

Sachin recalls his first Test

PTI, Mumbai

Expect the unexpected when it comes to Test cricket says Indian batting ace Sachin Tendulkar, who recalled how Wasim Akram peppered him with bouncers even as he expected yorkers in his maiden Test series in Pakistan.

Tendulkar was speaking here on Friday at the launch of a book 'Shadows across the playing field, authored by India's Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor and former Pakistan Cricket Board chairman and diplomat Shaharyar Khan.

"I was included in the first Test [in 1989]. On the first day we fielded and I was so tired after six hours on the field that I slept after we returned to the hotel, woke up for my dinner and again went back to sleep," Tendulkar said.

"The next day we batted and Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis were charging in. The first ball I faced from Wasim was a bouncer."

Qasim bucks

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enough, and was also excluded from the 30-man pool for the Champions Trophy. His career, particularly of late, has been littered with fitness troubles.

"It is absolutely vital that Shoaib Akhtar performs well and on a regular basis in the coming domestic cricket season," Qasim said, "and proves to the selectors that not only is he bowling well and taking wickets, but he can maintain his fitness levels too. It's down to Shoaib to show us that he can get himself fit and bowl well."

Shoaib, who will turn 34 next week, last represented Pakistan in a one-day series against Australia in May, during which he was not at his best. Chances of a comeback have also been hit due to the emergence of young fast bowlers like 17-year-old Mohammad Aamer.

Rony stars

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day on 19 without loss in 3 overs.

**BRIEF SCORES**

GP-BCB NCA: First innings 67-139 all out in 85 overs (Nadimuddin 19, Rony 74, Farhad 39, Hom 42, Mithun 24, Nasir 28; Andrew Brich 3-54, Richard Cameron 4-109)

SBNA: First innings 19-0 in 3 overs (Andrea Agathagelou 11 not out, T Bodibu 7 not out)

Messi to earn

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Earlier Friday Barcelona president Joan Laporta said he was optimistic that the club would reach an agreement with the player.

"What is most important is the commitment and affection between the two sides. That clears the way for everything to go as it should when it comes time to draw up the paperwork," he told reporters in Seattle.

Rio's Chelsea

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Foster or Tomasz Kuszczak will deputise for Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, who is sidelined for eight weeks after finger surgery.

Meanwhile, Ancelotti can land an early psychological blow against the team Chelsea have to overhaul to win the title for the first time since 2006.

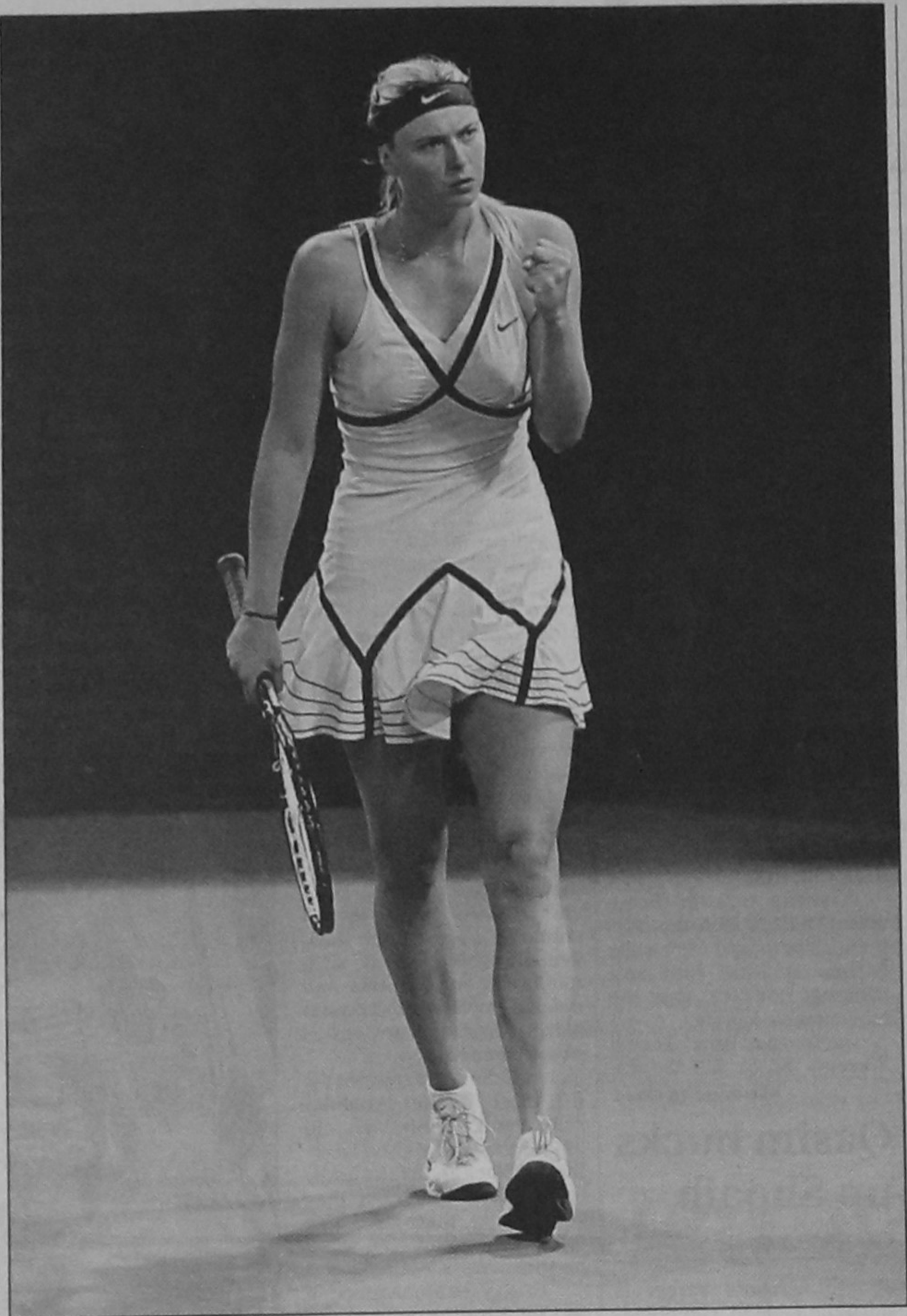
The former AC Milan coach's success in the Champions League impressed Blues owner Roman Abramovich but he would dearly love to end United's three-year reign as English champions as well.

"I think we are ready to start this season against Manchester United on Sunday. It will be a very difficult match but we are excited and very happy to play at Wembley," Ancelotti said.

"It will be the first time for me to be at Wembley. It is not a friendly game, it is very important for us. We play against a great team. They were in the final of the Champions League last season."

"We have respect for this team but we want to win and play well. We want to put our quality on the pitch."

Ancelotti is likely to be without new signing Yuri Zhirkov as the Russia midfielder makes a slow recovery from a knee injury, but United have injuries problems as well, with defenders Nemanja Vidic and Wes Brown both sidelined.



Maria Sharapova celebrates a point against Urszula Radwanska of Poland in the LA Women's Tennis Championships in California on Friday.

Stosur keeps going

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Aussie Samantha Stosur continued her impressive play at the Los Angeles Women's Tennis Championships on Friday, rallying to beat China's Zheng Jie 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

Stosur, who is seeking her first career singles title, has enjoyed a good run of success the past few months, improving her world ranking to 18.

Stosur moves on to the semis where she will face Romania's Sorana Cirstea who beat eighth seeded Agnieszka Radwanska 7-6, 1-6, 7-5.

"It's definitely a goal of mine to try and win a singles title," Stosur said. "I've been in four finals and lost every one of them in three sets."

"My whole career I've been trying to become a better singles player. This year it's all just come together."

Russia's Maria Sharapova also advanced to the semis, by beating Poland's Urszula Radwanska 6-4, 7-5.

Sharapova will next face Italy's Flavia Pennetta who beat second seeded Vera Zvonareva 6-4, 6-2.

Star-studded

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They have made sure plenty of festivities by bringing in an elephant that led the Mohammedan rally.

In a bid to form a formidable side, they have also drafted in Brothers Union's speedy winger Zahid Hossain, defender Ariful Islam, Farshganj's shaven-headed defender Mamun Mia and Badda's talented medio Alamgir Kabir Rana, a member of the Bangladesh's AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers squad.

Mohammedan, however, could not stop losing defender Rajani Kanta Barman and striker Hedayetul Islam Robin, both joined Abahani this year.

"After being failed to take the league title twice in a row, we targeted a few key players from Abahani and Brothers and we communicated with those players soon after the completion of Super Cup and we have finally signed them today," said a happy Mustaqur Rahman, a member of Mohammedan ad-hoc committee.

Shakib relishing

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execute our plans. We are not under any pressure."

AP adds: Zimbabwe captain Prosper Uteya acknowledged that his team is under pressure from home fans going into the five one-day matches against Bangladesh.

"It's obviously important for us to win and move up the ranks. It's an important series for us, which we need to win to give the Zimbabwean people something to smile about" said Uteya.

The Zimbabwe team has been boosted by the return of batsman Mark Vermeulen and Charles Coventry.

Fred 'keen'

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The 31-year-old star of England's victorious 2005 Ashes campaign has announced this will be his last Test series of an injury-plagued career.

But with England 1-0 up in the series, a statement issued by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) here on Friday said: "Andrew is still very keen to play in the fifth Test at The Oval and a decision on this will be made in due course."

"He will not be exposed to undue risk or masking injections and any decision regarding his participation in the fifth Test will be made in conjunction with the ECB, his surgeon and the Lancashire medical team."

Flintoff, England's captain when they lost the Ashes 5-0 in Australia in 2006-07, had several injections earlier in the series.

The ECB statement added: "There have been some media reports of repeated cortisone injections into the knee to mask the injury, but these reports are inaccurate."

"Andrew has shown great determination and selflessness making a conscious decision to push through discomfort in order to help the England team reclaim the Ashes. This is in the knowledge that a further operation is a possibility."

Fast bowler Stephen Harmison replaced Flintoff in the only change to the England team that drew the third Test at Edgbaston.

North powers

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Harmison saw his first ball of the day -- a short half-tracker -- pulled so far in front of square by Clarke the ball went for four to long-on.

England were failing to follow the example of Clark, who'd shown how to bowl on a fine pitch for batting Friday by maintaining a probing line and length.

Broad then became the third England bowler whose first ball Saturday went for four when North clipped him off his legs.

Australia vice-captain Clarke, who made 136 in England's second Test win at Lord's and 103 at Edgbaston, fell in sight of a third hundred in as many Tests when he was lbw to Graham Onions for 93, having faced 138 balls with 13 fours.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at tea and the close of Australia's first innings on the second day of the fourth Ashes Test against England at Headingley on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 102 (Siddle 5-21, Clark 3-18)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 196-4)

Watson lbw b Onions 51

Katich c Bopara b Harmison 0

Ponting lbw b Broad 78

Hussey lbw b Broad 10

Clarke lbw b Onions 93

North c Anderson b Broad 110

Haddin c Bell b Harmison 14

Johnson c Bopara b Broad 27

Siddle b Broad 0

Clark b Broad 32

Hillfenhaus not out 0

Extras: (b-9, lb-14, w-4, nb-3) 30

Total: (all out in 104.1 overs) 445

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-133, 3-140, 4-151, 5-303, 6-323, 7-393, 8-394, 9-440

**Bowler** O M R W

Anderson 18 3 89 0

Harmison 23 4 98 2

Onions 22 5 80 2

Broad 25.1 6 91 6

Swann 16 4 64 0

Roebuck

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behind him. After all, he led the attack admirably 18 months ago. He might have another match or two in him, even a series. But all the evidence suggest he needs to take a leaf out of Flintoff's book, and think about a dignified withdrawal and life after Test cricket," he wrote.

The Sydney Morning Herald quoted Roebuck as saying that Lee has been more or less a passenger on two successive Test trips.

"Against the wishes of his captain, Lee was taken to India, and promptly failed to trouble the batsmen. Ponting felt Lee was not emotionally ready to join a touring party, with its bonhomie and intensity. Setbacks in his personal life had left him drained, and he looked gaunt," he added.

"Lee's career hangs by a thread. If he does not play at The Oval, it's going to be a long haul back."

**TEAMS**

**BANGLADESH** (from): Shakib Al Hasan (captain) Tamim Iqbal, Zunaed Siddiqui, Mohammad Ashraf, Rokibul Hassan, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, Nayeem Islam, Enamul Haque, Syed Rasel and Nazmul Hossain.

**ZIMBABWE** (from): Prosper Uteya (captain), Hamilton Masakadza, Keith Dabengwa, Vusi Sibanda, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Sean Williams, Brendan Taylor, Elton Chigumbura, Forster Mutizwa, Graeme Cremer, Ray Price and Ed Rainsford.

Much-needed Pak win

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Teenager Umar Akmal smashed an unbeaten 102 off 72 balls as Pakistan won the fourth one-day by 146 runs on Friday to record their first win on a dismal tour of Sri Lanka.

Umar's maiden international century and a dogged 89 from skipper Younus Khan lifted Pakistan to 321-5 after the tourists elected to bat in the day-night match at the Premadasa Stadium.

Seamer Rao Iftikhar then grabbed 5-30 as Sri Lanka were shot out for 175 in 36.1 overs, handing Pakistan a badly-needed win after they were beaten 2-0 in the Test series and lost the first three one-dayers.

The fifth and final match will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

Umar, 19, younger brother of the team's wicketkeeper Kamran, pounded four sixes and five boundaries in only his third international and was declared the man-of-the-match.

Younus stayed rock-solid at the other end as Umar punished the wayward Sri Lankan attack during a fifth-wicket partnership of 176 runs after Pakistan slipped to 130-4.

Sri Lanka appeared to make light of the daunting target when they moved to 101-1 in the 16th over, before losing their last nine wickets for 74 runs.

Left-handed opener Upul Tharanga top-scored with 80 off 89 balls and skipper Kumar Sangakkara made 39, but none of the other top order batsmen delivered.

Spinners Shahid Afridi and Saeed Ajmal supported Iftikhar with two wickets each.

"It's a relief to win finally," said Younus at the presentation ceremony. "We are normally slow starters, but we have been too slow on this tour."

"Hats off to Umar and Iftikhar. They really made us proud today."

Sangakkara said a target of 321 could not be chased without big partnerships, which Sri Lanka did not have.

"I don't think complacency was the problem," he said. "The problem was we gave them 320. We have got to make sure we bowl a lot better to our fields."

"Umar finished things off very well for Pakistan. But we need to keep our chins up and come back strongly in the next match."

Earlier, Pakistan made a sound start as Imran Nazir, playing for the first time in the series, hit 23 in a first-wicket stand of 61 with Kamran Akmal by the 10th over.

Kamran then put on 45 for the second wicket with Younus to lift Pakistan to 106-1, before another middle-order collapse saw three wickets fall for 24 runs.

Leg-spinner Malinga Bandara, himself making his first appearance in the series, bowled Kamran and trapped Misbahul Haq leg-before to finish with two for 44 in 10 overs.

Lasith Malinga went for 79 runs in his 10 wicketless overs, while fellow paceman Thilan Thushara took two wickets for 74 runs.

Sri Lanka rested three frontline bowlers, Muttiah Muralidaran, Nuwan

Kulasekara and Dilhara Fernando, and replaced them with Ajantha Mendis, Bandara and Malinga.

Pakistan were forced to leave out the injured duo of Umar Gul and Abdul Razzaq and also dropped Nasir Jamshed and Fawad Alam.

They were replaced by Nazir, Mohammad Yousuf, Misbah and Iftikhar.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Friday:

**PAKISTAN:** 321 for 5 in 50 overs (Umar 102 not out, Younus 89, Kamran 57; Bandara 2-44, Thushara 2-74, Mendis 1-56)

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Kamran b Iftikhar 80

Jayawardene c Aamer b Naved 19

Sangakkara c Nazir b Iftikhar 39

Kandamby c Younus b Ajmal 15

Kapugedera c Naved b Ajmal 8

Samaraweera c Kamran b Iftikhar 2

Mathews st Kamran b Afridi 8

Bandara c Misbah b Afridi 0

Thushara b Iftikhar 0

Malinga c Misbah b Iftikhar 0

Mendis not out 0

Extras: (lb-1, w-3) 4

Total: (All out in 36.1 overs) 175

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-101, 3-130, 4-157, 5-159, 6-166, 7-167, 8-171, 9-175

**Bowler** O M R W

Aamer 5 0 34 0

Naved 7 0 46 1

Iftikhar 8.1 0 30 5

Afridi 9 0 40 2

Ajmal 7 0 24 2

**Result:** Pakistan won by 146 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Umar Akmal.

**Toss:** Pakistan.

**Umpires:** Steve Davis and Gamage Silva.

Roddick in last four

Tennis

AFP, Washington

US top seed Andy Roddick surrendered early service breaks but beat Ivo Karlovic 7-6, 7-6 in a showdown of the ATP's top ace smashes on Friday to reach the Washington Classic semifinals.

Fifth-ranked Roddick, now 5-1 against Karlovic, allowed his first two career service breaks to the lanky Croatian, but broke back each time and completed his third consecutive two-tie-breaker triumph over the ATP ace leader.

"Getting down an early break against Karlovic is a recipe for disaster. I consider myself fortunate to get out of it one time much less two," Roddick said.

"If you would have told me I would have broken twice I would have thought I would have been a lot more comfortable than that."

Roddick, playing his first US Open hardcourt tuneup after losing to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final, fired only seven aces to 13 for Karlovic but connected on 74 per cent of first serves to 59 per cent for Karlovic.

"I was playing aggressive and returned well," Karlovic said. "I was close to a win even though my serve percentage was really low. Tactically I was doing well reading his serve but my percentage was too low. That's why I lost."

Three-time Washington champion Roddick blamed the impact of cool night temperatures on the ball for the pair's atypical serving struggles.

"I figured just put it in play and take my chances from the back of the court," Roddick said.

Roddick next faces another tall power server in countryman John Isner, who blasted 17 aces to beat Czech eighth seed Tomas Berdych 6-3, 6-7, 6-2. Roddick downed Isner in the 2007 Washington final in their only prior meeting.

"I was on my own two years ago, riding momentum and happy to be on this stage," Isner said. "It's going to be fun. I'm the underdog, a little tired, but it's going to be awesome."

Defending champion Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina meets Chilean fourth seed Fernando Gonzalez in the other semifinal.

Gonzalez ousted Wimbledon semifinalist Tommy Haas 7-5, 6-4 while Del Potro, the second seed, advanced by walkover when Swedish fifth seed Robin Soderling withdrew from the 1.4 million-dollar event with a right elbow injury.

Gonzalez, off the past month with right knee tendinitis, is 3-0 against Del Potro but South America's top players have not faced each other since the second round of the 2007 Australian Open.

"There's always a rivalry between Chile and Argentina but we're good friends so it's going to be interesting,"

Gonzalez said. "He's a different player now."

Roddick, the 2009 ATP leader in tie-break and hardcourt wins, extended his tie-break mastery over Karlovic after being broken in the fourth game of the first set and first game of the second set, answering each three games later.

"Every shot is magnified in a tie-breaker," Roddick said. "The more chances you give someone to let the moment get a hold on them, the better it is. It's not like I'm unfamiliar with the situation."

Karlovic, who also lost to Roddick in the 2007 Washington semifinals and 2 0 0 5 Washington quarterfinals, had a simpler explanation.

"Luck. Simple as that," Karlovic said. "I hit two nets. Each was his advantage. It was luck."

"Luck definitely plays a part," Roddick said. "I certainly don't think if we played eight more in a row I would win all eight. I don't know. I wish I had a smarter answer. That's just how it rolls."

Mashrafe

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undergo surgery in 2003 after suffering a twisted knee during the second Test against England in Chittagong which kept him out of Tests for over a year. He has also been suffering from persistent back injury.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

41 Slow crawlers

43 Eg. and Syr.

4 King (Latin)

7 9-Down, for one

11 Came to earth

13 Corroded

14 "— Lang Syne"

