### **Gambill** reaches **Qatar final**

AFP, Doha

Jan-Michael Gambill, the former top 20 American who nearly decided that it would be unsafe for him to travel to a Gulf state, instead made the Qatar Open an effective launchpad for his comeback.

Gambill is trying to resurrect his career after slipping down the rankings in the second half of 2002 and reached the sixth final of his career by overcoming Mikhail Youzhny, the Russian Davis Cup hero, 6-4, 6-2 in the one-milliondollarATP event on Friday.

It followed Gambill's conquest of the top-seeded Roger Federer and suggested that the refurbishing of his game with the help of his fathercoach Chuck during the close season is already having effect.

However on this occasion Gambill won as much through the shortcominas of his young opponent as his own improvement. The man from Washington state had in previous matches come out firing on all cylinders, but this time he was soon within a point of going two breaks of serve down.

### **Paradorn** survives, Canas crashes

AFP, Madras

Asian tennis star Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand survived a bad night for seeded players to storm into the semifinals of the 400,000-dollar ATP Indian Open on Friday. The second-seeded Thai

brushed aside Sargis Sargsian of Armenia 6-4, 6-4 after watching defending champion and top seed Guillermo Canas of Argentina and sixth-seed Rainer Schuettler of Germany bite the dust.

World number 15 Canas found Karol Kucera of Slovakia too hot to handle after suffering a wrist injury in the first set and sliding into an advertising board in the second.

Kucera, a former top 10 player in 1998 who ended last year ranked 83, avenged the defeat to Canas in last year's semi-final with a 6-1, 7-5

Schuettler, who ousted Mark Philippoussis of Australia in Thursday's second round, was stunned by Jean-Rene Lisnard of

France in straight sets 6-2, 7-5. Fourth-seeded Juan Chela of Argentina was the only other seeded player besides Paradorn to remain in contention, easily disposing off qualifier Tomas Behrend of Germany 6-4, 6-3.

# Chinese Taipei

pair lifted the girls doubles crown beating South Korean duo Seo Soon Mi and Kim Haw Sun 6-2, 7-2. Chang Shang Huai En and Le Hsin Han pair became boys' dou-

bles champions beating Sumit Prakash (India) and Vaza Uzakov (Uzbekistan) pair 6-1, 6-3.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman distributed prizes among the winners.

### Aminul, Parag

FROM PAGE 13

will be held today at the National Sports Council Conference Room at

### **SUB-JR MEET**

Meanwhile, 23 players were leading the points table with maximum 2 points each at the end of the second round in the 23rd National Sub-Junior Chess Championship at the Bangladesh Chess Federation vesterday.

Third round starts today at 3 pm at the same venue.

### Kanon FROM PAGE 13

sending the team to a sub-standard

tournament in Bhutan. "Except for winning the title we have achieved little as far as our buildup to the SAFF Championship

is concerned. I'm happy to return

unhurt from a place where there was

an excellent chance of picking injury

37 Helsinki

38 Adoles-

**40** Pop

cents

42 "That's a

laugh!'

**43** Top-40

49 Place

51 Pigs' digs

1 Scrooge's

lander's

memento

cries

DOWN

2 Main-

denizens

3 Table

scrap

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nent

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8 Didn't

watch

9 Baseball

tactic

10 "Beowulf,"

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11 Slam-

16 Disen-

ones P's

and Q's?

perhaps

by my players," said the Austrian.



# 'We let everyone down

Cricket

AFP, Queenstown

India cricket captain Saurav Ganguly admitted Saturday his team had let hundreds of millions of fans down with their dismal performances on the New Zealand tour.

"We are letting everyone down," said Ganguly after his team's sevenwicket defeat in the fourth one-day international against the hosts at the John Davies Oval here.

India could manage just 122, while New Zealand replied with 123-

India lost the ongoing sevenmatch series following their fourth successive defeat. They had already been thrashed 2-0 in the two-Test series.

"We are letting our people back home down. We are letting all those down who come to watch us. We are letting our coach down. We are letting our physio down. We are letting our trainer down," said

"We have really been very poor in this series. We have to find some ways to stop this. We still have three more games to play for pride. We have to do something about it, but at

the moment it is not happening. The Indian captain did not blame the pitch for his team's defeat, saying his batsmen had been in very

"It was a very good one-day wicket," said Ganguly.

