

Tendulkar told to rest more

BBC ONLINE, undated

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar will not play for Mumbai in the domestic Ranji Trophy competition in India.

India physiotherapist Andrew Leipus Saturday said there was no prospect of fans in Mumbai seeing their hero play.

"His tennis elbow is still a problem," Leipus told a website, saying Tendulkar had one eye on the upcoming home series against Pakistan.

"I spoke to surgeons in Australia and they thought it would be better to rest it before going into the major games."

Leipus said all-rounder Ajit Agarkar, who also plays for Mumbai, would also be rested.

"Agarkar has lost a lot of muscle mass and the recovery was not as good as we had expected," he said.

"So we thought it would be better to rest him because if he continues this way he may be susceptible to injuries."

Young fast bowler Irfan Pathan, meanwhile, was advised to pull out of the Baroda team for its most recent Ranji Trophy fixture.

He had picked up a nagging groin injury during the first one-day international in Bangladesh.

India have still not announced their Test and one-day fixtures for the home series against Pakistan next month.

England turn to Warne's guru

AFP, Sydney

Shane Warne's spin guru Terry Jenner leaves this month to help England develop a Test-standard leg-spinner.

Jenner has been hired by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to unearth the closest he can find to the next Warne, who is Test cricket's leading bowler with 561 wickets.

Warne's mentor leaves for England on January 9 in a project that has already spanned five years.

"It's not about finding another Shane Warne -- there's only one of him, and only ever will be," Jenner said Saturday.

"But they want a leg-spinner. They have seen what (paceman) Glenn McGrath and Warne have done and like a lot of countries, they are looking at that as a bit of a model for the way the game can be played."

"A quick and a fantastic leggie. Finding the fast bowlers isn't the major problem. Finding a good leg-spinner is."

"There is some good talent over there. I'd say at the same age there is as much talent in England as there is in Australia."

"But I think players are maybe more determined to push themselves and do the work here than some of the younger English blokes."

Noor, Farhad

FROM PAGE 13

points at the end of the sixth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Nine players followed them with five points each. They are Naser, Mostafa, Nazrul, Shahjahan, Mithu, Mollah, Faruque, Qasem and Nasir.

Sobhan rejoins

FROM PAGE 13

Club for the year 2004-05.

Sobhan is also a renowned industrialist and the co-chairman of Bashundhara Group.

Victoria officials expressed the hope that his experience and achievement in sports arena would help the traditional club further enhance its reputation.



PHOTO: STAR

Intekhab Mahmud (C), senior vice-president of sponsors CityCell, takes questions from reporters during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday organised in connection with the Test and ODI series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Premiership

Cole denies Liverpool

AFP, Liverpool

Substitute Joe Cole scored a potentially priceless 80th-minute winner as Chelsea secured a controversial 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday.

The England international had only been on the pitch five minutes when his 25-year drive beat goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek with the aid of a deflection.

It was a severely harsh blow for Liverpool, who were denied at least one blatant penalty in a game they controlled for long periods before Cole claimed the winner against them for the second time this season.

A frustrating afternoon for Liverpool was compounded by a bad injury for Spanish midfielder Xabi Alonso, who was left nursing a broken ankle after a dreadful challenge by Frank Lampard.

The England midfielder was fortunate to escape with just a caution. Alonso, who cost the Merseyside club 10.5 million pounds when he joined from Real Sociedad in the summer, is expected to be out of action for the next two months.

The Merseyside club were look-

ing to extend a three-match winning run, their best Premiership form since Rafael Benitez took charge in the summer.

Leading scorer Milan Baros was once again missing with a hamstring injury as Liverpool looked to become only the second Premiership side to defeat Chelsea.

Jose Mourinho's side arrived at Anfield protecting an 11-match unbeaten record in the league. Only three clubs -- Aston Villa, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur -- had prevented them from scoring while they had not conceded a goal in more than five hours of action.

Yet Czech Republic goalkeeper Petr Cech was forced to come to his side's rescue on more than one occasion during a lively first half in which Liverpool, who carved out the better chances, were denied a 37th minute penalty after Tiago clearly handled the ball inside his own area.

Chelsea appeared to be suffering from a New Year hangover as French defender Djimi Traore, who has not scored a league goal in almost six years at Anfield, had a 15th minute drive saved after Eidur Gudjohnsen had lost possession deep inside his own half.

The visitors' defence was again caught napping four minutes later as John Arne Riise delivered a fine

cross which would surely have resulted in a goal had Alonso arrived inside the six-yard area a fraction earlier.

Alonso's involvement ended in the 27th minute when he limped off six minutes after Lampard's cynical challenge. X-rays confirmed he had fractured a bone in his ankle.

