

Libya wants to host 2010 WC

AFP, Tunis

Libya will launch a joint bid with Tunisia to stage the 2010 World Cup soccer finals, Saadi Kadhafi, the son of the Libyan leader, said on Friday. South Africa, Egypt, Morocco and Nigeria are the other nations bidding for the World Cup which will definitely be held in Africa under the FIFA scheme to alternate the tournament from continent to continent.

The 30-year-old Kadhafi, in the books of Italian soccer club Perugia, is also bidding to become the president of the African Football Confederation.

Tunisia is organising the 2004 African Nations football finals in January.

Libya bought its way back into the international fold last month when it formally took responsibility for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over the Scottish town of Lockerbie that killed 270 people.

It agreed to pay 2.7 billion dollars (2.5 billion euros) to families of the victims, in return for a series of diplomatic measures aimed at ending Libya's status as a supporter of terrorism.

Last week Libya agreed to pay compensation to relatives of the 170 people killed in the 1989 bombing of a French airliner over the Sahara.

And a charity foundation headed by Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi's son said it would pay compensation to the relatives of three victims killed in a 1986 nightclub bombing in Berlin used by US servicemen.

Tendulkar, Sehwag

FROM PAGE 13 Tendulkar, widely regarded as the world's best batsman, missed a one-day triangular series in Dhaka in April, which was when India last played an international match.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who went through extensive physiotherapy for an injury to the middle finger of his right hand, was pronounced completely fit by Indian team physio Andrew Leipus earlier this month.

But there are still doubts over the readiness of left-arm paceman Ashish Nehra, who had ankle surgery in South Africa in April for an injury suffered during the 2003 World Cup.

"Ashish has made good progress, he had a good rehabilitation programme but he's probably a little way off," Wright said.

"He looked good at the nets but we'll have to discuss with Leipus on when he can return to international cricket."

India play two Tests against New Zealand starting in Ahmedabad on October 8, followed by a one-day triangular series also involving world champions Australia.

After that, they travel to Australia in December for a highly anticipated four-Test series.

SCORECARD

FROM PAGE 13

Adil c Bashir b Rafique	8			
Latif lbw b Mahmud	5			
Saqain c Mashud b Mahmud	11			
Shabbir lbw b Rafique	13			
Gul run out	5			
Ali not out	1			
Extras: (lb-4, w-4)	8			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 91 overs)	262			
Fall of wickets: 1-45, 2-62, 3-78, 4-81, 5-99, 6-132, 7-164, 8-205, 9-257				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Manjural	21	2	64	2
Biyaaya	12	0	46	0
Mahmud	28	9	68	3
Rafique	30	6	80	2

Result: Pakistan won by one wicket, take three match series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Inzamamul Haq.

Toss: Bangladesh

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka) and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe)

TV umpire: Aleem Dar (Pakistan)

Match referee: Mike Procter (South Africa)

Thorpe back with a bang

Cricket

AFP, London

Graham Thorpe marked his return to Test cricket with a hundred on his home ground as he and Marcus Trescothick piled on the runs against South Africa in the fifth and final Test at The Oval here Saturday.

When rain forced an early tea, on the third day, England were 351 for three, still 133 behind South Africa's first innings 484.

Opener Marcus Trescothick was 137 not out, having carried his bat for nearly seven hours facing 282 balls with 23 fours.

Ed Smith was unbeaten on four after Surrey's Thorpe had made 124, his 12th Test hundred and first at The Oval.

But with the Proteas 2-1 up, England still had much to do if they were to deny South Africa a draw that would give the tourists a first Test series victory in England since 1965.

Thorpe, 34, playing his first Test in over a year after briefly quitting all cricket following the collapse of his marriage, made the most of his chance after being recalled when former captain Nasser Hussain was ruled out with a broken toe sustained in South Africa's 191 run fourth Test win at Headingley.

Together with fellow left-hander Trescothick he put on 268 for the third wicket before he was bowled off his pads by paceman Jacques Kallis with rain starting to fall on the ground.

