

Lord's turning back the clock

AFP, London

Lord's pavilion is to undergo an 8.2-million-pound refurbishment to restore it to its 19th century glory.

The pavilion's exclusive Long Room, lined with portraits of former cricketers and which players still walk through on their way to the wicket, will also be part of the scheme.

"It's really the first top-to-bottom, comprehensive refurbishment in the building's 114-year history," Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) spokesman Iain Wilton said on Thursday.

The pavilion is only open to MCC members. The ground is already home to a spectacular, pod-shaped media centre and this week installed a high-tech sight-screen.

Sarwan ton
FROM PAGE 13
ENGLAND
Trescothick st Jacobs b Gayle 82

Sri Lanka 67
FROM PAGE 13
Sri Lanka reached 67 without loss after the hosts had made 199.

Tigers fly
FROM PAGE 13
losing streak in the abridged version of the game.

ODI SQUAD
Habibul Bashar (captain), Rajin Saleh, Shahriar Hossain, Javed Omar, Hannan Sarkar, Mohammad Ashraf, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mahmud, Faisal Hossain, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Mushfiqur Rahman, Mohammad Rafique, Abdur Razzak, Manjarul Islam, Tapas Baishya and Tareq Aziz.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS 39 Gis' address (Abbr.)
4 Use plastic, maybe
7 Skunk's defense
12 Scale member
13 Goose egg
14 Incensed
15 Lunch
16 Stationer's supply
18 Past
19 Plagiarize
20 Evergreen trees
22 Double curve
23 Waterloo is there
27 Kids' card game
29 Was jealous of
31 Witchcraft?
34 Some hardware
35 Delegates
37 Standard
38 Profit



Bangladesh Chess Federation general secretary Syed Sujuddin (2nd from R) shares a light moment with GM Ziaur Rahman (R) during a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

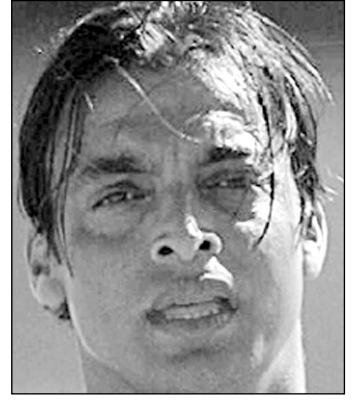
'Shoaib really injured'

Cricket
PTI, Islamabad

The controversy surrounding cricketer Shoaib Akhtar's injury may come to an end in the coming days with Pakistan Cricket Board chief executive Rameez Raja admitting that the fast bowler "is carrying an injury".

lack of effort shown on part of many of them during the final Test in Pindi will not be tolerated by us or the cricket loving people of this country," he said.

The PCB also acknowledged that the medical inquiry commission had submitted its report on Wednesday on Shoaib and four other cricketers -- Shabbir Ahmed, Umar Gul, Moin Khan and Abdul Razzak. But the report was not made public so far.



SHOAIB AKHTAR

However, the bone scan report on Shoaib leaked to the media said he has a stress fracture on one of his ribs. The fast bowler had earlier planned to address a press conference and later approach Supreme Court against the PCB for defaming him.

Weary Gibbs to take rest

Cricket
AFP, Durban

South African opening batsman Herschelle Gibbs will not play for English county Durham this season after being told by South African cricket supremos to take a rest from all forms of cricket.

African) winter in order to ensure he is prepared for his upcoming international commitments that are due to commence in two months with the tour to Sri Lanka.

Fortunately for Durham they had already called up Australian batsman Marcus North as temporary cover for the 30-year-old Gibbs, who has scored 4693 runs in 59 Tests at an average of 49.40 with a highest score of 228.

Match-fixing query Odumbe assigns leading barrister

AFP, Nairobi

Former Kenyan cricket captain Maurice Odumbe has named top criminal lawyer, Ishan Kapila, to represent him against accusations of match-fixing levelled by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Kapila, a Kenyan of Indian descent, is a scion in the law firm headed by his father Achhro Kapila, who represented Kenya's founding president, the late Jomo Kenyatta, in a pre-independence trial in 1953 by the British colonial government for involvement in the Mau Mau freedom movement.

Mani blasts Blair

FROM PAGE 13
representing Zimbabwe to the UK. "Given that this issue has been on his radar for more than 18 months it appears that his intransigence on Zimbabwe is now linked in some way to his overwhelming desire to secure the Olympics for London."

Mani said the Board was obviously concerned if Shoaib was carrying such an old injury or if other players were getting injured regularly. "We can understand Shoaib being concerned because he has a contract with English county Durham and which he has not spoken to us as yet," he said.