Steven Gerrard, who Chelsea tried to sign last summer, Luis Garcia and substitute Antonio Nunez all forced Cech into saves before the interval, although Liverpool were given a warning when Tiago's through ball sent Arjen Robben clean through only for the Holland striker to be denied by a splendid save by Jerzy Dudek.

Controversy flared eight minutes before the break when Tiago handled inside his own area as Nunez attempted a header but the incident was missed by referee Mike Riley who was surrounded by incensed Liverpool players.

Liverpool continued to press with Jamie Carragher hitting the roof of the net from distance while Gerrard also went close before Cole had the final say after Robben's corner had been headed into his path by Glen Johnson.

It was Cole's fourth goal of the campaign. The England midfielder also scored the winner when the two sides met at Stamford Bridge in October.

Ukraine bestows honour on Shevchenko

REUTERS, Kiev

European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko and boxer Vitali Klitschko were awarded their country's highest honour, a "Hero of Ukraine", on Friday.

The outgoing Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a decree to honour the AC Milan striker "for his outstanding contribution to Ukrainian football."

Kuchma also honoured heavyweight champion Klitschko, who holds the World Boxing Council crown.

Shevchenko was in Kiev on Friday to show his Ballon D'Or award received earlier this month to young players of the Dynamo Kiev academy -- where his own footballing career had started.

The 28-year-old, who was also shortlisted for FIFA's World Player of the Year award, was the top scorer in the Serie A last season. His goals helped Milan to the Italian title in 2004 and the Champions League crown the previous year.

He has also put his national side on the brink of reaching their first major finals -- the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Unbeaten Ukraine lead European Zone Group Two with 11 points from five matches after crushing 2002 World Cup semi-finalists Turkey 3-0 in Istanbul last month.

Shevchenko and Klitschko follow swimmer Yana Klochkova, who won two Olympic golds in Athens, as winners of the Hero award from the world of sport this year.

Milan, Inter accounts probed

REUTERS, Milan

Prosecutors are investigating the accounts of Serie A clubs AC Milan and Inter Milan as part of a probe into suspected accounting fraud in Italian soccer, sources close to the investigation said on Thursday.

The two Milan clubs were not available for comment.

In February finance police searched the offices of all 42 soccer clubs in Italy's top two divisions, the Italian Football Federation and the body that runs the Italian league.

At the time, the clubs denied wrongdoing.

Italian soccer sides, some of which are battling record debts and heavy losses, came under increasing legal scrutiny earlier this year following allegations of widespread balance sheet malpractice and transfer irregularities.

Tokyo Verdy win Emperor's Cup

AFP, Tokyo

Tokyo Verdy's stout defence held on for a 2-1 victory over Jubilo Iwata to win the Emperor's Cup football final on Saturday despite being reduced to 10 men.

It was the fifth time Tokyo has won the knock-out tournament and the victory earned the side a berth in the AFC Champions League next year.

"It was a tough game, not only this game, but it was really tough to reach the final, said Tokyo's Argentine coach Osvaldo ("Ossie") Ardiles.

"When we had to fight with only 10 men, my players did an excellent job, which brought us the victory."

"Everyone defended bravely. Our defence deserves this victory."

"We had a lot of problems throughout the season and we ended in a pretty good style today. I'm optimistic about the next season," added Ardiles.

Matches

FROM PAGE 13

Board has pledged the gate receipts from its series against Zimbabwe, estimated at 10,000 US dollars, to relief efforts.

The tsunami-affected areas include Sri Lanka and India which are ICC Full Members; Malaysia which has been an ICC Associate Member since 1967; and Thailand, the Maldives and Indonesia which are all ICC Affiliate Members.

Tushar, Nafees

FROM PAGE 13

Did not bat: Shahadat Hossain, Shafaq Al Jabir.

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-47, 3-159, 4-179, 5-183, 6-183, 7-195.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	5	0	35	1
Hondo	8	1	29	0
Mupariwa	9	1	28	1
Chigumbura	14	1	71	0
Utseya	26	4	82	1
Matsikenyeri	17	2	53	4
Taylor	1	0	3	0

ZIMBABWE: First innings

Matsikenyeri batting	12
Rogers batting	18
Extras: (lb-5, nb-6)	11
Total: (No loss in 10 overs)	41

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shahadat	5	2	15	0
Jabir	4	0	15	0
Tareq	1	0	2	0

Tevez best Latino again

Football

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro,

Argentina forward Carlos Tevez has been voted Latin America's Footballer of the Year for the second year running in a poll by Uruguayan newspaper El Pais on Friday.

Tevez, 20, led Argentina to the gold medal at the Olympic Games soccer tournament in August, finishing as top scorer with eight goals.

He was also in the Argentina team which finished as runners-up to Brazil at the Copa America in July and helped Boca Juniors win the Copa Sudamericana in December in his last game for the club before moving to Corinthians.

