

Ex-India captain Ramchand dies

AFP/REUTERS, New Delhi
Gulabrai Ramchand, who led India to their first ever victory over Australia in 1960, died after prolonged illness in Mumbai early Monday, family members said.

Ramchand, 76, was admitted to hospital for the second time in a month due to heart trouble and died two days after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) sanctioned a sum of 4,500 dollars for his treatment.

The former Air India employee is survived by his wife, son and two daughters.

"Ramchand died peacefully. His family members were at his bedside when the end came late on Sunday night," said BCCI executive secretary Sharad Diwadkar, a close friend of the former captain.

Ramchand, an aggressive right-hand middle-order batsman and medium-pacer, played 33 Tests between 1952 and 1960, scoring 1180 runs at an average of 24.58 and took 41 wickets at 46.31 runs apiece with his swing bowling.

He led India in five Tests, the most memorable being the victory over Richie Benaud's Australians at Kanpur in 1960 when spinner Jasu Patel claimed 14 wickets in the match, including nine in the second innings.

He was made captain in his final season for the 1959-60 against the Australians.

Patel's figures were for long the best bowling performance by an Indian till Anil Kumble grabbed all 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan in Delhi in 1999.

RU football

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In second match Finance and Banking blanked Zoology 6-0.

Badsha netted four goals while Shafiq and Prince scored one goal each.

In third match Islamic History and Cultural beat Physics 2-0.

Habib and Babu scored one goal each for the winners.

In this last match Marketing defeated Mathematics 3-2 in the tie-breaker.

Sultan puts up

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Sultan said.

Sultan however denied having any dispute about the matter with the team management committee.

Replying to another question, the BFF boss said that he had no intentions of bringing back the national pool system in football players' transfers.

"I can assure everybody that it will not happen during my tenure. I am dead against the pool system," affirmed Sultan.

A positive series

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proved himself as the best Bangladeshi batsman. He has scored runs against every attack in the world. If he shows a little more patience in his shot selection, he can score more runs in the future.

Having played well in the Test series, the Tigers are now ready to play better and positive cricket. They have started to believe in themselves and have gained confidence.

The writer is a former national cricketer.

Make BFF more

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Mohammad Rony, Anwar Hossain, Maloy Barman, Maruf Ahmed, Khaled Mohammad Azam Biplob, Shamimur Rahman, Kaiser Ahmed Rajib, Enamul Haq Sharif and Anasanur Rahman Robin.

Officials: Prof AKM Shafiqul Islam (team leader), Abdus Salam Mursheidi (manager), Abu Yusuf (coach), Mahmudul Haq Liton (assistant coach) and Dr Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman (team doctor).

Be careful of Sachin



AFP, Madras

Australia faces a big threat from batting star Sachin Tendulkar when they clash with India in the upcoming Test series at home, former fast bowler great Dennis Lillee said here on Monday.

"I'm certain Tendulkar will do well in Australia. He'll be a great batsman in any era. As for others, I'd like to wait and watch," said Lillee, who heads the MRF Pace Foundation here.

India will tour Australia from November-end for four Test matches and a triangular one-day series also featuring Zimbabwe.

Tendulkar was the most successful batsman on India's last tour of Australia three years ago, scoring one hundred and two half-centuries in three Test matches.

His batting heroics, however, failed to stop Australia from completing a 3-0 sweep.

Lillee said India will put in a better performance this time provided they showed the mental toughness against fast bowling and did not allow Steve Waugh's Australians to dominate them.

"The Indians have to stay positive and not just be looking to survive," said Lillee.

"The Australians will be keeping coming at you and you have to attack. It's going to be tough and hard on pitches with some bounce and movement. India will have to fight it out."

Lillee said India needed to take the battle to the Australians, who Australia will visit India next

had tremendous depth in batting and bowling.

"The Aussies may be 75 for five, but they'll eventually get 300 and apply pressure on the opponents," he said.

"Similarly in bowling, there're so many options. If either (Glenn McGrath or Jason) Gillespie is injured, somebody else steps in and performs well."



SACHIN TENDULKAR

Lillee said Tendulkar, Harbhajan Singh, Adam Gilchrist and Brett Lee could turn out to be the key players in the Test series.

"It'd be well-contested series. It might turn out to be close too."

Meanwhile, paceman Lee geared up for his duels with the Indian batsmen, saying he was keenly looking forward to bowling against them at home and away.

"It's going to be a great thrill bowling against Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly," said Lee, who is visiting India to promote a watch company.

Australia will visit India next

month for a limited-overs tri-series, also involving New Zealand.

"The fact is that fast bowlers have not done very well over here, so I'm looking forward to the challenge and get wickets for Australia," said Lee.