15 Assess

16 Chatter

17 Note from the boss

18 Rosemary's partner?

20 Bound

22 Tiny legume

24 Fasteners

28 Graceful animal

32 Otherwise

33 Furniture brand

34 Reverence

36 Mischievous

37 Dynamite constituent

39 Authorize

**DOWN**

21 Will Smith biopic

23 Carte intro

25 Winter forecast

4 Tattler

5 And others (Latin)

6 Three-masted sailing ship

7 Home of the Buccaneers

8 Regret

9 Shade provider

10 Tokyo's old name

12 Suburb of Phoenix

19 Conger, e.g.

21 Will Smith biopic

23 Carte intro

25 Winter forecast

26 Jab

27 Use a teaspoon

28 Traps

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30 Catherine — Jones

31 Ram's mate

35 Ostrich-like bird

38 Bullring bravo

40 Crony

42 Spined attack

45 Told a whopper

47 Beauty pageant ID

48 "The Cosby Show" role

49 Cabbage salad

50 Hot tub

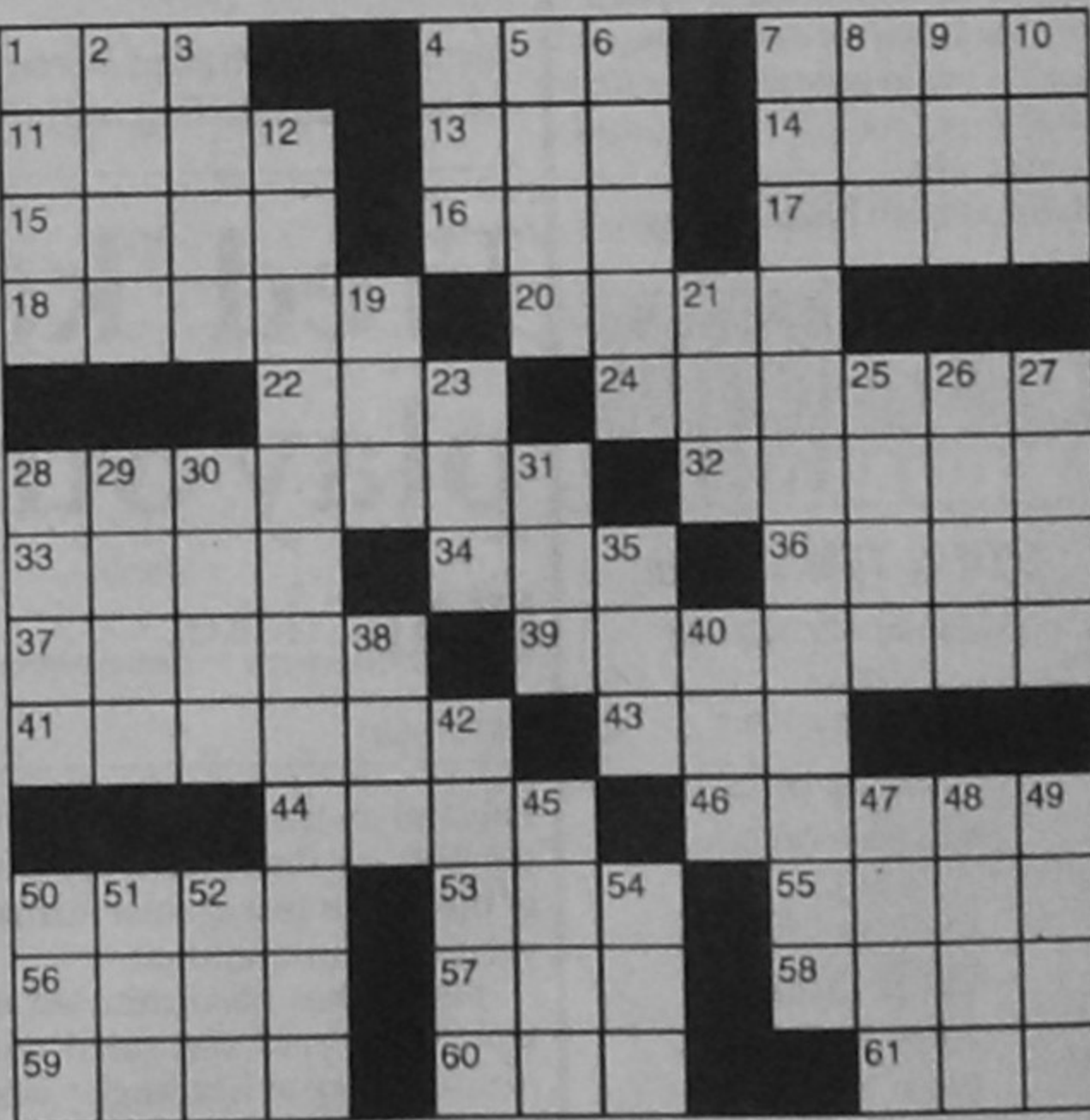
51 — Solo

52 Possess

54 Foundation

Solution time: 24 mins.

ATARI TONER  
SCALED UNUSED  
TEMPLE RUMBLE  
ATA YANKS TILL  
LYRA SEED REVS  
LLAMA PINSET  
OILSIC  
FIBULAS PAPAL  
ODOR CUM PUPA  
SEN FINED LOM  
SAMPLE DIMPLE  
ALOHAS AVAILS  
STINT LENTO



CRYPTOQUIP

ENXX CLNT WZGJOQ FACGSFCOY  
COXXOX SFBLLNQO LFQYXO  
MGAZ BFTL DZGDOZXN? N  
EGAXYQ'C WFQJ GQ NC!

**Saturday's Cryptquip:** I EXPECT THAT AFTER I WHITEN MY BUFFALO'S FUR WITH BLEACH, I'LL PROBABLY RENAME HIM CLOR-OX.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals L