

Sania, Svetlana stumble

REUTERS, San Diego

Japan's Ai Sugiyama stunned US Open champion and second seed Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in one of several upsets in the third round of the Acura Classic on Thursday.

Russian 18-year-old Anna Chakvetadze upended ninth seed Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 6-1 and China's Shuai Peng beat number 16 seed Dinara Safina 7-6, 6-0.

Japan's Akiko Morigami ended Indian qualifier Sania Mirza's run with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 victory.

But fifth seed Patty Schnyder, sixth seed Mary Pierce and number seven Kim Clijsters all survived.

Schnyder beat Francesca Schiavone 6-7, 6-1, 6-4 and will meet France's Pierce, who beat compatriot Nathalie Dechy 7-5, 6-3.

Clijsters continued her fine run of form on the US hardcourts, she is unbeaten since the 2003 US Open final, when she powered past Jelena Jankovic 6-1 6-3.

Tense loss

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Dashing batsman Tushar Imran, who was the first innings' hero with 116, scored 12 as Bangladesh A went to tea at 71-3 but the crisis deepened when Alok Kapali (16) and Mehrab Hossain Jr (0) returned to the pavilion at the start of the final session.

Right-arm paceman John Blain made the initial damage removing openers Nafees Iqbal (12) and Shahriar Nafees (29) cheaply.

There was some resistance for the sixth wicket stand between Nazimuddin and Abdur Razzak but left-arm pacer David Lucas, who had got rid of one-down Tushar, broke the 32-run partnership when he had Razzak bowled for 26.

Nazimuddin, the last recognised batsman, was dismissed for nine.

Half their

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only concern will be how long he will have to do without one of the greatest players ever to grace the game.

McGrath is a major doubt for the third Test at Old Trafford starting next Thursday but has targeted "at worst" the fourth Test, which begins on August 25 at Trent Bridge, Nottingham.

In the meantime, England should enjoy the reprieve. And, perhaps, invite over Warne and his 593 leg-spin Test wickets for another game of touch rugby on Friday morning.



Did U Know?

France's Lucien Laurent scored the first-ever World Cup goal against Mexico in 1930.

World C'ships kick off today



AFP, Helsinki

The list of absentees might be growing by the day but in Justin Gatlin and Yelena Isinbayeva the World Championships organisers will hope they rise to the challenge and add world gold to their Olympic titles in the 100 metres and pole vault respectively when the event begins on Saturday.

Gatlin is the man to beat in the 100m after world record holder, Asafa Powell of Jamaica withdrew because of a groin injury which has dogged him since setting the new world mark of 9.77sec in June.

Gatlin has been the dominant sprinter as befits the Olympic champion and is set on emulating greats like Maurice Greene and Donovan Bailey in holding the two titles at the same time.

"To be set alongside such great athletes would be a privilege, but I am not going to anticipate my name being mentioned in the same breath until I do achieve that target," said the 22-year-old, who was controversially reinstated into the 100m at the US trials after being disqualified in the heats.

If rivals like training partner and Olympic 200m champion Shawn Crawford think that the win in Athens last year has sated his appetite then he will be sorely disappointed.

"I'm feeling very hungry. I want to add an outdoor World Championship to my titles."

Brothers stymie

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when Tapu, who came in for out-of-form Russian striker Victor Edwards, placed a low drive into the far post after Moroccan Hicham Inani's freekick had come off the wall.

Yellow cards: Tarek, Abul (Brothers) and Rachid (Russel)

TEAMS

BROTHERS: Tarek, Sujan, Jewel, Masud Rana, Siraji, Pranotosh, Abul (Monwar), Hicham, Liton Khan (Liton), Victor (Tapu) and Emily.

RUSSEL KC: Biplob, Aminul (Sharif), Pradeep, Jahirul, Yusuf Khan, Hanif (Nayan), Rachid, Egir, Tanvir, Bulbul and Yusuf.

Referee: Mansoor Azad.

Gatlin is also intent on breaking Powell's record and lay to rest any notion that just because the Jamaican is absent he won the title by default.