Thorpe left to prolonged applause, having faced 244 balls with 17 fours in just over five and a quarter hours of stylish batting.

England started the second session on 271 for two, 213 behind with Trescothick 103 not out and Thorpe unbeaten on 86.

First ball after lunch Trescothick cut part-time leg-spinner Jacques Rudolph for four.

Thorpe, whose last Test was against India at Lord's in July 2002, followed up with a cut four off Kallis that brought up a 200 stand with Trescothick.

South Africa took the new ball as soon as it was available with England 287 for two off 80 overs.

And soon afterwards Thorpe, on 93, took a painful blow in the box from fast bowler Makhaya Ntini.

He then edged paceman Shaun Pollock through a vacant third slip area to go from 94 to 98.

But a controlled steer off Ntini for two took Thorpe through to his century.

He was now in superb touch,

cutting Pollock for four and then forcing Ntini off the backfoot through point for another stylish offside boundary.

Thorpe then brought up the duo's 250 partnership with a magnificent lofted cover drive off Pollock for four.

Earlier Trescothick, 27, in what was only his second Test hundred in 50 innings and fourth overall, reached three figures with a pulled four off left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams.

His hundred came off 215 balls with 19 boundaries.

It was his first Test century since his 161 against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston in 2002 and together with Thorpe he ensured England, albeit in the last match of the series, finally gave the tourists' attack a tough workout.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the fifth and final Test between England and South Africa at The Oval on Saturday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 484

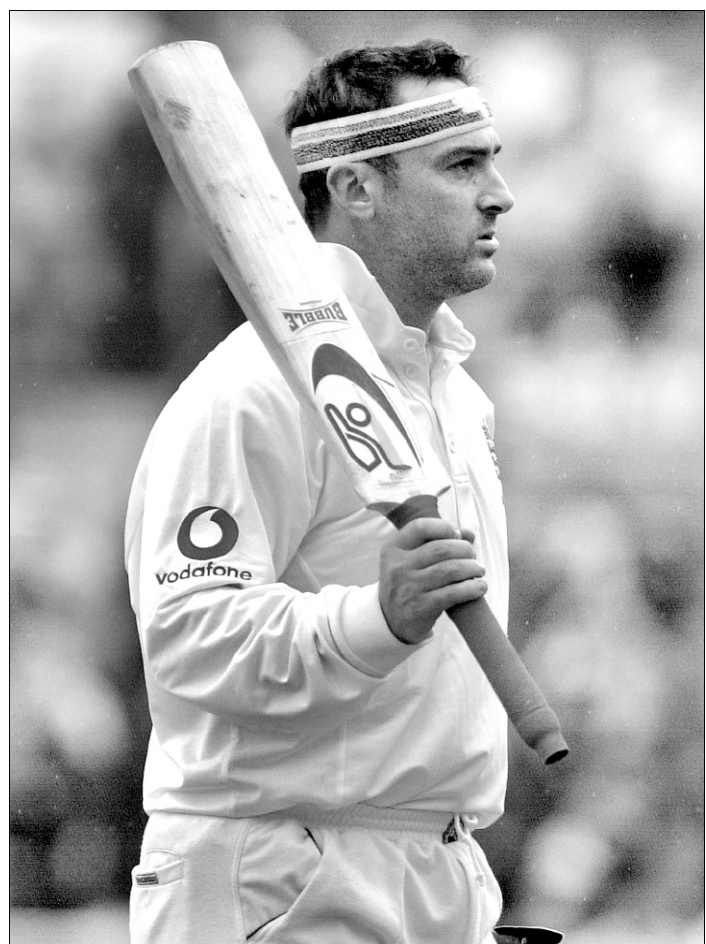
(Gibbs 183, Kirsten 90, Pollock 66 not out, Kallis 66)

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 165-2)

Trescothick not out	137
Vaughan c Gibbs b Pollock	23
Butcher lbw b Hall	32
Thorpe b Kallis	124
Smith not out	4
Extras: (b-6, lb-9, w-7, nb-9)	31
Total: (For 3 wickets in 97.2 overs)	351
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-78, 3-346	
To bat: A Stewart, A Flintoff, A Giles, M Bicknell, S Harmison, J Anderson	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	23	6	80	1
Ntini	18	2	61	0
Hall	21	5	63	1
Kallis	21.2	3	78	1
Adams	11	1	44	0
Rudolph	3	1	10	0

Toss: South Africa
Umpires: Simon Taufel (Australia) and Sri Venkataraghavan (India)



England's Graham Thorpe responds to the crowd's applause as he walks back to the pavilion on the third day of the fifth Test against South Africa at The Oval yesterday. He scored 124.

Shaun's special 300th

Cricket

AFP, London

South Africa all-rounder Shaun Pollock admitted it had given him an extra special kick to claim England captain Michael Vaughan as his 300th Test wicket at The Oval here Friday.

Vaughan's exit, edging to third slip Herschelle Gibbs for 23, capped a memorable day for 30-year-old Pollock who also hit an unbeaten 66 in South Africa's first innings 484.

When bad light forced an early close, England were 165 for two in reply, a deficit of 319, with left-handers Marcus Trescothick 64 not out and the recalled Graham Thorpe 28 not out.

But with South Africa, 2-1 up and needing just a draw to ensure their first series win in England since 1965, the Proteas were still well-placed.

"To have got Vaughan for my 300th Test wicket was pleasing," said pace bowler Pollock after dismissing last year's leading run

scorer in Test cricket.

But after South Africa, 362 for three on Thursday, lost their last seven wickets for 122 runs, Natal star Pollock added: "I thought England fought back well."

However, Pollock, sacked as South Africa captain after the team's first round World Cup exit on home soil earlier this year, said the luck had gone against his side.

And it was true that South Africa's slump Friday was sparked by the run out of the in-form Jacques Kallis for 66 when Pollock's drive off left-arm spinner Ashley Giles was deflected into the stumps at the bowler's end.

"It didn't really run for us. Jacques was set to get a good score but 484 is nothing to be disappointed about.

"I think we are still a little on top," added Pollock who missed South Africa's 191 run fourth Test win at Headingley to attend the birth of his daughter in Durban.

Pollock's dismissal of Vaughan saw him become the 19th bowler in history, and only the second South African after Allan Donald, to take

300 Test wickets.

On the ground where legendary England quick Fred Trueman became the first bowler to take 300 Test wickets back in 1964, Pollock thanked his former new-ball partner Donald for helping him to his tally.

"Batsmen always played a few more shots against me when Allan was at the other end," he said.

Meanwhile, Trescothick praised the contribution of Surrey batsman Thorpe, recalled for his first Test in over a year after the 34-year-old briefly opted out of all cricket following the break up of his marriage.

But given a chance after Nasser Hussain was ruled out with a broken toe sustained at Headingley, Thorpe in his 78th Test and on his home ground showed his experience in an unbroken third wicket stand of 87 with Trescothick.

"He did well," said Trescothick. "He knows how to handle these situations."

Heartbreak for Capriati

AFP, New York

Jennifer Capriati choked away a dream chance to reach her first US Open final, squandering opportunity after opportunity before finally losing to a cramping Justine Henin-Hardenne 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7/4).

US sixth seed Capriati served for the match in the second and third sets here Friday and was two points from victory on Henin-Hardenne's serve in both sets. But Capriati sprayed errant shots time after time to rescue her rival.

"When I came off the court I felt like the whole world was coming down on me, like my heart was being ripped out," Capriati said. "It's pretty hard to put into words after that kind of defeat."

The 27-year-old American was unable to put away pivotal points when it mattered most, blowing a 5-2 lead in the third set and a 5-3 in the second after rallying from a 4-1 deficit to capture the first set.

"I definitely had the match in my hands," Capriati said. "It was my match to win. I guess I beat myself."

Six-time Grand Slam winner Serena Williams and her powerful sister Venus had met in six of the prior eight Slam finals but were absent here with injuries, giving Capriati a golden opportunity that she squandered.

"It hurts. It's very disappointing. But what can I do. That's just the way it went," Capriati said. "I didn't let up too many times. I lost momentum only a couple times when I was in position to win, at the finish line there."

Capriati confessed it could be the sort of defeat that lingers a lifetime.

"Some losses could stay with you forever," she said. "You want to keep these things in your memory, to learn for next time."

"The next few days, it's going to be hard to look at it as just a match. Down the road, how I feel about it, yeah, it's just a match."

"Worse things can happen. Before I might have been more devastated. Instead of looking at myself as a failure for not winning, I look at it as giving all I had, showing a lot of heart. I am only human."

Second seed Henin-Hardenne advanced to an all-Belgian final Saturday against top-ranked Kim Clijsters, who eliminated US third seed Lindsay Davenport 6-2, 6-3 in the other semi-final.

Henin-Hardenne needs intravenous fluids afterward to treat cramping in her left leg.

PAKISTAN DIARY

FROM PAGE 13 not in the playing eleven.

And his lively presence as a sub was appreciated by everybody who watched the third day's play here in Multan.

The 19-year-old right-arm pacer was rested for the third Test to nurse his nagging back injury. But the big-hearted Narail boy volunteered to take injured Alok Kapali's place in the gully on Thursday. And standing in that vital position he took three superb catches including an absolute blinder from Yasir Hameed.

Those stunning catches earned him the best fielders prize worth Rupees 10,000.

Mashrafe is now fully fit and all set to return for the five-match one-day series starting on September 9.

Pride in defeat

FROM PAGE 13 The Australian was especially arrogant before the tour of Australia in July by saying: "It (a Test) could be all over and done within a day. The reality is that Bangladesh doesn't deserve to be in Test cricket and they certainly shouldn't be given any favours out on the field."

But Bangladesh have definitely started to reply to those cruel remarks since Dav Whatmore took over. The Australian has overseen the dramatic improvement starting with the tour down under.

And as Whatmore likes to put it Bangladesh's performance graph is upward, there is no doubt about it.

Who knows? With England coming to Bangladesh next month the Tigers can think of some better than a one-wicket defeat.

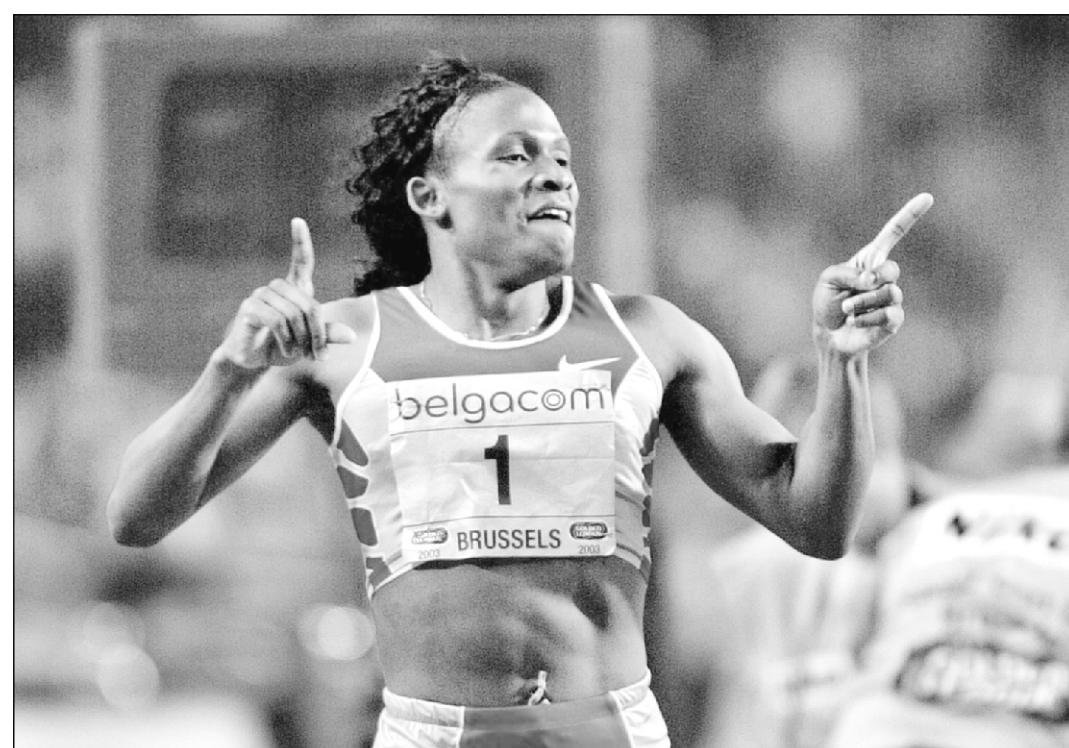
Coach content

FROM PAGE 13 other hand, thought that they could have won the match if few things went according to his desire.

"Yes, we were very confident at the start of the day as we needed only four wickets. But Inzamam played a very good innings and it was one of the best knock I have seen in Test cricket. I thought the tailenders also gave him good support," he said adding that they tried their best, but it wasn't just their day.



A goalmouth action from yesterday's 15th DSA Cup football tournament fixture between Ulka Club and Cosmos XI at the Khulna Stadium. Ulka won 2-0.



Maria Mutola is ecstatic after winning the 800 metres race at the Golden League Athletics meeting in Brussels on Friday.

Mutola makes history

Athletics

AFP, Brussels

Maria Mutola became the first athlete to win the Golden League million dollar bonus all for herself here on Friday while Kelli White showed nerves of steel to shrug aside the drugs scandal enveloping her sprint double at the World Championships and win the 100 metres.

White, who is in danger of losing her medals after testing positive for a stimulant, led a phalanx of athletes who made their points for what they considered were real or imagined slights at the World Championships.

Jamaica's Asafa Powell won the men's 100m - he had been disqualified in Paris - and Sureyya Ayhan of Turkey put behind her surprise defeat in the 1,500m to set the fastest time this year of 3min 55.33sec.

Kenya's Wilfred Bungei backed up his belief that he should have gone to the worlds after missing his national championships because of a chest infection as he clocked 1:42.52 in the 800m to set another world-leading time.

His compatriot Paul Koech didn't win the steeplechase but in coming second he said he hoped it made his friend and training partner Bernard Lagat, who it was revealed earlier this week had tested positive for the endurance-booster EPO, feel a bit

better. Algeria's Ali Saidi-Sief also made a point of sorts as he beat home 5,000m world champion Eliud Kipchoge in the 3,000m in only his second race since returning from a two-year drugs ban.

Morocco's Hicham El Guerrouj made his point to the organisers after reverting to the 1,500m from the originally planned 3,000m by running the fastest time of the year, 3:28.40.

After claiming he was only jogging he said he would try and break the mile or 1,500m world record before the season's end.

Ethiopian master Haile Gebrselassie showed that despite the arrival of 20-year-old Ethiopian compatriot Kenenisa Bekele he was not done yet in the 10,000m by setting a time of 26:29.22, the third fastest of all time.

While White was greeted warmly by the crowd and introduced as the world champion the organisers pointedly left her out of their pre-meeting parade of champions.

However the 26-year-old gave the perfect reply and led from start to finish to see off veteran Chryste Gaines.

But an IAAF spokesman dismissed White's claim that she would know about her medals so soon, because her explanation has to be sent to the USATF.

Mutola was never in trouble and while Jolanda Ceplak led into the straight once the Mozambican pushed the button she had the million dollars in her purse.

Agassi faces Ferrero

US OPEN

AFP, New York

Top-ranked Andre Agassi and French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero advanced to a US Open semi-final showdown here Friday while Andy Roddick won his 17th match in a row to set a date with David Nalbandian.

Eight-time Grand Slam champion Agassi beat Argentine fifth-seeded Guillermo Coria 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 and Spanish third seed Ferrero won eight of the last nine games to oust Australian sixth seed Lleyton Hewitt 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1.