Raja said the Board's credibility suffered because it prepared fast pitches for the India-Pakistan matches keeping Shoaib in mind. "Our credibility is being questioned after the way we lost the Rawalpindi Test to India because of the lethargic attitude of some players."

In Jyupurhat, Rajshahi defeated Pabna 3-1 with Alam, Tapash and Adnan being on the scoresheet for the winners, who face Naogaon in the zonal semifinal. Pabna reduced the deficit through Robin.

Asim spins Aktel

FROM PAGE 13
74 despite losing his partners rapidly. Uttam, who shared 58 runs with Gopalganj with Swadhin and Habib finding the mark either side of the break while Kushtia ousted Magura with a 2-1 win at Chuadanga. Rashed and Arman put Kushtia ahead before Sumon scored for Magura.

Aktel: 145-5 in 37.3 overs (Uttam 74, Mawla 14, Rashid 33, Saikat 2-38, Rezaul 2-26, Waliullah 1-14). Result: Aktel won by 5 wickets.

Federer falters, Henman thru'

Tennis
AFP, Rome

World number one Roger Federer crashed out of the Rome Masters here on Wednesday after throwing away a healthy advantage to lose his second round match to clay court specialist Albert Costa.

Henman, ranked seventh in the world, said his comfortable victory was one of his finest. "In terms of performance, it was my most complete and most consistent," he said.

Costa, the number one seed, took the first set but then saw all his efforts undone by a catalogue of unforced errors which gave Costa, the 2002 French Open champion, a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory.

All of the first three seeds have now fallen at the Foro Italico following the first round exits of American second seed Andy Roddick and German third seed Rainer Schuettler.

Henman wrapped up his match before torrential rain brought play to a halt with nine second round matches still to be completed. After two and a half hours of showers, tournament officials decided to call it a day and resume on Thursday.

"I knew it would be a tough match and I started aggressively and made some great volleys."

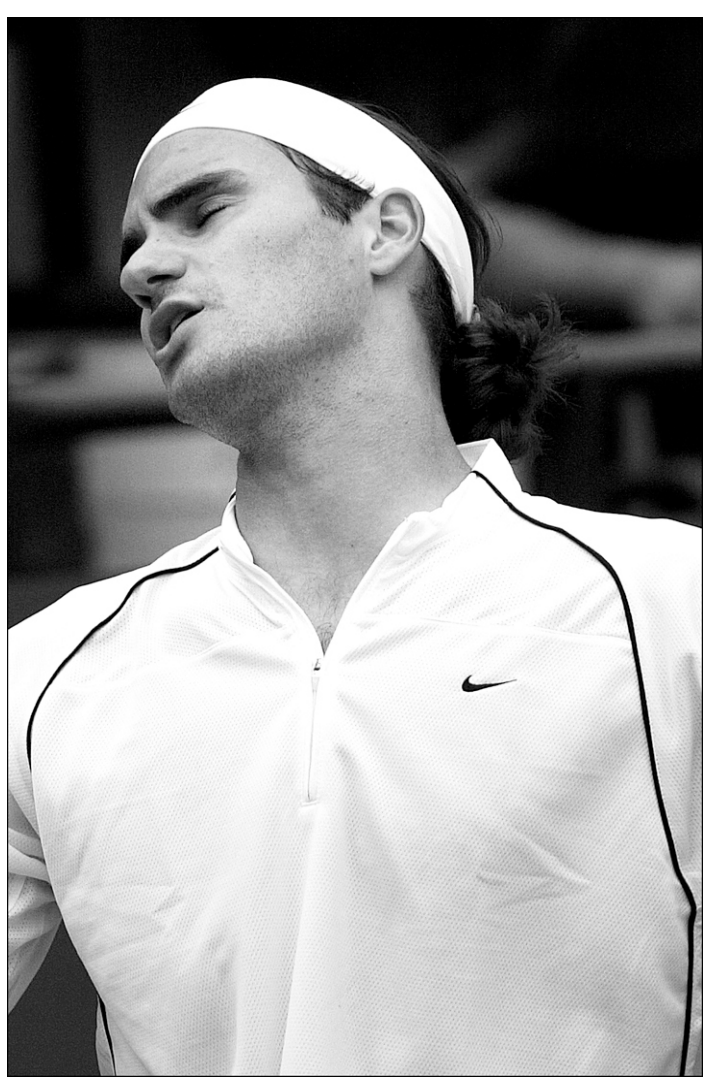
"But I started to miss some easy returns in the second set and he came to terms with my game." Costa said he had to change his game plan to overcome the reigning Wimbledon champion.

the first round, edged a three set tussle against Moroccan Hicham Arazi to set up a third round meeting against Nikolay Davydenko.

Earlier in the day, former world number one Lleyton Hewitt fought back from a set down to defeat Italian wild card Andreas Seppi 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 in their rain-delayed first round match.

The game was suspended late Tuesday with Seppi leading 7-5, 3-3 before heavy rain brought play to an end.

Seeded 15, Hewitt showed plenty of character to save his skin after being outplayed in the first set by the 20-year-old trying to win his first career ATP match in five attempts.



Swiss Roger Federer reacts after losing a point to Spaniard Albert Costa at the Rome Masters Series on May 5.

Clijsters survives a scare

Tennis
AFP, Berlin

Kim Clijsters, playing her first tour match since early March, survived a tough challenge from Spain's Marta Marrero to reach the third round of the German Open with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 victory on Wednesday.

return, and Marrero broke her to love in the next game to level at 2-2. With the match delicately balanced, Marrero's challenge then imploded when she struck two consecutive double-faults to give Clijsters a break at 3-3, but the Belgian still had to fight off two break points at 5-4 as she served for the match.

"I didn't come here and expect to win all my matches 1 and 1," said Clijsters. "I wasn't playing my best tennis all the time. It wasn't consistent

Don't serve like I wish I could, but it was okay today and hopefully it will keep going like that."

In other matches, ninth seed Vera Zvonareva was beaten 6-1, 6-7 (2/7), 6-1 by Australian Open semi-finalist Fabiola Zuluaga. But there was hope for fourth seed Anastasia Myskina, seventh seed Elena Dementieva, eighth seed Ai Sugiyama, 10th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova, 11th seed Paola Suarez, 13th seed Patty Schnyder and 16th seed Anna Smashnova-Pistolesi.

Maria Sharapova, seeded 17, also advanced when Petra Mandula of Austria retired during the first set with a right shoulder strain. The Russian was leading 5-4.

Kim Clijsters celebrates after beating Spaniard Marta Marrero at the German Open WTA tournament in Berlin on May 5.



Belgian Kim Clijsters celebrates after beating Spaniard Marta Marrero at the German Open WTA tournament in Berlin on May 5.

MURALI BOX

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1997: Takes 100th Test wicket against New Zealand.
1998: Takes 200th Test wicket against England.
Called again for throwing during one-day international in Adelaide, prompting the Sri Lanka team to leave the field in protest. Subsequent tests show that Muralitharan bowls with a bent elbow due to a congenital deformity but he conforms to the rules because he does not straighten his arm during delivery.
1999: Named as one of Wisden's five cricketers of the year. First county cricket appearance for Lancashire.
2000: Takes 300th Test wicket against South Africa.
2002: Becomes the youngest and quickest player to reach 400 Test wickets, reaching the mark in Sri Lanka's third Test against Zimbabwe, only the 72nd Test of his career.

MURALI BOX
CRYPTOQUIP
RX N MNMD RJ MFS1, R
JCTTFJY UOY TNSYIU
SYNPPD WF UOSFCWN
PFU FX AONIWYJ.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A FORECAST CALLS FOR A DOWNPOUR, I SUPPOSE ONE COULD CALL IT A WETTER REPORT.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals L.
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.

IM Chess

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Rafiqul Islam, GM of Dhaka Zone of United Insurance and Leasing, also spoke on the occasion. The insurance company has been sponsoring the GM and IM tournaments in the country for the past 13 years. They paid Tk 3 lakh to win the title sponsorship right this time. "The champion will collect a purse of 600 dollars while the foreign IMs will get a token participation fee of 100 dollars each. We will also provide conveyance allowance to the local participants," said Sujuddin.

enough, but I played well at the end when I had to. What I have to focus on now is working my way back to being consistent the whole match."

It was a difficult match for Clijsters, and she looked distinctly uncomfortable at times against an accomplished clay court opponent. Marrero struck a number of impressive crosscourt winners, and Clijsters suffered a mid-match crisis in the second set. Dulko initially offered more resistance early in the second set, rallying strongly and often pulling Mauresmo wide. But a double-fault at 2-2 ended her brief threat to extend the match, and a netted backhand at 4-2 left Mauresmo serving for a place in the third round. "I think the first couple games it was a little tight, then I was able to find my rhythm and make sure she didn't have any opportunity to hurt me," said Mauresmo. "I'm pretty satisfied with today's match and every area of the game. My back is off and on a little bit and I

The matches will start at 3pm.