



American James Blake stretches to make a forehand return in his semifinal match against Russian Nikolay Davydenko at the Cincinnati Masters on Saturday.

'WC an unhealthy obsession'

PTI, New Delhi
Rahul Dravid does not foresee himself playing the next World Cup and India captain insists India has an unhealthy obsession with the quadrennial cricketing extravaganza.

Lee bowling 'flat-out'

AFP, Sydney
Australian pace spearhead Brett Lee says he is back to bowling at top speed ahead of next month's Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa.

before the injury.
"But I don't want to be like I was six months ago, I want to keep improving and become a better player."

forward to for a long time now, and I've been given the opportunity with Glenn leaving the scene and retiring from Test match cricket," he said.

Reds bleed

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to a first win of the season long before City finally sprang into life.

Henin storms into final

AFP, Toronto
World number one Justine Henin moved a step closer to her 35th career title by taking down Chinese qualifier Yan Zi 6-3, 6-0 in the semifinals of this 1.34 million dollar hardcourt event here on Saturday.

matches. This will mark their first meeting in a final.
Still, the Serbian has won a career-best four titles this season, including the hardcourt tournament in Auckland back in January, to climb steadily up the rankings.

Nayeem to go

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surprise choice of Ariful Islam as rightback backedfire when Syrian captain Meher Al Sayed and Ziad Chaabo utilised huge gaps left by the Bangladesh makeshift fullback to score in the second half and kill the game.

Spurs strike back

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and Matthew Taylor completed the rout from the penalty spot.
"We can turn it around. I've seen the progress and even though I'm not happy with losing, we will get it right," said Bolton boss Sammy Lee.

completing his transfer from Newcastle United.
But it was the Hammers' Mark Noble who stole the limelight with a 70th minute penalty, the only goal of the game.

India A pip hosts

AFP, Nairobi
Three batsmen including skipper Mohammed Kaif scored half centuries against Kenya on Saturday to put India A in the final of the triangular one-day tournament.

Heartbreak for Munshiganj

SPORTS REPORTER
Munshiganj became runners-up in the 60th Independence Day Kho Kho Competition held in Pondicherry on Friday.

Mehrab talks

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expensive tour for us and we could have arranged much better tournament in the subcontinent with much less money.

DFB looks

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In the heat of the moment, things are often said which people later regret, and tensions were high for that game," Ghana-born Asamoah told German TV station WDR.

We are team

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matched us all the way," said Hitzfeld.
"We needed a solo effort from Luca Toni to earn us the penalty that gave us the lead.

Crisis beckons

FROM PAGE 20
Giant Czech striker Jan Koller scored twice as Monaco beat Sochaux 3-0 to register their second win in three days and move into fourth place.

Good to watch

Cricket

IAN CHAPPELL
The entertaining and competitive Test series between India and England provided much good cricket and plenty of food for thought.

ferred methods of assisting the ball to swing and then the ICC would decide on the one to be legalised.
Ever since Adam Gilchrist hit the Test arena and international bowlers like a tornado, other teams have been trying to replicate his style of middle-order mayhem.

but there was no shortage of advisors when it came time for the captain to decide on the follow-on.
Captaincy by committee never works, because the responsibility for a poor decision falls squarely on the skipper's shoulders anyway.

Durham's first crown

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Apart from Daren Powell -- who registered 92mph on the speed gun -- the six-man attack struggled for consistency, with even below his best.

and Coetzee -- a West Indian and a Scotsman -- added 111 in 119 balls to put Durham on course for 300-plus.

ping a full delivery effortlessly over square leg for six. Similar punishment followed for Ervine as Chanderpaul swept him into the stands and West Indies teammate Powell was taken for three fours in an over.

Wenger gambling

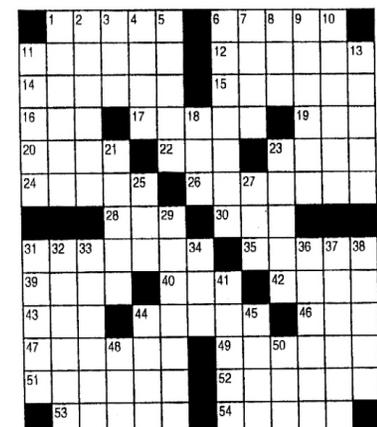
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long-term insurance, and also that I can move out when I can' - that is not right."
Wenger, though, has no intentions of becoming embroiled in anything other than footballing affairs.

It is a much-changed scenario from what he was feeling 12 months ago.
"I was very frustrated because I felt we did not have the right commitment," Wenger recalled.

BRIEF SCORES
DURHAM: 312 for 5 in 50 overs (Chanderpaul 78, Coetzee 61, Powell 2-80)
HAMPSHIRE: 187 all out in 41 overs (Crawley 68, Gibson 3-24, Collingwood 3-33)
Man-of-the-match: Otis Gibson (Durham).
Result: Durham won by 125 runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Purplish shade
6 Very excited
11 Lady of Spain
12 O. Henry-esque
14 Border
15 Sculpture medium
16 Altar
17 Wind-borne deposit
19 Listening device
20 Blue hue
22 First lady
23 Initial stake
24 Show philanthropy
25 Warned
28 Lettuce variety
30 Retainer
31 Less logical
35 Boutonniere site
39 Druggery
40 Light beam



CRYPTOQUIP
FBYLV EBTSLVKTR EDPZ
DKA HPUBLKZV PAKPT HBBS
KA? KUV PVLVPSF ZBWS
FBY ZDPK PTS ZDPK PRPKT!
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SUPER-ROBOT IS CREATED THAT PLOWS LAND, WILL IT BE AN AUTOMATED TILLER MACHINE?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals V