

ACC Trophy UAE oust Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Defending champions United Arab Emirates coasted to a 61 run victory over hosts Malaysia Saturday in the quarterfinals of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Trophy at the Royal Selangor Club Oval in Kuala Lumpur.

UAE won the toss and opted to bat, scoring a target of 267 runs for the hosts to chase thanks to S Maqsood, who top scored with 83 runs.

AA Khan (54) and Karim Khan (39) were equally devastating with the bat as the Malaysian fielders had a tough time trying to contain the UAE batsmen.

Maqsood, who faced 97 balls, hit three boundaries and four sixes before eventually falling to a catch by M Muniandy.

The Malaysian bowling attack was led its skipper Suresh Navaratnam and was loose in their deliveries with a total of 23 extras. Suresh was the best Malaysian bowler with figures 4-46 but the damage had been done.

Malaysia started off brightly but their three top batsmen Rohan Selvaratnam (40), Rakesh Mahdevan (68) and Sarath Jayawardhene (51) were all victims of run outs.

In the end, Malaysia could only score 206 runs, falling short of the UAE total by 61 runs.

UAE will now take on Kuwait in the semifinals tomorrow at the same venue.

Kuwait defeated a spirited Afghanistan side by 49 runs in their quarterfinal match.

Oman had the easiest of the quarterfinal matches as they defeated Bhutan by 10 wickets. Bhutan, who batted first, could only manage a paltry 70 runs and Oman surpassed the total in only 4.4 overs with A. Illayas hitting 50.

In the semis Oman will meet Qatar, who dashed the hopes of Nepal with a four-wicket victory.

Dalmiya next

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on a rotation basis, and it is now India's turn to take the chair. The election, which is expected to be a formality, will take place in London, where the heads of boards will be present for an ICC executive board meeting.

Dalmiya's term as president of the BCCI ends only in September, which means that there will be a period of three months when he will head both, the ACC and the BCCI. Dalmiya had earlier been the secretary of the ACC between 1993 and 1996.

It's harder

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had to do something special to pull out of it.

"There will be other times when they will be under the same pressure and don't do enough and we have to be ready to take our chance when that happens."

Sri Lanka's tour starts with a warm-up game against a Northern Territory Chief Minister's XI starting on June 24 before two Tests in Darwin and Cairns from July 1.

The Indian

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the order is nothing new in Indian cricket as many, including Dilip Sardesai, Ashok Mankad and Ravi Shastri, have performed both roles.

But the problem of finding a player with the right credentials is also nothing new. Legendary former Indian batsman Sunil Gavaskar may be forgiven for not remembering the names of all his opening partners because most of them disappeared only too quickly.

The 'Little Master', the first batsman to complete 10,000 Test runs, opened with more than a dozen partners during his illustrious career (1971 to 1987), but only Chetan Chauhan, Anshuman Gavaskar and Krishnamachari Srikkanth could make any impression.

So the scenario remains as grim as ever. It is now considered an achievement of sorts when the same pair of openers lasts more than one Test series.

Sehwag has already had four partners -- Chopra, Bangar, Patel and Wasim Jaffer -- and is set to have the fifth in Yuvraj.

Jaffer, Shiv Sundar Das and Deep Dasgupta, who have opened in recent years, have now been virtually reduced to footnotes in Indian cricket history.

And it is history that Ganguly is seeking to overturn as he seeks to find such a rare jewel in Indian cricket -- a durable opening pair.

NOTICE
Dear readers, crossword will have to stop for the time being as our stock has run out. As soon as we get more, crossword will resume.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh's centurions in the Test series against the West Indies, Mohammad Rafique (L), Khaled Mashud (4th left) and Habibul Bashar (2nd R), receive 'Golden Bat Award' from Paramount Insurance Company at its Gulshan office on Saturday. Each of the three Tigers received Tk 30,000.

Chanderpaul sees WI home



AFP, Hove

Shivnarine Chanderpaul's unbeaten 71 saw the West Indies home to a six-wicket win against Sussex in a rain-affected day-night limited-overs game here Saturday.

After the embarrassment of their midweek defeat by Ireland, the West Indies badly needed a victory to get their tour of England back on track ahead of next week's triangular one-day series, also featuring New Zealand.

Sussex won the toss and made a useful total of 292 or six from their full 50 overs.

Former Zimbabwe batsman Murray Goodwin's 90 was the centrepiece of their innings. Goodwin, who also plays for Western Australia, faced just 94 balls with one six and 11 fours.

But Goodwin, in sight of his hundred, was caught by Chris Gayle off the bowling of medium-pacer Darren Sammy.