"World records are meant to be broken. I want to go out there and hopefully have that under my belt as well. 9.75sec is my goal and that's what I am going for," he said.

A lot rests on Gatlin's young shoulders to put up a scintillating performance as the list of absentees reads like a who's who of the sport.

400m hurdles world champion Jana Pittman, dual Olympic heroine Kelly Holmes and Moroccan 1500m legend Hicham El Guerrouj are definitely out and there are doubts over men's 400m hurdles Olympic champion Felix Sanchez -- though he appears intent on running against his doctor's advice.

Isinbayeva has already taken her event to new heights this season becoming the first woman to vault over the five-metre mark at Crystal Palace on July 22.

"I think I can make 5.5 metres," she said, though, the title will do for her this time round.

The men's 1500m crown has belonged to El Guerrouj for the past four championships so the field will be open for the likes of Olympic bronze medalist Rui Silva or Ukraine's Ivan Heshko to make a mark.

If there is to be a fresh world record set on the track then it may well come in the men's 110m hurdles which has been the outstanding event of the season.

China's Olympic champion Liu

Xiang jointly holds the world record with Colin Jackson, who set the mark of 12.91sec in the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, and has every chance of lowering it especially if he is pushed hard by 1996 Olympic champion and quadruple world titleholder Allen Johnson.

However, Liu -- bronze medallist in the 2003 worlds -- is not in a confident frame of mind, though, he may have developed a spot of kidoogy in his time on the European circuit.

"Liu Xiang is not as strong as before travelling to Athens for the Olympic Games last year," said his coach Sun Haiping.

"At that time, he was ready to create miracles in Athens. But now he is not in good form.

"It was a perfect performance in Athens but don't expect it to happen again," he added.

And if some of the old greats haven't been able to make it, as they wind down their careers, then in American duo Jeremy Wariner, the 400m Olympic champion, and 400m hurdles sensation Kerron Clement they have two of the stars of years to come.

Wariner does link the generations as he is coached by Michael Johnson's coach Clyde Hart and the great man himself is his agent.

"What drives me is the success Michael had because I want to be as successful as him. But I have my own goals and hopefully I can surpass his record," said the 21-year-old.



PHOTO: STAR

Donald Debinash, the eldest son of ailing footballer Debinash Sangma, comforts him at a local hospital on Friday.

Figo joins Inter

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan have completed the signing of Portugal international Luis Figo from Real Madrid, the Italian Serie A club confirmed Friday.

The 32-year-old forward passed a medical before putting pen to paper on a two-year contract.

No transfer fee was involved for Portugal's most capped player, who still had a year left on his contract with Real Madrid.

FIFA's World Player of the Year in 2001 and a Champions League winner in 2002, Figo will reportedly earn a total of 6.9 million euros over the two-year period at the Serie A club.

Figo will not be eligible to play for Inter in their Champions League third qualifying round, first leg tie away to Ukrainian side Shakhtar Donetsk next week as he didn't sign before the UEFA deadline for the match.

His first game is likely to be the Italian SuperCup match against Inter Milan on August 20.

Debinash's family appeals for help

SPORTS REPORTER

Ailing footballer Debinash Sangma's family has urged the government and Bangladesh Football Federation to come forward for his treatment.

The 75-year-old from Mymensingh has been suffering from bladder cancer since 1997 and is now critically ill in a local hospital.

"My father has spent his entire savings on his treatment and we are now helpless," said Donald Debashish, the eldest son of Debinash, yesterday.

"He needs constant treatment not only for the cancer but also other problems. It is very expensive and we have already spent Tk 8-10 lakh so far. We cannot take him abroad for lack of funds.

"As a famous footballer of the past, we hope the government or the football federation will think about giving financial assistance," he appealed.

Debinash, who was lying unconscious in a post-operative bed, played for Mohammedan Sporting Club mostly in a career spanning from 1956-69. He also played for Victoria Sporting Club and Wanderers Club for a season each. The defender was also the only Bangladeshi (he then East Pakistan) footballer to represent the Pakistani football team in the pre-Olympics in Iran in 1963.

"He had severe hepatitis in 1993 and his liver and kidney have also been damaged. It would have been better if we could take him to Mumbai's cancer hospital for better treatment," Debashish added.

Debinash, who worked the Housing and Settlement Directorate, has a wife and two sons.

McGrath targets

FROM PAGE 12

"The (cricket) ball was just set up, as we do for most games for our throwing warm-up.

"It's just one of those things. I realised before I hit the ground I was out of this Test match.

"I'm confident I can hopefully be right for Trent Bridge. That's what I'm aiming for, at worst," the 110-Test veteran added.

Helguera sad to see him go



Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Luis Figo's departure from Real Madrid marks the end of an era at the club, according to centre-back Ivan Helguera.

"As a team mate, a friend, and as a player it is a shame that he has gone," Helguera told the Real Madrid website on Friday.

"As a player he gave everything to Real Madrid and helped the club win a lot of trophies. I think the

arrival of Figo and (club president) Florentino Perez was a watershed for Real."

The 32-year-old Portuguese international signed a two-year deal with Inter Milan after leaving Real's pre-season training base on Thursday in order to pass a medical with the Serie A side.

Figo played an instrumental role in helping Perez become president of Real Madrid in July 2000. The construction magnate promised to buy the player out of his contract with Barcelona if he won the election.



LUIS FIGO

Against expectation Perez was catapulted to power on the back of the promise and paid a then world record \$56 million to bring Figo to the Bernabeu.

The arrival of Figo inaugurated the so-called Galactico era at Real with Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and David Beckham joining the club in succeeding years.

Figo won two league titles, the World Cup Cup, the European Super Cup and the Champions League in his first three seasons at Real.

Helguera, who had a brief spell at AS Roma earlier in his career, said the former World and European Player of the Year would have little difficulty adapting to Italian football.

"Given the power and strength that Luis has he can adjust to any type of football," he said. "Italian football is very physical, but I'm sure he will have no problems."

Helguera expressed his regret that fellow centre-back Walter Samuel had also recently left Real for Inter just a year after joining the Spaniards from Roma.

"I think he is a great player and that people, especially the fans, were a little unfair to him," he said. "Maybe the fans didn't give him enough time. Last season we had the second best defensive record in the league and that was partly down to him."

Devils'den in Jakarta!



Football

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia's legions of Manchester United fans can now save their thirst for all things Red Devilish as the Premier League side have opened their first restaurant-bar in Jakarta just ahead of the new season.

Besides food and drink, the newly-opened venue run by the club's Manchester United Food and Beverage (Asia) Pte-Ltd also sells official merchandise, everything

from paper clips to football shirts.

Football is one of the favorite sports in Indonesia and the Red Devils have millions of hard-core fans here which is why United opened the restaurant, Michael Supit, marketing executive of the MU Restaurant and Bar, told AFP Friday.

"The most popular sport in Asia is soccer and Indonesia is one of most populated countries in Asia and that is the main reason why they opened (here)," Supit said.

"Jakartans are bored with the idea of 'regular bars and restaur-

rants."

He said the bar in the popular Gedung Sarinah area of the capital would be officially launched in November after the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan but had already had its soft opening.

"Indonesia is a very important market, offering us many growth opportunities. The restaurant and bar we are unveiling today is just the latest step in the development of our activities in Asia," Manchester United chief executive David Gill was quoted as saying in the Jakarta Post.

Warne walks on thin line



Cricket

SMH, Edgbaston

Shane Warne had his bowling hammered by England's batsmen on Thursday, and must now hope the umpires in the second Test at Edgbaston are not as unforgiving.

Warne again trod a fine line between expressing his anguish and being booked for dissent after having several close leg before appeals turned down by umpire Billy Bowden on Day One.

Test cricket's leading wicket-taker threw his arms in the air after one appeal was rejected, and at one stage pumped both fists when a bat pad appeal against Ashley Giles was given not out.

Warne's frustrations mirrored his disappointment during the first Test at Lord's, when umpire Aleem Dar turned down a series of lbw appeals against England openers Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss.

A Cricket Australia spokesman

said no dissent reports had been lodged at Edgbaston after the opening day, but under International Cricket Council guidelines umpires have until after the match to do so.

Unlike the first Test, England's batsmen decided attack was the best form of defence against their nemesis.

Strauss whacked Warne over his head for four during the bowler's first over, and Andrew Flintoff later took a liking to his bowling by belting him for three sixes.

Warne was left with no option than to good-naturedly doff his hat when the raucous Edgbaston crowd roared with delight at the concession of the 100th run off his bowling.

Three late wickets gave Warne figures of 4-116, and a career total of 593 scalps. Having taken 102 of those since he returned to Test cricket from a 12-month drug ban, in March last year, Warne is now poised to reach 100 wickets on English soil.

As part of their preparations for facing Warne, England's batsmen have spent time in the nets against a

high-tech bowling machine -- nicknamed Merlin -- which is capable of spitting out balls that loop and turn like a Warne leg break.

However Flintoff, who hit five sixes in total in his 68, said a lot of the difference in his turnaround from Lord's, where he made a duck and three, was in the mind.

"I've not scored too many runs of late and in the past week since the Lord's Test match, I've been working hard on my technique and also on areas in which I'm going to score in," the England allrounder said.

"So I went in there in a positive mindset, just trying to hit the balls which I could hit. It wasn't reckless, it was just trying to hit in my areas."

Australian paceman Michael Kasprovic, who took 3-80 after getting a late call-up to replace McGrath, said Australia was not surprised by England's decision to attack.

"When a team loses and they're going to go out and play the same team the next week, you're going to change a few things," he said.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bilete Rabindranath
On Channel-i at 9:35 p.m.
Solo rendition by Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya



Dui Bon
On ntv at 8:25 p.m.
Special drama on Tagore's death anniversary

2:00	Taaza Hits	4:00	Animals A-Z Beavers
2:05	Hit Film:in Hit	4:00	The Master Builders
	Sangeet	4:30	Animals A-Z Water
2:30	Mirch Masala	4:30	Vole Life on the Edge
3:00	Kora Kagaz	4:30	The Violent Planet
5:00	Hit Film:in Hit	5:30	Growing up Wild
	Sangeet- 20 M		Giraffe
	Kya Masti Kya	6:30	Amazing Animal Videos
	Dhuum	7:30	Private Life of Plants
6:30	Musafir Hoon Yaaron	8:30	Monkey Business
7:00	Chupa Rustam	9:00	Chimpanzee Diary
7:30	Sangeet	9:30	Animals A-Z Pelicans
8:30	Meri Mers Chanchala		Taking The Plunge
8:30	Khaijua Sim Sim	10:00	Animals A-Z Eagle
9:30	Kaun Banega		Empire
	Cronepati 2	10:30	In Search of the King
10:30	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	10:30	Cobra
11:00	Loc- Life Out Of	11:30	Animal X Russian Yeti
	Control	12:00	The Planet's Funniest
11:30	Kalchakra		Animals
12:00	Kahani Jurm Ki		

9:30	I Dare You	3:30	Animals A-Z Beavers
10:30	Little Britain	4:00	The Master Builders
11:30	Cops	4:00	Animals A-Z Water
12:00	Stark Raving Mad	4:30	Vole Life on the Edge
		4:30	The Violent Planet
		5:30	Growing up Wild
			Giraffe
		6:30	Amazing Animal Videos
		7:30	Private Life of Plants
		8:30	Monkey Business
		9:00	Chimpanzee Diary
		9:30	Animals A-Z Pelicans
			Taking The Plunge
		10:00	Animals A-Z Eagle
			Empire
		10:30	In Search of the King
		10:30	Cobra
		11:30	Animal X Russian Yeti
		12:00	The Planet's Funniest
			Animals

DISCOVERY

8:30	Understanding Fire	12:30	ming India Glorious (R)	10:00	Super Spells Super Spells With Wasim Akram (R)
9:30	Impossible Heists		Asian Festival Of Speed Porsche	10:30	Hitz (R)
	Floating Fortress Heist		Infineon Carrera Cup	11:30	Cricket Gold (T)
10:30	Wild Discovery Snakes : Deadly Companions		Asia Bira Thailand Round 5(T)	2:30	School Quiz Show ESPN School Quiz 2005 National Finals #1(R)
11:30	Discovery Showcase	1:00	Nba Inside Stuff (R)	4:00	Brazilian Goal (R)
	Impaling	1:30	Football Asia (T)	4:30	Icc Cricket World (R)
12:30	Mummy Autopsy The Warrior Of Allosa	2:00	Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series Birmingham	5:00	Sportscenter Week In Review (R)
1:30	Understanding Weather		England England Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 2 Highlights(R)	5:30	Super Spells Super Spells With Wasim Akram (R)
2:30	Impossible Heists	3:27	Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series Birmingham	6:00	X Games Invitational Thailand X Games Cup Highlights Rajamangala Thailand (T)
3:30	Amazing Baby Videos		England England Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 3 1st Session(L)	7:30	Hitz (R)
4:00	In Therapy		Australia 2nd Test Day 3 1st Session(L)	7:55	Sportscenter Sportscenter Weekend (T)
4:30	Wild Discovery Giant Grizzlies	5:30	Gillette World Sports Special Gillette World Sports 2005 (T)	8:00	Cricket Gold (R)
5:30	Plat Todd McFarlane	6:00	Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series Birmingham	11:00	Classic Boxing Classic Boxing - Joe Louis V Baer (T)
6:00	Truth or Scare Castle		England England Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 3 2nd & 3rd Session(L)	12:00	Figure Skating 2005 State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Mens & Ladies Short Programs
6:30	Challenge Extreme Survival	10:30	Team India Programming India Glorious (R)		
7:30	Wild Discovery The Hyena Lady		Atp Tennis Legg Mason Tennis Classic		
8:30	Discover India The Foothills of Kilimanjaro	12:00	Washington Dc Usa Men's Semifinal Match		
9:00	Discover India Khalsa				
9:30	Junkyard Wars				
10:30	Discovery Wings				
	Concorde The Final Flight				
	72 Hours				
	Casino Diaries A Weekend In Paris				

STAR SPORTS

7:00	Watersports Programming Hot Water (R)	7:00	Sportscenter Sportscenter Asia (R)
8:00	English Premier League Preview	7:30	Motorsport Asia (R)
	Season Preview(T)	8:00	Brazilian Goal (R)
9:00	Australia Tour Of England Npower Test Series Birmingham	8:30	Sportscenter Week In Review (T)
	England England Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 2 Highlights(S)	9:00	X Games Invitational Legends Of The X - Justin Homan Jesse
10:30	Icc Cricket World (T)		Justin Derek Cook Rajamangala Thailand (R)
11:00	Team India Program-	9:30	Icc Cricket World (R)

ESPN

7:00	Sportscenter Sportscenter Asia (R)	7:30	Motorsport Asia (R)
8:00	English Premier League Preview	8:00	Brazilian Goal (R)
8:30	Sportscenter Week In Review (T)	8:30	Sportscenter Week In Review (T)
9:00	X Games Invitational Legends Of The X - Justin Homan Jesse	9:00	X Games Invitational Legends Of The X - Justin Derek Cook Rajamangala Thailand (R)
9:30	Icc Cricket World (R)		

TEN SPORTS

7:30	Trans World Sports
8:00	Gamer TV
9:00	WWE Velocity
9:30	World Rally
10:00	Winning Post
10:30	Gillette World Sport
11:30	WWE Experience
1:30	Sri Lanka v India 4th ODI H/Ls
2:30	Straight Drive
5:40	Sri Lanka v West Indies 5th ODI 1st Session
6:40	Sri Lanka v West Indies 5th ODI Interval
10:25	S