Tevez, who received 76 votes, was signed by the Brazilian club at the start of this month in a 18 million dollars move, a record deal between two South American clubs.

Only former Colombia midfielder Carlos Valderrama had previously won the award twice.

River Plate midfielder Javier

Mascherano, another 20-year-old Argentine, was second with 56 votes after an outstanding season in which he established himself as a regular for his national team.

Third place was shared between



CARLOS TEVEZ

Brazil and Santos forward Robinho and Argentina midfielder Luis Gonzalez, who also plays for River. Both received 37 votes.

The award, the most respected in the region, has been given every

year since 1986 and is based on a poll of around 400 journalists.

Players and coaches have to be based in Latin America for at least part of the year to be eligible.

Previous winners include Brazil's Romario and Cafu.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

- 1986 - Antonio Alzamendi (Uruguay)
- 1987 - Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
- 1988 - Ruben Paz (Uruguay)
- 1989 - Bebeto (Brazil)
- 1990 - Raul Vicente Amarilla (Paraguay)
- 1991 - Oscar Ruggeri (Argentina)
- 1992 - Rai (Brazil)
- 1993 - Carlos Valderrama (Colombia)
- 1994 - Cafu (Brazil)
- 1995 - Enzo Francescoli (Uruguay)
- 1996 - Jose Luis Chilavert (Paraguay)
- 1997 - Marcelo Salas (Chile)
- 1998 - Martin Palermo (Argentina)
- 1999 - Javier Saviola (Argentina)
- 2000 - Romario (Brazil)
- 2001 - Juan Roman Riquelme (Argentina)
- 2002 - Jose Cardozo (Paraguay)
- 2003 - Carlos Tevez (Argentina)
- 2004 - Carlos Tevez (Argentina)

WORLD SOCCER BRIEFS

AFP, Lisbon

Portugal is preparing to host a football match between its national team and a squad made up of players from the Asian nations hit by last weekend's devastating tsunami to help raise funds to support victims of the disaster.

The president of the Portuguese Football Federation, Gilberto Madal, told Radio Renascenca the match will be held during the first two weeks of January at Lisbon's 65,000-seat Stadium of Light.

The venue hosted the Euro 2004 final on July 4 in which Portugal lost to Greece in one of one of the biggest shocks in football history.

Money raised from ticket sales for the game will be handed over to charities working to aid victims of Sunday's earthquake-triggered tsunami, which the United Nations has warned may have killed up to 150,000 people.

SOLARITO JOIN BARCA

AFP, Barcelona

Real Madrid's Argentine midfielder Santiago Solari will join arch-rivals Barcelona in June 2005, sporting daily AS reported on Friday.

Barcelona club president Joan Laporta said he had secured the services of Solari whose contract with Real expires on June 30 next year, according to the newspaper.

Barcelona, on top of the Spanish league, refused to comment on the matter when contacted directly.

AS mentioned the FIFA rule which allows players to negotiate freely with clubs of their choice during the last six months of their contracts.

The 28-year-old Solari will allow coach Frank Rijkaard to regain balance on the left flank since the departure of Luis Garcia to Liverpool and will give more freedom to 2004 World Footballer of the Year Ronaldinho.

Solari, bought by Madrid in 2000, has made few appearances in Madrid's starting line-up.

HENCHOZ HITS OUT AT BENITEZ

AFP, Liverpool

Swiss international defender Stephane Henchoz is set to leave English Premiership giants Liverpool and he admitted on Friday that he couldn't leave fast enough.

The 30-year-old slammed Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez for leaving him out in the cold since he took over from Gerard Houllier last summer having made just four appearances, three in the League Cup and one in the Champions League.

"I am the king of the outlaws at Liverpool and my time is up at the club," said Henchoz, whose contract runs out in the summer.

"As far as they are concerned, I no longer exist."

"If I now leave it will be as a free agent and Liverpool won't make a single penny from me."

"After what the manager has done to me, I'm not going to give him any presents."

The Swiss centre-back says he has been made to train with the other out of favour players and could be on his way to relegation candidates Southampton.

"I need to find a challenge that excites me and a club that really clicks with me," he said.

"I could still stay in England. There are already two or three possibilities and things are beginning to get moving."



PHOTO: STAR

A Mohammed attack at the Ajax post during their Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League encounter at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium yesterday.

Hopman Cup starts today

Russia favourites to win

Tennis

REUTERS, Perth

Marat Safin and Anastasia Myskina, the only grand slam champions in the eight-team field, will be hot favourites to win Russia's first Hopman Cup when the ITF mixed team event gets underway on Sunday.

With a knee injury keeping women's world number one Lindsay Davenport from joining James Blake for the US, the Russian duo are odds on to triumph at Perth's Burswood Dome.

While world number four Safin was only due in Western Australia on Saturday after collecting an award from the Russian government, Myskina arrived down under early in an effort to avoid a repeat of 2004 when she and Safin failed to make it through the group stage.