Together with Tim Ambrose he put on 99 for the fourth wicket with the wicketkeeper going on to make 79 not out from 87 balls with one six and 11 fours.

However, rain between innings meant the West Indies were left 255 runs to win off 40 overs and a further interruption saw them chasing a target of 181 off 23, at an average of nearly eight an over.

Devon Smith (nought) and Ramnaresh Sarwan (one) both fell cheaply to James Kirtley, the for-

mer England seamer taking two for four in three overs.

But Chris Gayle's aggressive 57 off 44 balls with two sixes and eight fours helped the tourists overcome these early setbacks before he was lbw to medium-pacer Robin Martin-Jenkins.

However, left-hander Chanderpaul's dashing 58-ball innings including three sixes and seven fours saw his side home with two overs left.

West Indies captain Brian Lara got 15 not out.

His side have further one-day warm-up games against Kent on Monday and Middlesex on Wednesday before their first triangular match, against New Zealand, at Edgbaston next Saturday.

Following the triangular event, England play West Indies in a four-Test series due to start at Lord's on July 22.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the day-night one-day match between Sussex and West Indies at Hove on Saturday:

SUSSEX

Yardy b Rampaul	10
Prior b Rampaul	37
Goodwin c Gayle b Sammy	90
Adams c Best b Dwayne	8
Ambrose not out	79
Hopkinson c Lara b Sarwan	11
Martin-Jenkins c sub b Best	22
Wright not out	9
Extras (lb-11, nb-12, w-3)	26
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 ovres)	292

Fall of wickets: 1-37 2-67 3-103 4-2025-2176-261

Did not bat: Davis, Kirtley, Voros

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Best	10	0	62	1
Rampaul	10	0	59	2
Dwayne	6.2	0	18	1
Sammy	10	1	48	1
Powell	0.4	0	6	0
Gayle	7	0	41	0
Sarwan	6	0	47	1

WEST INDIES

Gayle lbw b Martin-Jenkins	57
Devon lbw b Kirtley	0
Sarwan c Adams b Kirtley	1
Chanderpaul not out	71
Powell run out	18
Lara not out	15
Extras (lb-8, w-13, nb-1)	22
Total: (For 4 wkts in 21 overs)	184
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-12, 3-95, 4-116	

Did not bat: Dwayne, Sammy,

Baugh, Rampaul, Best

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kirtley	3	2	4	2
Wright	4	0	61	0
M-Jenkins	5	0	28	1
Voros	4	0	22	0
Davis	1	0	15	0
Yardy	3	0	30	0
Hopkinson	1	0	16	0
Result: West Indies won by six wickets (Duckworth-Lewis method).				

Thanks 'Grandpa' Boris



REUTERS, London

Anastasia Myskina, the newest member of the Grand Slam winners' club, will launch her assault on the Wimbledon title with the words of Boris Yeltsin ringing in her ears.

The former Russian president was quick to congratulate Myskina on winning the French Open this month and had a few tips for the Muscovite ahead of next week's grasscourt Grand Slam.

"Oh, he's like a Grandpa to me," the 22-year-old smiled on Sunday.

"He always has tips for me on how to play...it's really nice.

"I had lunch with him at his house last week and he had some tips for me. He is always like 'you should play down the line more'.

"He's coming here for the first week to watch.

Myskina is seeded second for Wimbledon and senses that since her Paris triumph other players are treating her with more respect.

"It is starting to sink in," she said.

"I mean the morning after I was jumping in my bed and screaming 'I am a Grand Slam champion'.



ANASTASIA MYSKINA

"And now I think some of the other players are maybe a little more scared of me. I feel different. I feel more confident."

Myskina became the first Russian woman to win a Grand

Slam event when she triumphed at Roland Garros but knows she must put that behind her if she is to succeed at Wimbledon.

"That's in the past," she smiles when reminded of her French glory.

"This is a new tournament, and it is going to be a tough one.

"Before Paris I always thought I felt more comfortable on grass than on clay but now I guess I don't know.

"But really I feel comfortable on all surfaces everywhere. You know, if you play right, you can do anything.

That philosophy applies equally to her compatriots. A Russian woman has now won titles in the last three weeks, Maria Sharapova winning Edgbaston the week after Paris and Svetlana Kuznetsova winning at Eastbourne on Saturday.

"It is awesome...really great," Myskina said.

"I mean I would love it if there were four of us in the semifinals.

"For a while everybody has been saying 'the Russians are coming'.

"Well now we are here."

Wimbledon starts today

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defeat to Croatia's Mario Ancic in 2001.

"I was using too much energy with all the negative thoughts and all of it would make me very tired at the end of a tournament. I would get to the quarters or the semis and I was very tired already and I couldn't imagine myself playing two or three weeks in a row.

"But that Wimbledon victory was such a dream. Now it still gets me all emotional inside."

Federer, however, has his work cut out if he is to feel really at home in the pantheon of the greats.

Sampras was a seven-time winner, Bjorn Borg five while John McEnroe and Boris Becker lifted the famous trophy on three occasions.

This year, he is seeded to face US Open winner Andy Roddick in the final with the American 21-year-old fresh from a successful defence of his Queen's Club where he fired down more world record setting service howitzers.

"I felt I was playing really good tennis last year," said Roddick who has former Andre Agassi coach, Brad Gilbert in his corner.

"Now I feel that it's not surpris-

ing if I'm playing that well whereas, last year at Wimbledon, I was kind of like: OK, I'm playing great, let's keep going. This year I might go in and I could be playing badly but still think that I could pull it together."

Roddick was beaten in the semi-finals by Federer last year but was in awesome form at Queen's where he set a new record for the world's fastest serve timed at 246.2 kph.

Roddick, who faces Taiwan qualifier Yeu-Tzuoo Wang in his opener, also put out 2002 Wimbledon champion and triple Queen's champion Lleyton Hewitt in the semi-finals.

"I don't try for the record serves, they just happen," said the American.

Britain's Tim Henman, four times a semi-finalist and seeded five this year, could be the biggest threat to a Federer-Roddick showdown on July 4 as he tries to become the first home men's winner since Fred Perry in 1936.

"At this time of year, there are so many opinions out there and the fact is there is very few I am worried about or interested in," said the 29-year-old Henman.

"I am pretty good at taking care

Hayward eyes SA comeback

BBC ONLINE, undated

Fast bowler Nantie Hayward has been cleared to resume his international career with South Africa.

He turned his back on the national team last year when he opted to pursue his career in English county cricket.

Hayward is currently playing for Middlesex but could now be selected for the forthcoming tour to Sri Lanka.

"We need committed, fit fast bowlers and to have a man of Nantie's ability fighting for a place in the team can only be good," said coach Eric Simons.

Hayward has not played Test cricket since taking 5-56 against Pakistan in January 2003 to lift his overall total to 50 wickets from 14 matches.

He subsequently joined Worcestershire before moving on to Middlesex for 2004, and the club has indicated it will release him if he is picked by South Africa.

"I made some rash decisions, which I have now put behind me and I'm totally focused on playing for South Africa again.

"I would love to get the chance to prove myself at the highest level."

Former Zimbabwe all-rounder Neil Johnson is also available to play for South Africa after completing a four-year residential qualification.

South Africa will play two Tests and five one-dayers in Sri Lanka during August and are also due to tour India later in the year, as well as taking part in the ICC Champions' Trophy in England.

B'baria cricket

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Deawra Cricket Club and Brothers Union Cricket Club won their respective matches in Shaheed Freedom Fighter Ranga Mia Cup tournament at Shahjadapur Junior High School playground yesterday.

In the first match, Deawra defeated Dharanti Cricket Club by six runs.

Winning the toss Deawra decided to bat first and collected 70 runs all out in 19.1 overs.

In reply, Dharanti were bundled out for 64 in 18.2 overs.

In the other match, Brothers Union Cricket Club beat Shapla Kuri Cricket Club by four wickets.

Winning the toss, Shapla Kuri batted first and collected 51 in 16.2 overs after being all out.

In reply, Brothers Union reached the target of 52 runs for six in 15.3 overs.

They really

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If Latvia is to pull another shock off against the Dutch they will need 24-year-old star striker Maris Verpakovskis at his best like he was against Germany.

"The run by Maris was unbelievable I have not seen anything like that in the tournament," lauded Starkovs.

In the first half Verpakovskis turned brilliantly by the centre circle before accelerating past two defenders only to see a tame shot saved by Oliver Kahn.

Even German national coach Rudi Voller, a prolific striker himself, found time to single out the fleet-footed target-man.

"He is unbelievably quick," said Voller. "He was their best player tonight but we knew he was the danger man beforehand."

Rooney now

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Bayern Munich's Robert Kovac provides experience at the back, where he will be joined by skipper Boris Zivkovic, who missed the draw against France with a knee problem.

Captain David Beckham knows England cannot afford to be complacent. They needed only a draw with Romania in their last group game at Euro 2000 to reach the quarter-finals but lost 3-2 after conceding a late penalty.

"They were bad memories," Beckham said. "We can't let it happen again."

Harbhajan

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Australia at Brisbane in December.

The off-spinner, with 104 wickets in the shorter version of the game, played his last one-day in November at home against Ricky Ponting's Australians.

Zaheer, with 125 wickets in one-dayers, missed India's last two Tests in Pakistan in April due to a hamstring injury.

"All the probabilities are fit," said Nair.

Rohan Gavaskar, son of legendary former Indian opener Sunil, was also named among the probabilities after missing a one-day series in Pakistan.

PROBABLES

Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Parthiv Patel, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik, Ramesh Powar, Hemang Badani, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Laxmipathy Balaji, Amit Bhandari, Rohan Gavaskar.

The real champion



WIMBLEDON

AFP, London

At Wimbledon 2004, there are two defending men's champions.

There is Roger Federer, the winner in 2003, and then there is Goran Ivanisevic who swept to an emotional triumph in 2001 and hasn't been back since.

Years of struggling with a shoulder injury have kept the hugely popular Croatian away from the All England Club but now, three years after his tearful win, the 32-year-old has made it back for what will be his last tournament.

His swansong may last just one

round when he faces Russian 31st seed Mikhail Youzhny, or he might, just might put in another repeat performance of three years ago when he was also handed a wildcard and went all the way to the greatest moment of his career.

"I think I owe it to myself and my fans in Britain to play one more Wimbledon," said Ivanisevic.

"This is going to be my last professional match and there is no better tournament to end my career.

"It's going to be very tough walking to the net for the last time. That will be it after 15 years. No more professional tennis. I don't know what kind of emotions are going to go through my head. It will be interesting."

Although there will be a groundswell of support for him, the indications are that his final appearance will be brief.

He has won just two matches all year, his ranking has slipped to 415 and his first round exit on grass at Queen's two weeks ago against Romania's Victor Hanescu indicated that even though the spirit was willing, the body was not.

"Wimbledon is everything to me," he said.

"My shoulder is fine and my goal is to pass the first week and after that, who cares?"

"The last two years were very tough for me. It's like when you don't drive a car for two years, you have to change the parts. But I can't change all of my body.

"Every time I play now, I get small injuries; not just my shoulder, but my back, my knee and my neck. I just pray I don't get hurt again before it starts. I have to be careful because I can get injured getting out of bed nowadays," added Ivanisevic whose hopes of appearing last year were shattered when he injured his foot stepping on a shell on a Miami beach.

Ivanisevic first played here in 1988 and went out in the first round, in 1990 he lost to Boris Becker in the semifinals and was runner-up to Andre Agassi in 1992.

His tale of what-might-have-been continued in 1994 when he was beaten in the final by Pete Sampras followed by a semifinal loss to Sampras in 1995.

It was also Sampras who got the better of him in the 1998 final before that incredible victory over Pat Rafter in 2001 finally delivered the trophy to him.

His first round match this year will be staged on one of the show courts.

"It would be nice to play Centre Court again," he said.

"That was the first major court I ever played on. But I just want to be at Wimbledon one more time, I don't care what court I play on."

But whatever happens this week, he will be back -- his win here in 2001 automatically made him an honorary member of the All England Club.

"Next year I will wear my tie and drink tea."

Bend it like Serena



WIMBLEDON

REUTERS, London

Serena Williams has big plans for Wimbledon. "I'm going to bend it like Beckham," she laughs.

Williams says she is fully fit and raring to go as she prepares to defend the only grand slam title left in her possession.

She also claims to be drawing inspiration from England's soccer captain.

"I love David Beckham," she said at the All England Club on Sunday. "I am really excited about the England team at Euro 2004.

"I'm going to be watching the matches...and I've been following Beckham since the World Cup in '98."

The Williams family have not been without a Grand Slam title since 1998, putting added pressure on Serena.

"I have to work really hard here," she said. "People are here trying to steal my title from me."

"I think anyone is a big threat to my title. If I get over-confident I could end up going home early and that is not something I want to do."

Both Serena and elder sister Venus lost in the quarterfinals of the French Open last month and Serena is determined not to repeat that disappointment.

"Oh my God... my suicide in Paris," she groaned.

"I was so disappointed. No matter what I do or how hard I try I am not going to be able to rewind time."

"I have just got to get over it, you

know? I didn't want to bring the bad karma to Wimbledon.

"You can't live in the past. You have to live in the present and in the future. If I lived in the past I would still be in the '80s."

Dismissing suggestions she has become distracted from tennis and is diverting time and energy away from the court and into her nascent acting career, the top seed said: "I am more serious about tennis than ever."

"Before when I was win-



SERENA WILLIAMS

ning...when I was able to play all the time it was like 'whatever'," she grinned. "Now it is different. I really want to win...I just hate to lose."

"Physically I am close to 100 percent. But you know, everybody expects me to win 100 per cent of the time...I expect myself to win 200 per cent of the time but no matter how good you are, you are not going to win