He said it would be hard for any fast bowler to bowl on slow Indian pitches, but he was well-prepared to leave a mark on his maiden tour of



DENNIS LILLEE

the country with the senior team.

"It's not like playing in Sydney and Perth. Here, the wickets are slower," said Lee, who had toured India before with a junior side.

"Over the last 12-18 months I've changed my bowling style, especially in one-dayers. I've become more consistent bowling fast," he said.

"People say you can't bowl fast and straight. That's rubbish. I don't see why a fast bowler can't bowl fast and straight. Hopefully, I've proved that."

Woodbridge nears milestone

AFP, New York

Australia's Todd Woodbridge won his 77th career men's doubles title here Sunday, joining Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman to take the US Open title and move one crown shy of Dutchman Tom Okker's all-time record.

Fourth seeds Woodbridge and Bjorkman rallied to beat second-seeded American brothers Bob and Mike Bryan 5-7, 6-0, 7-5 for the 400,000-dollar top prize. It was the 15th Grand Slam doubles title for Woodbridge and sixth for Bjorkman.

"This is quite amazing," Woodbridge said.

"Jonas and I have played well together from the time we got together. We wanted to win majors and this is our fourth one in three years. I couldn't be happier."

Woodbridge will continue his run at the record next month at Vienna, Madrid, Stockholm and Paris before the season-ending ATP Tour Championship at Houston in November. That's in addition to Australia's Davis Cup title bid.

"I'm in as good a position as I could hope to be," Woodbridge said.

"The beauty for me is I can pick and choose what I want to play and when. I've still got plenty of tennis for the rest of the year."

Martina falls at last hurdle

AFP, New York

Martina Navratilova, who failed in her bid for US Open history here Sunday, called upon Serena and Venus Williams to play more events and tagged US Open winner Justine Henin-Hardenne their greatest threat.

Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual and Argentina's Paola Suarez beat Navratilova and Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-3 to win the Grand Slam crown and deny the 46-year-old American legend her 59th Slam title.

"We're both disappointed we didn't play better," Navratilova said.

"We could have played better. We should have played better. I felt like a kid. 'Hey I'm in a Grand Slam final'. Then I played like a little kid."

"They made us look bad but we also let them."

Navratilova, 46, would have been the oldest female US Open winner, breaking the age mark of Margaret Osborne duPont, who was 42 when she won the 1960 mixed doubles crown.

After her first US Open women's doubles final since 1990, Navratilova urged the Williams sisters, who played little more than minimal WTA schedules even before recent injuries kept them out of the Open, to do more to boost the game.

US greats honoured

AFP, New York

Jimmy Connors has mellowed so much that even having his name mis-spelled during an honors ceremony was not enough to make the retired tennis legend re-live his "Brash Basher" days.

"No. No. No. I've calmed down since then," Connors said here Sunday during a ceremony to mark the creation of the US Open Court of Champions, the first official trip Connors has made to the Grand Slam event since his 1992 farewell.

Connors' last name was "Connors" on the giant Arthur Ashe Stadium scoreboard during a video tribute at ceremonies honoring him, Australia's Rod Laver, Chris Evert and Billie Jean King and pioneers Bill Tilden and Helen Wills.

But the presentation also showed why the five-time US Open champion was beloved here in the 1970s and 1980s, winning a record 115 US Open matches.

India under-19s

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hosts was also cleared.

Along with the junior cricket tours, the government has also allowed Pakistan to compete in the inaugural Afro-Asian Games to be held in the southern city of Hyderabad from October 24 to November 1.

"These steps have been taken in continuation of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's (peace) initiative and as part of promoting people-to-people contact and cultural exchanges," the government statement said.

Vajpayee extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan in April in a bid to improve bilateral ties between the hostile neighbours, who have fought three wars.

The junior tournaments will be the first clash between Indian and Pakistani cricketers in the sub-continent since the senior teams met in the Asia Cup in Bangladesh in May 2000.

"At least a start has been made, it will be a good opportunity for our bench strength to gain experience," said an official from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The Indian government banned bilateral cricket matches with Pakistan after the 2000 Asia Cup due to political tensions, but allowed the teams to play in multi-nation events like the World Cup.

India played against Pakistan in the preliminary league of the World Cup in South Africa in March, a game that passed off without incident.

A small consolation



REUTERS, New York

As consolation prizes go, 500,000 dollars and the number one world ranking are not bad. But they did little to soothe the sting Juan Carlos Ferrero felt after being pummeled 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 by American Andy Roddick on Sunday in the final of the US Open.

While the quiet Spaniard, who will take possession of the top ranking on Monday, politely accepted the runner-up cheque the gloomy expression written on his face indicated these were not the reasons he had come to New York.

Indeed, they were small consolation for the 23-year-old, who had stepped onto Arthur Ashe stadium court confident he could add a US Open crown to the French Open title he won in June.