Safin also lost in the group stage on his only other appearance, in 2001.

"Hopefully me and Marat will do our best here because last year we lost and it was because of me

most of the time," smiled Myskina, who won her first grand slam title at the French Open last year.

Myskina, one of three Russian women to win a grand slam title in 2004, said that she had set her sights on becoming world number one.

"It was a great year for me and all the Russian girls with the Fed Cup, grand slam titles and (WTA) Championship," she said. "That (world number one) is my goal for next year and if I can achieve that goal that would be great."

Russia will take on Argentina, Italy and Germany in Group A of the round robin stage, while in Group B, the U.S. will face the Slovak Republic, Australia and the Netherlands, who beat Zimbabwe in Saturday's qualifying match.

Guillermo Coria and Gisela Dulko lead Argentina's challenge, while Tommy Haas spearheads Germany's title bid after he regained his place in the world's top 20 in 2004 after more than a year out with a shoulder injury.

Meghann Shaughnessy replaces Davenport in the U.S. team as they try to win the event for

a record fifth time. Blake will be hoping to complete a personal hat-trick, having teamed with Serena Williams for victory in 2003 and Davenport in 2004.

The biggest challenge to Russia, though, could come with Serena Williams for victory in 2003 and Davenport in 2004.

Molik comes into 2005 as the world number 13 after the best year of her career, but much of the attention will be on Philippoussis as he returns after a two-month break, having plummeted from 10 to 109 in the rankings in 2004 on the back of 11 first-round defeats.

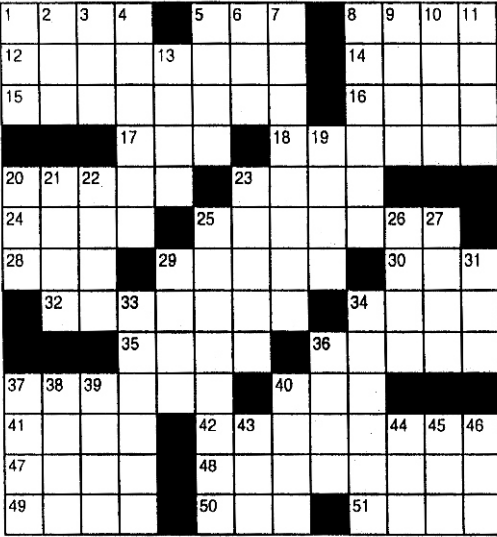
"I just want to start the year off strong and just enjoy myself out there," Philippoussis said.

"It was hard to enjoy the tennis (last year) and to be quite honest I didn't. I just wanted the year to end and that's why I took two months off."

Argentina take on Italy in the opening first-round match on Sunday, while Monday's action sees Russia against Germany and Australia taking on the Slovak Republic.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 Oodles	3 Apiece	23 Existentialist
1 Hemingway sobriquet	36 Re Ra	4 Obscure	playwright
5 Perch	King's genre	5 Drench	
8 Black, in verse	40 Church seat	6 Hostel	
12 Connotation	41 Chills and fever	7 On a leash	25 Streetcar driver
14 Caligula's nephew	42 ABC's	8 Baffler	26 "Ameri-can --"
15 Vendor	Vieira	9 Titanic thwarter	27 "David Copperfield"
16 Dr. Seuss' "If -- the Zoo"	47 Diamond or Simon	10 By spoken word of character	
17 Diving bird	48 Baldness	11 Zilch	29 Port
18 Bargain	49 Say it isn't so	13 Sound of a dull impact	
20 Improve	50 Pinch	14 Dull impact	
23 Bacterium	51 Land-lord's due	15 Host	31 Always
24 Lose color	21 One often	20 Sternward	33 Almost never
25 Chicken of the Sea symbol	1 Lap dog, for short	21 One often	34 Keg contents
28 Play-ground game	2 Rd.	22 Advantage	36 Leak slowly
29 Sweet-heart	Solution time: 24 mins.	23 Advantagetage	37 Applause
30 The buck stops here		24 Advantage	38 Curved molding
32 Deserved		25 Advantage	39 Destruction
34 Skin opening		26 Advantage	40 Object on stage
		27 Advantage	43 Inventor
		28 Advantage	Whitney
		29 Advantage	44 Bar supply
		30 Advantage	45 Stannum
		31 Advantage	46 Chapeau



CRYPTOQUIP

G T K S F V Q K U R G V G D Q S F
A G B B G F - V T F - L Q Q T
N T K Y K N V F Y E . A Q Z D U I Q Z

E K I G ' R V G X X F Y - T K L L I ?
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PODIATRIST TURNS AGAINST SOMEBODY, I SUPPOSE HE MIGHT BECOME AN ARCH ENEMY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P
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.