US fourth seed Roddick fired 15 aces to down Dutch 12th seed Sjeng Schalken 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 while Argentina's 13th seed Nalbandian outduelled 21st-ranked Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui 7-6 (7/2), 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Agassi, who at 33 is the oldest man in the field and oldest to be ranked number one, could become the oldest US Open champion since 1970 when Australian Ken Rosewall won at age 35. Agassi advanced to his ninth US Open semi-final.

Ferrero agrees. He would overtake Agassi for the world number one ranking with a victory.

Ferrero is 2-1 against Agassi, winning a 2002 French Open quarterfinal and at last year's ATP Masters Cup while losing last year at Madrid. Roddick is 2-0 against Nalbandian, including a win in last month's Montreal final.

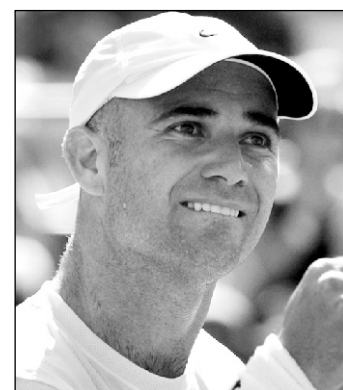
Roddick reached his third Slam semi-final of the year but first at the

US Open, where he lost quarterfinals to eventual champions the past two years. A first Grand Slam title is within his reach, but he has work yet to grasp it.

Roddick's win streak is the ATP's longest of the year and includes titles at Indianapolis, Cincinnati and

Thursday after sneaking in triumphs between raindrops earlier this week.

Reigning Australian Open champion Agassi won the US Open title in 1994 and 1999, but lost last year's final to Pete Sampras. Not since Mats Wilander in 1988 has an Australian Open champion won the



ANDRE AGASSI



JUAN CARLOS FERRERO

Montreal. Since pairing with former Agassi coach Brad Gilbert in early June, Roddick has lost only twice.

Blocking his path will be Nalbandian, the 2002 Wimbledon runner-up who beat Swiss second seed Roger Federer in the fourth round. Nalbandian is the first man from his land so deep here since Guillermo Vilas won the 1977 US Open.

Nalbandian, who took nearly three hours to win, and Ferrero will play their third matches in as many days, an unprecedented Slam test. Agassi and Roddick rested

US Open title in the same year.

Coria had a sore left hamstring and cut right thumb, aiding Agassi in making fast work of the South American to aid his chances against Ferrero in an event where rain wiped out rest days on the path to a Sunday final.

Coria battled through but could not conquer Agassi on key points. Hewitt squandered two set points in the third set and when a left hip injury flared, he was unable to challenge Ferrero.

Roddick made a believer of Schalken with his powerful serve.

All-Belgian final

FROM PAGE 13 status she hopes to end in her third Grand Slam final. Clijsters lost to Capriati in the 2001 French Open final and to Henin-Hardenne in June's French Open final.

After losing before Belgian royalty at the Roland Garros final, Clijsters expects the all-Belgian Slam final to be even better the second time around.

"It will be even more special because we're so far away from Belgium now," she said. "Here I think lots of people don't even know where Belgium is so this is a great way to create some attention for the nation and for us as well."

Clijsters, the only player not to

lose a set in the fortnight, has watched Henin-Hardenne increase her strength to challenge Venus and Serena Williams, the dominating American duo who both missed this event due to injuries.

Clijsters is 8-7 lifetime against Henin-Hardenne and 3-3 this year, but Henin-Hardenne has won three of the past four, all finals, losing only when she retired with an injury in a Wimbledon tune-up.

Capriati, heartbroken after choking while serving for the match in the second and third sets, had time to offer best wishes for her conqueror.

Clijsters won her first US Open semi-final in just 63 minutes.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Food additive 40 24/7, maybe 6 African antelope 12 Like milk 13 More expensive 14 Ochs or Zukor 15 Firstborn 16 Talkative bird 17 Pinocchio's polygraph 19 Ninny 20 Holly-wood Blvd. symbol 22 "Get me outta here!" on a key-board 24 The woman 27 Heroic 29 Like many dorms 32 Hot or cold potful 35 Touch 36 Dispatch 37 A really long time

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