my eyebrows.

Australia crushed their old rival

Friday.

Waugh, 37, was "the standout failure in the home side" in the first Test against England in Brisbane, Lillee said in The West Australian newspaper.

Australia crushed their old rival

Gayle flays

FROM PAGE 13

| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
|-----------|----|---|----|---|
| Srinath | 9 | 1 | 71 | 1 |
| Nehra | 5 | 0 | 53 | 0 |
| Harbhajan | 10 | 1 | 30 | 1 |
| Kartik | 10 | 0 | 46 | 0 |
| Ganguly | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Sehwag | 8 | 0 | 49 | 1 |
| Yuvraj | 6 | 0 | 48 | 0 |
| Bangar | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0 |

INDIA: Saurav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Venkatsai Laxman, Mohammad Kaif, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Sanjay Bangar, Javagal Srinath, Ashish Nehra, Murali Kartik.

Umpires: Asoka de Silva and K Hariharan.



Players and officials of Narayananj pose with State Minister for Labour and Manpower Lutfur Rahman Khan after winning the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football League title yesterday.