"The batsmen are in poor form. It's eight innings now and none of us has fired. It suggests we are in very, very poor form.



**SAURAV GANGULY** Ganguly conceded that it was the

worst phase since he had taken over the captaincy in 2000. "I have been the captain for three

years now, but it's the worst phase of our cricket," he said.

Ganguly said it was necessary for the team to forget these defeats and concentrate on the World Cup, starting in South Africa next month.

FROM PAGE 13

from 55-1 to 69-5, with Adams taking three wickets and Daryl Tuffey one. Dravid, keeping wickets and batting in

the middle order in the previous three matches, looked uncomfortable at the top as he faced 52 balls for his 18 runs before being bowled middle-stump plaving a wrong line.

he tried an ambitious pull-shot, with Craig

square-leg. Mongia drove Adams for a four, but was caught hooking the next delivery by Daniel Vettori.

Ganguly's poor run with the bat continued as he was caught by Kyle Mills at third-man while attempting to cut a rising ball from Tuffey. The Indian skippe has so far made just 20 in his four one-

Yuvraj also fell playing strokes, pulling Styris to Tuffey at deep midwicket Adams then ended the innings when

he had Ashish Nehra caught behind. SCOREBOARD Complete scoreboard of the fourth oneday international between India and New Zealand at the John Davies Oval here on

Zodiana at the comit barioe ora	111010 01
Saturday:	
INDIA	
Sehwag c Astle b Adams	23
Dravid b Adams	18
Mongia c Vettori b Adams	12
Kaif c McMillan b Adams	0
Ganguly c Mills b Tuffey	2
Yuvraj c Tuffey b Styris	25
Patel b Mills	13
Agarkar run out	0
Zaheer c McCullum b Tuffey	1
Srinath not out	10
Nehra c McCullum b Adams	0

20 A billion

forte

29 Hide-

bit

37 Fed.

sundial

45 "Caught

Adams abases India Total: (All out in 43.4 overs) 122

> Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-55, 3-57, 4-67, 5-69, 6-94, 7-100, 8-107, 9-118

0 00,0 0 ., .	,			
Bowler	0	M	R	W
Tuffey	10	0	36	2
Mills	10	2	28	1
Oram	10	1	28	0
Adams	8.4	1	22	5
Styris	3	1	5	1
Vettori	2	0	2	0

NEW ZEALAND Fleming c Sehwag b Srinath

47 Astle c Dravid b Srinath 15 Sinclair not out 32 McMillan b Srinath Extras: (b-3, lb-1, nb-3, w-14) Total: (For 3 wkts in 25.4 overs) 123

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-101, 3-103 O M R W Bowler Srinath 9.4 1 35 3 0 21 Zaheer 1 37 4 0 26

Result: New Zealand won by seven wickets and take winning 4-0 lead. Man-of-the-match: Andre Adams. Next match: Jan 8, Wellington.

past. These are the guys who have won games for us "At the present moment, we all are struggling. So it depends on all of us to pull ourselves out of the

"We just have to forget it," he

said. "The World Cup is a new

tournament. There are batsmen in

the team who have done well in the

position we are in. Ganguly said it was unfortunate that his batsmen kept playing shots straight into the hands of fielders

"In one-day cricket, you have to play your shots, but a lot of us just kept picking the fielders," he said.

## Seles lifts **HK** title

AFP, Hong Kong

Former world number one Monica Seles warmed up for her Australian Open campaign with a gritty victory over Chanda Rubin in an exhibition event here Saturday.

Seles ensured she will head Down Under next week in good heart albeit nursing a sore foot - after outlasting Rubin 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 to win the Hong Kong Ladies Challenge.

"I'll go to Melbourne and rest my foot a little," said Seles, who said her foot was "acting up a little again. I've practised a lot on it this week but I just need to take care of it." Nagging injury aside, Seles said

she was pleased with the way she

had performed after losing the opening set. "It was a great level of tennis out there. It could have gone either way. We were both hitting the ball so hard," said a delighted Seles, who will be chasing her 10th Grand Slam

title in Melbourne. "She was too good in the first set but I think I raised my game in the second," said Seles, who has never lost to Rubin, defeating her in their last

meeting at the Madrid Open last year. Although Seles has been in devastating form en route to the final, sweeping aside China's Peng Shuai and rising Russian starlet Maria Sharpova Rubin's heavy groundstokes caused

her problems throughout. After an early exchange of breaks in the opening set, both players missed chances to capitalise on break point opportunities before Rubin secured the crucial breakthrough in the 11th game after forcing Seles to net a weak fore-

Seles typically hit back with a barrage of winners to break Rubin three times to clinch the second set and swept a total of nine straight games as she raced to a 5-0 lead in

# Michael expects a win



REUTERS/AFP, Sydney

Michael Vaughan is looking to use his third century of the series to help bury Australia with a weight of runs and prevent them from carrying off only the second series clean sweep in Ashes Test cricket history.

The 28-yea-old Yorkshire opener believes England have a great chance to end their wretched Ashes campaign with a victory after his unbeaten century.

Vaughan blazed his way to 113 not out to give England a healthy 217-run lead with eight secondinnings wickets in hand at stumps on the third day of the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

The tourists were thrashed in the first three tests and also lost the fourth by five wickets despite reaching the fifth day but Vaughan said: "We've had a tough tour so it's quite nice to be on the front foot against Australia for once.

"The series has gone but there's

still a lot of passion out there." Vaughan made amends for his first-innings duck with a classic century on Saturday to become the first Englishman since Chris Broad in 1986-87 to complete three tons in an Ashes series

He made 177 in Adelaide and 145 in Melbourne but said he enjoyed his third hundred the most. raising his bat in triumph after he smacked Damien Martyn for successive boundaries to reach triple figures.

"If you can't enjoy scoring a hundred at the SCG in front of 40,000 then it's a sad day but I was more pleased for the team," Vaughan said. "I put England in a strong posi-

tion, but...tomorrow's going to be a

tough day.
"It is a pretty good batting wicket out there and hopefully we can bat most of tomorrow and come the fifth at the Burswood Dome day it (the pitch) should deteriorate a bit more," Vaughan said.

"We just have to bat and get a formidable total because with the way the Aussies score their runs and the batting line-up they've got we're going to have to make sure we've got some decent runs on the board.

While England have been hopelessly outplayed throughout the series. Vaughan has been a beacon

of light His hundred on Saturday took him past Matthew Hayden (494) as the leading run-scorer in the series with 563 at 62.56 but the Yorkshireman said he hadn't had time to think about his achievements. He also ended 2002 as Test cricket's most prolific scorer with 1.481 runs.

"It's a funny trip, I'm scoring the runs, but it hasn't really sunk in," he

'I've scored three centuries and it probably won't have sunk in until I have a few weeks off and go back home and see what I have achieved.

"I am better batsman now than

when I first came on tour. "Before I came here there was always that question mark that I had never played against Australia I wasn't sure how I'd go and there were some doubts.

"I had those doubts as well because until you play the best you never know how you are going to react to situations like playing before big crowds and against their

"So to stand up and score a lot of runs against them will do my confidence the world of good."

# Pakistan follow on

**SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the second and final Test between South Africa and Pakistan at Newlands on Saturday: **SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings 620

for seven declared PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 141-1) Umar c Kallis b Ntini Elahi c Smith b Pollock Younis Khan Ibw b Pollock Inzamam c Dippenaar b Hayward32 Youhana c Boucher b Hayward 0 Iabal b Ntini Akmal Ibw b Pollock 0 Saglain c Boucher b Ntini Wagar c Kallis b Pollock Sami not out Zahid c Smith b Ntini Extras: (lb-1, nb-3) Total: (All out in 87.4 overs) 252 Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-152, 3-208, 4-208, 5-240, 6-247, 7-251, 8-252, 9-252. Bowler Pollock 23 6 45

20.4 7 62 35 Kallis 15 56 Hayward 17 2 53 PAKISTAN: Second innings Umar not out Elahi c Dippenaar b Ntini Younis Khan not out Extras: (nb-1) Total: (For1 wkt in 7 overs) Fall of wicket: 1-0. W Bowler 0 R Pollock 0 2 5

Ntini

4

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

### Mathieu pulls out of Aussie Open

Rising French tennis star Paul-Henri Mathieu has withdrawn from the Australian Open later this month in order to complete his recovery from an abdominal injury.

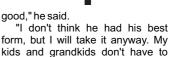
The exciting 20-year-old from Strasbourg, being touted as France's answer to Lleyton Hewitt, will skip the first Grand Slam of the year after picking up an injury late

# early advantage

AFP, Perth

Queensland snatched first innings points from Western Australia on the opening day Saturday of a Sheffield Shield clash here in which 16 wickets crashed on a

Pace pair Michael Kasprowicz (5-36) and Adam Dale (3-52) destroyed the Western Australian innings, in which only all-rounder Kade Harvey (35) and tail-



beating Australia in the final in Perth yesterday

Tennis

World number one Serena Williams

and partner James Blake carried the

United States to a sweeping victory

over Australia in the final of the

million-dollar (540,000 US) Hopman

Cup tennis tournament here

Williams scorched to a straight

sets victory, 6-2, 6-3, over Alicia

Molik to give the United States a

one-nil lead before Blake upset

Australia's top-ranked Lleyton

Hewitt to clinch the crown and the

240,000-dollars (130,000-US)

Americans completed a 3-nil clean

men's singles 6-3, 6-4 in 64 minutes

Blake, ranked 28th, won the

It was the American's first win

And it was the 21-year-old

Australian's second loss inside

three days -- on Thursday he went

down to the Czech Republic's Jiri

Blake was elated ater the victory,

but conceded the match was not

played under the same intense

conditions as a regular tournament.

"I think that was the first time

have taken out a reigning number

one. I think's it's just an exhibition

tournament, but it still feels pretty

winners' cheque.

sweep, winning 6-3, 6-2,

over Hewitt in five meetings.

Novak in three sets.

AFP, Perth

"It gives me a lot of confidence going into the rest of the year, know-

move around with my forehand. I was able to execute my match plan pretty much as I liked.

Blake said that despite his starting in just over a week. some power in outclassing Molik,

said she was happier with her form in the eight-day competition. In the "dead" mixed doubles, the

fashion.

under my belt. Williams started the match against the 94th-ranked Aussie with a series of blistering returns to break serve in the opening game and went

power, Williams won every one of her four service games in the first set with an ace

In the second set, Molik began promisingly, establishing a 2-1 lead

American Serena Williams (R) and compatriot James Blake hold the Hopman Cup trophy after

serted her dominance to take out

"I am just capable of taking in one

"There are a lot of people who

In the men's singles, Blake

The crucial game was the sixth in

Hewitt began the second set

The Australian needed attention

captured the first set in 33 minutes in

a match featuring long, probing

which the fast-moving American

disastrously, dropping service in the

at courtside after striking his racket

with his right hand in frustration and

would like to win the Australian

Open, so I am not going to say I am

going to win, or I am going to lose."

the match comfortably.

the US Open last year.

broke Hewitt's serve.

match at a time," she said.

Hopman Cup America's

"I don't think he had his best games but Williams soon reas-

know he was not in form -- just that Asked if her preparation for her ne is number one in the world. 2003 schedule was progressing satisfactorily, she said: "I am insatiable. I am never where I would like to

ng I can beat a top player. "I played well, and I was able to Williams was reluctant to speculate on her prospects of winning the Australian Open after she clinched the French Open, Wimbledon and

defeats, Hewitt was probably still the favorite for the Australian Open, Williams, who displayed awe-

n the final than she had been earlier "I have gone a little bit better each time I have played here this week," said Williams, who has won

all four singles clashes in convincing "Yes, I am definitely getting better and better, and I am happy that I have got some useful matches

Highlighting her awesome

cutting his knuckles. But the minor injury did not on to win the first set in 22 minutes.

opening game.

appear to affect his game. Hewitt gave credit to the Americans after his match, saying The US have been the standout team all week, and they thoroughly deserved to win today".

# Vaughan leads Eng way

Mark Butcher, the scorer of 124 in the first innings, was surprised by extra bounce from leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and dollied a catch to Havden at short leg for 34 leaving England at 124 for two.

