

Gambill reaches Qatar final

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.



Khandakar Aminul Islam (R) and FIDE Master Taibur Rahman are engrossed in deep thoughts during their ninth and final round match of the Prime Bank Fifth International Rating Chess tournament at the NSC Auditorium yesterday.

Seles lifts HK title

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.



American Serena Williams (R) and compatriot James Blake hold the Hopman Cup trophy after beating Australia in the final in Perth yesterday

Paradorn survives, Canas crashes

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.

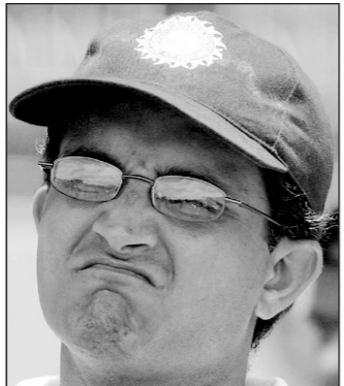
'We let everyone down'



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

the pitch for his team's defeat, saying his batsmen had been in very poor form.

"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 past.

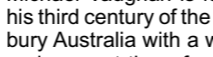


SOURAV GANGULY Ganguly conceded that it was the worst phase since he had taken over the captaincy in 2000.

"At the present moment, we all are struggling. So it depends on all of us to pull ourselves out of the position we are in."

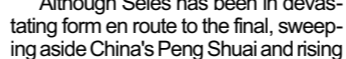
Ganguly said it was unfortunate that his batsmen kept playing shots straight into the hands of fielders here.

Michael expects a win



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.

Hopman Cup America's



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 Saturday.

Hopman Cup America's



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) winners' cheque.

good," he said. "I don't think he had his best form, but I will take it anyway. My kids and grandkids don't have to know he was not in form -- just that he is number one in the world."

"It gives me a lot of confidence going into the rest of the year, knowing I can be a top player."

Blake said that despite his defeats, Hewitt was probably still the favorite for the Australian Open, starting in just over a week.

Williams, who displayed awesome power in outclassing Molik, said she was happier with her form in the final than she had been earlier in the eight-day competition.

"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 fashion.

"Yes, I am definitely getting better and better, and I am happy that I have got some useful matches 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 on to win the first set in 22 minutes.

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

after holding her first two service games but Williams soon reasserted her dominance to take over the match comfortably.

Asked if her preparation for her 2003 schedule was progressing satisfactorily, she said: "I am insatiable. I am never where I would like to be."

Williams was reluctant to speculate on her prospects of winning the Australian Open after she clinched the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open last year.

"There are a lot of people who 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."

In the men's singles, Blake captured the first set in 33 minutes in a match featuring long, probing rallies.

The crucial game was the sixth in which the fast-moving American broke Hewitt's serve.

Hewitt began the second set disastrously, dropping service in the opening game.

The Australian needed attention at court-side after striking his racket with his right hand in frustration and cutting his knuckles.

But the minor injury did not 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".

Chinese Taipei

FROM PAGE 13 pair lifted the girls doubles crown beating South Korean duo Seo Soon Mi and Kim Haw Sun 6-2, 7-2.

Aminul, Parag

FROM PAGE 13 will be held today at the National Sports Council Conference Room at 4 pm.

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 yesterday.

Kanon

FROM PAGE 13 sending the team to a sub-standard tournament in Bhutan.

Adams abases India

FROM PAGE 13 from 55-1 to 69-5, with Adams taking three wickets and Daryl Tuffey one.

SCOREBOARD Complete scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between India and New Zealand at the John Davies Oval here on Saturday:

Table with 5 columns: Extras, Total, Fall of wickets, and a small table with columns O, M, R, W.

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Pakistan follow on

FROM PAGE 13 SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the second and final Test between South Africa and Pakistan at Newlands on Saturday:

Table with 5 columns: Extras, Total, and a small table with columns O, M, R, W.

Vaughan leads Eng way

FROM PAGE 13 Mark Butcher, the score of 124 in the first innings, was surprised by extra bounce from leg-spinner Stuart MacGill and drolled a catch to Hayden at short leg for 34 leaving England at 124 for two.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Lose intentionally... 37 Helsinki denizens... 3 Table scraps... 20 A billion years...



CRYPTOQUIP Q J T L L O Q A C J O B A S N C Z O A B N A R B W T J R X Q L B S Q W B G J N S B A G Q A S A Q Z B S X O Z " R N Z J Q G " Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN WOODWORKERS DISAGREE, IS THEIR UNION LIABLE TO BREAK UP INTO SPLINTER GROUPS?

Mathieu pulls out of Aussie Open

AFP, Paris 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.

Queensland grab 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 spiteful pitch.

SCOREBOARD

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