"Right now I am a little bit sad," Ferrero said.

"But I have to think I did a great job these two weeks.

"At the beginning of the week, of the tournament, I didn't expect to be number one and in the final."

The Flushing Meadows fortnight featured an impressive run by Ferrero, who worked his way into his first US Open final against daunting opponents and conditions.

With rain compacting the schedule, the chiseled Spaniard was forced to play four matches in as many days against a murderers row of opponents that included two former champions -- one of them arguably the greatest hardcourt player of all-time.

The minifield the third seed had



AT LEAST I'LL BE NUMBER ONE: Juan Carlos Ferrero looks at his racket during games at the US Open final. The Spaniard became the world number one despite losing to Andy Roddick

Beginning of new dynasty



AFP, New York

Pete Sampras had barely taken his final bow and made a gala curtain call when Andy Roddick debuted another spectacular Broadway tennis show that figures to be a long-running smash hit.

Roddick captured his first Grand Slam title here Sunday, defeating world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 in the US Open final, using the same power-serving style Sampras used for 14 Slam titles before his exit.

Sampras retired when the fortnight began and Michael Chang followed the next day, all-but closing a generation of American tennis just in time for Roddick to realize his long-awaited Slam potential eight days past his 21st birthday.

"I don't think you could have written a script any better," Roddick said.

"Starting it off with Pete's retirement. Chang is gone. All that. It was just too good."

And the most annoyingly repeated question Roddick faces is

now history.

"No more 'What's it like to be the future of American tennis crap?' No more," Roddick said.

Thirteen weeks after dumping French coach Tarik Benhabiles for Andre Agassi's former mentor Brad Gilbert, Roddick used his powerful serve and uncanny precision to craft a breakthrough triumph.

"Tarik was with me four years," Roddick said.

"He took me from a kid who was content to maybe get a college scholarship somewhere, he taught me, maybe the first one with a serious face to say, 'You can be a champion.'"

"It kind of feels empty not having him here. Hopefully I'll see him soon."

Gilbert's advice was crucial, relaxing Roddick's tension-filled head and having him focus on the problem at hand and not his role as the vanguard of American tennis hopes. Gilbert made Roddick play to his potential at long last.

"It was huge," Roddick said.

"We have a great camaraderie. We just click. He knows what to say to me, when to say it. He makes things simple for me, which helps a lot."

Gilbert's message was basic. Face only the foe in front of you. And relax.

"Of course you're going to be in the pressure cooker. Everybody expects big things from him," Gilbert said. "The court is where you take care of business. When you're out there don't be miserable. If he comes to the park every day with a good attitude, his game will shine."

As a result, Roddick found an unusual calm in Arthur Ashe Stadium in his first Slam final, a match that not so long ago could have overwhelmed him.

"The hardest thing is fear of the unknown," Roddick said.

"I didn't know how I was going to feel going in. I didn't know what was going to happen. But I'm baffled by how calm I felt out there, how easy. I almost didn't feel anything."

Roddick, greeted after the victory by actress-girlfriend Nancy Moore, will be hailed as the next Sampras just one year after being ousted by the original here in his penultimate match. Roddick knows he has no reason to be too cocky.

Red hot Roddick

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working all the spots. He used to go too big all the time. He mixes it up better now. I think when you use your head out there, good things happen."

Roddick wept after blasting a 133-mph ace past Ferrero on match point to achieve a dream. Then the 21-year-old American climbed into the stands at Arthur Ashe Stadium to share a hug with his family after a million-dollar win.

Roddick used a forehand winner to deny Ferrero on a break point in the third game of the first set, then broke him in the next game and went on to claim the first set with an ace after 28 minutes.

Neither man mustered a break point in the second set, setting up a tie-break in which Roddick sent a forehand wide to give Ferrero a 2-1 lead.

But Ferrero fired four errant forehands in the next five points and Roddick finished the set with a forehand winner to take command.

In the last set, Ferrero saved three break points in the sixth game and Roddick rescued a pair in the seventh game. In the eighth, Ferrero committed his first double fault of the match to hand Roddick the only break he needed.

Joining Stefan Edberg as the only former US Open boys champions to win the men's crown, Roddick became the eighth different Slam champion in as many events, matching the longest such streak in Slam history.

Roddick came within a point of being ousted from the tournament in the semi-finals, saving a match point in the third set before rallying to defeat Argentina's David Nalbandian in five sets over 3 1/2 hours Saturday.

Ferrero, 23, said he was not affected by an unprecedented Slam endurance test of four matches in as many days, spending eight hours on the court in three days prior to the final thanks to a compressed schedule due to rain.