Australia clawed their way to a bare lead after adding 126 for the last five wickets on Saturday to finish the series leading on the first innings in all of five Tests. The Australians got there on the back of centuries by Gilchrist (133)

and captain Steve Waugh (102) and

wiped out what would have been a testing deficit with the home side to bat last on the deteriorating pitch. Gilchrist pounded his seventh Test century and second Ashes hundred to frustrate England's efforts to mop up the Australian

The dashing No.7 left-hander played one of his audacious knocks to bring up his 100 off 94 balls with 14 boundaries. He was out soon after the resumption, giving a faint edge to Alec Stewart off Steve Harmison.

In a massive anti-climax for the expectant home fans who flooded into the ground, Waugh was out in the second over of the day without addition to his overnight score.

The Australian skipper edged firmly chest-high to Mark Butcher at second slip off Matthew Hoggard. The 37-year-old Australian hero

batted for 182 minutes, faced 135

balls and cracked 18 boundaries.

He put on 91 runs for the sixth wicket with Gilchrist. Waugh's 29th Test century equalled cricket immortal Don Bradman's Australian record.

Vice-captain Gilchrist assumed the responsibility to marshal the tailend to chip away at England's first innings. Jason Gillespie, who provided

Gilchrist with stoic support for him to

reach his century, remained 31 not

out off 83 balls with two fours and a straight-hit six off spinner Richard Dawson. They put on 82 runs for the ninth wicket. Medium-pacer Hoggard, who had taken just one wicket in the series prior to the Sydney Test, finished with 4-92 off 21.3 overs and

Andy Caddick and Steve Harmison

captured three wickets each.

#### **SCOREBOARD** Scoreboard after the third day of the

fifth and final Ashes cricket Test between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Hoggard Caddick Dawson

31 Total: (All out in 80.3 overs)

4-146, 5-150, 6-241, 7-267, 8-267, 9-349

3 121 4 70 0 72 Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-124

#### 0 М 36 10 45 23 2 76 10 0 32 14 2 3

#### Lee MacGill 363 Bichel 0 Martyn Waugh 0 Umpires: David Orchard and OMRW Russell Tiffin.

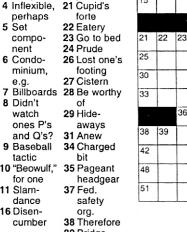
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** intentio 5 Agana's island 9 Height of fashion? 12 Re planes and such

13 "The King 50 "Hi, sailorl" 14 Abbr. on 52 Kennel the biz page 15 Scattershot 17 "My coun-18 Regimen 19 Get to

21 Needed 24 Manual laborer 25 Principa 26 Left alone 30 Frequent ly, in 31 Liquid 32 "Norma 33 Shy

Solution time: 25 mins. 36 Tackled





39 Bridge JTLLOQA position 40 Dance WTJRXQLBS 41 Comic-JNSBAG strip AQZBS XOZ "RNZJQG." penguin Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN WOODWORKERS DISAGREE, IS THEIR UNION LIABLE TO BREAK Midafternoon.

UP INTO SPLINTER GROUPS?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals R 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.



Queensland grab

spiteful pitch. After Western Australia had been routed for 107 on the damp, grassy surface at the WACA Ground, Queensland struggled to 118 for six

ender Michael Clark (18) showed even token resistance.

ENGLAND: First innings 362 (M Butcher 124, N Hussain 75, A Stewart 71; A Bichel 3-86) AUSTRALIA: First innings (over-11gnt 237-5)

Langer c Hoggard b Caddick Hayden Ibw b Caddick Ponting c Stewart b Caddick Martyn c Caddick b Harmison Waugh c Butcher b Hoggard 102 Love c Trescothick b Harmison Gilchrist c Stewart b Harmison 133 Bichel c Crawley b Hoggard Lee c Stewart b Hoggard Gillespie not out MacGill c Hussain b Hoggard Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-2, nb-9)

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-45, 3-56

**ENGLAND:** Second innings Trescothick b Lee Vaughan not out Butcher c Hayden b MacGill Hussain not out Extras: (b-5, lb-7, w-1, nb-2) Total: (For 2 wkts in 58 overs) 218 **Bowler** Gillespie