Ferrero won his first Slam title in June at the French Open and will be the new ATP world number one Monday after beating top seed Andre Agassi in the semifinals. Roddick will move past Agassi into second place.

Roddick denied Ferrero the first US Open title for a Spaniard since Manuel Orantes won his 1975 crown on clay.

ANDY RODDICK BOX

REUTERS, New York

Following is a factbox on American Andy Roddick, who won his first Grand Slam title at the US Open on Sunday with a 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 final win over Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Born: August 30, 1982 in Omaha, Nebraska

Turned professional: 2000

2000: Finished year as number one junior in the world. Won junior grand slam titles at Australian Open and U.S. Open. Won his first career ATP Tour match at the Miami Masters Series event, beating Fernando Vicente before losing to Andre Agassi. Underwent right knee surgery in April. Made his U.S. Open main draw debut, losing in the first round to Albert Costa. Ended year as world number 158 in senior rankings.

2001: Finished as youngest player in ATP top-20 at 19 years, four months. Won three ATP titles, becoming first American teenager to win three or more titles in a season since Pete Sampras won four in 1990. Finished year as world number 14 -- the highest ever year-end ranking after one full ATP season of any former junior world champion. Biggest breakthrough at Miami Masters Series, reaching quarter-finals. Won first ATP title in his first claycourt tournament, beating Xavier Malisse in the final of Atlanta.

In doing so became first American teenager to win an ATP title since Michael Chang in 1992. Following week, won second title by beating Lee Hyung-taik in final of Houston. Reached third round of French Open, retiring from match with Lleyton Hewitt with hamstring strain. Made the third round on his Wimbledon debut, losing to eventual champion Goran Ivanisevic in four sets. Won first hardcourt title at Washington, beating Sjeng Schalken in final. Extended winning streak to 10 matches at U.S. Open, where he lost in the quarter-finals to eventual champion Lleyton Hewitt after a five set thriller. Finished year as world number 14.

2002: Became, at 20, youngest American to finish year in top-10 since Michael Chang in 1992.

Advanced to first ever Masters Series final, losing in final of Toronto to Guillermo Canas. Helped United States to the Davis Cup semifinals. Won first title of the season in Memphis, beating James Blake in the final. In April successfully defended his Houston title, beating Pete Sampras in the final.

Advanced to the semi-final of the Rome Masters Series, and then exited the French Open in the first round after five-set defeat to Wayne Arthurs. Made third round at Wimbledon, and again lost in the quarter-final of the U.S. Open, this time to Sampras. In Davis Cup semi-final against France, lost rubbers to Arnaud Clement and Sebastian Grosjean. Surpassed the \$1 million mark for first time. Finished year as world number 10.

2003: Beats Younes El Aynaoui 21-19 in the fifth set to reach semifinals of Australian Open, but loses to Rainer Schuettler in the last four. Follows it up with a final appearance at Memphis, losing to Taylor Dent. Loses to Andre Agassi in final of Houston tournament in April. Beats Nikolay Davydenko in the final to win at St Poelten. Exits French Open in the first round, losing to Sargis Sargsian. Splits from coach Tarik Benhabiles and links up with Agassi's former coach, Brad Gilbert.

Immediate success with tournament victory on the grass of Queen's Club, and makes semifinals of Wimbledon before losing to eventual champion Roger Federer. Then embarks on streak of 27 wins in 28 matches in north American hardcourt summer. Wins titles at Indianapolis, Toronto Masters Series and Cincinnati Masters Series. Only blemish is defeat to Tim Henman in final of Washington. Culminates in triumph over Juan Carlos Ferrero in the final of the U.S. Open at Flushing Meadows.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Clues include: 1 Big fish, 2 Vicinity, 3 Imperfect, 4 Rough masonry, 5 Kennel, 6 Ceeded, 7 Valentino, 8 Acronym, 9 Smell, 10 Santa, 11 Calif., 12 Garden, 13 Machu Picchu, 14 No man's land, 15 Admit a mistake, 16 Notions, 17 Bill's partner, 18 DDE's command, 19 Criminal, 20 Cross at the center, 21 Row rock, 22 Second person, 23 Midafternoon, 24 on a sundial, 25 Trans-portion line, 26 "12 Angry Men" director.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 indicating letter positions.

CRYPTOQUIP
Z FLYXM IZHO Y ZPOMA
ELNMM IIXMZGYGR XZAYMP
FLMELMN ELMYN IKPYGMPP
F Z P T Y H O Y G R K T
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ARMY ONLY USED RED FRUITS AS WEAPONS, WOULD THEY CALL THEM THE APPLE CORPS?
The Cryptoquip 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.



Dhaka DSA team members receiving the Pepsi 18th National Mini and Cadet College wrestling competition trophy from the State Minister for Finance and Planning Shah Mohammad Abul Hossain yesterday.