

Embarrassing start for Zim

REUTERS, Melbourne

Zimbabwe started their tour of Australia with an embarrassing first innings total of 149 against a Perth grade side on Sunday.

The Africans had organised a three-day match against Rockingham-Mandurah as a warmup for their three-day game against Western Australia starting on Friday.

The locals won the toss and elected to field first, opening bowlers Darren Waites (4-22) and Tim Gilbert (3-35) exploiting a lively wicket.

Sean Irvine was Zimbabwe's leading scorer with 41 but the touring team lasted only 69.4 overs. Rockingham-Mandurah were 52 for

Zimbabwe's two-Test series against the world's top-ranked side starts in Perth on October 9

Agassi skips Euro meetSs

AFP, Washington

American Andre Agassi has pulled out of three European tournaments scheduled for next month so he can devote more time to his family.

Agassi has pulled out of tournaments in TMS Madrid. October 13-19; Stockholm Open October 20-26 TMS Paris October 27 to November

Agassi is next scheduled to play in the Tennis Masters Cup at Houston, Texas in November.

Ashraful gets

Omar and Anwar Hossain Munir after the Test series was over. Other noticeable absentees in

the preliminary list were former national captain Naimur Rahman. and openers Shahriar Hossain and Al-Shahriar.

The selection committee have decided to give last domestic season's top run-getter Moniruzzaman. wicketkeeper Mohammad Salim, off spinner Fahim Muntasir and leg spinner Mosaddek Hossain a chance to stake their claim in the Bangladesh squad.

Faruque also revealed that no new player will be considered apart from the 20 named for the England

U-19 WC battlelines

FROM PAGE 13 GROUP C: India, New Zealand Bangladesh and Scotland (Bangabandhu National Stadium, Fatullah Cricket Stadium and BKSP). GROUP D: West Indies, Pakistan, Ireland and the champions from Africa-Europe region (Khulna

Divisional Stadium). FIXTURE (first round)

Feb 15: Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe England v Nepal Bangladesh v New Zealand Pakistan v Africa-Europe region's champions

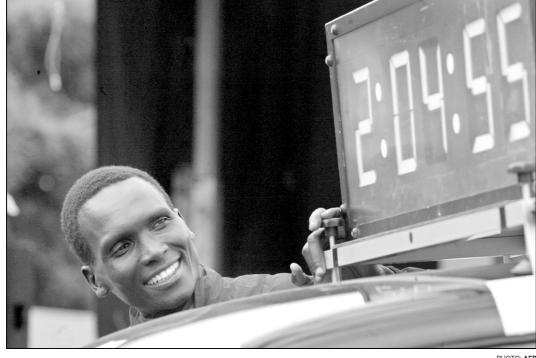
Feb 16: Australia y Canada South Africa v Africa-Europe region's runners-India v Scotland

West Indies v Ireland Feb 17: Sri Lanka v Canada England v Africa-Europe region's runners-up Bangladesh v Scotland Pakistan v Ireland Feb 18: Australia v Zimbabwe South Africa v Nepal

India v New Zealand West Indies v Africa-Europe region's champi-Feb 19: Zimbabwe v Canada

Nepal v Africa-Europe

region's runners-up New Zealand v Scotland Africa-Europe region's champions v Ireland Feb 20: Australia v Sri Lanka South Africa v England India v Bangladesh West Indies v Pakistan



MARATHON MAN: Kenyan Paul Tergat examines the clock reading after winning the Berlin Marathon setting a new

Record-breaking Tergat

Athletics

Kenya's Paul Tergat set a new world best time of 2hr 04min 55secs as he won the Berlin marathon here Sunday.

Tergat had to sprint at the finish to hold off his compatriot and pacemaker, Sammy Korir, who finished second in 2:04:56 with another Kenyan, Titus Munji, finishing in third place.

Tergat's time shatters the previous world best time of 2:05:38 set by Moroccan-born American Khalid Khannouchi in London last year.

"I knew deep in my head that one day I would get this world record, and today everything fell into place, said the 34-year-old. "It was a relief after training for so long. But I couldn't believe the time, I thought I could maybe do low 2:05, but 2:04 was

"I realised during the race that we were on course for a great time and I was careful not to force the pace too much. That tactic paid off."

He collected a prize of 30,000 euros (dollars) for the victory and a 50,000-euro bonus for his world

Taylor Dent denied world number

one Juan Carlos Ferrero the first

indoor victory of his career, sweep-

ing past the Spaniard 6-3, 7-6

Sunday to lift the trophy at the

Thousands in a sellout crowd of

10,000 had been cheering the

popular Spaniard on as he became

the de facto fan favourite after the

quarterfinal exit of top Thai

big serve is beginning to be backed

up by solid play at the net, spoiled

title of the season and third of his

career with the win in one hour, 40

while Dent takes off for next week's

event in Moscow leaving Bangkok

with a locked-in spot on the ATP

calendar after the success of the

inaugural edition of the tournament.

trophies this season have all come

on clay, was unable to storm back

after Dent won the opening set,

Ferrero, whose previous three

the scenario at the Impact arena.

But the underrated Dent, whose

The eighth seed lifted his second

Ferrero heads back to Spain

550,000-dollar Thailand Open.

Paradorn Srichaphan

minutes.

Tennis

Tergat is considered a crosscountry specialist having won a record five consecutive world titles from 1995 to 1999.

BEST SO FAR

Progression of world best times in the men's marathon following Paul Tergat's new benchmark in Berlin on Sunday 2:08:33 -- Derek Clayton (AUS),

1969 at Antwerp (BEL) 2:08:13 -- Alberto Salazar (USA) 1981 at New York (USA) 2:08:05 -- Steve Jones (GBR), 1984 at Chicago (USA)

2:07:12 -- Carlos Lopes (POR) 20/04/85 at Rotterdam (NED) 2:06:50 -- Belayneh Dinsamo (ETH), 17/04/88 at Rotterdam (NED)

2:06:05 -- Ronaldo Da Costa (BRA), 20/09/98, at Berlin 2:05:42 -- Khalid Khannouchi (MAR), 24/10/99, at Chicago (USA) 2:05:38 -- Khalid Khannouch (USA), 14/04/02, at London

28/09/03, at Berlin 2:04:55 -- Paul Tergat (KEN),

Ferrero Dent-ed

2:04:56 -- Sammy Korir (KEN)

levelling in the second but losing in a

deciding tie-breaker as the

American put a winning return down

"I got a bit lucky and snuck out

"Juan Carlos is the world

Number one and I'm glad I was able

TAYLOR DENT

Ferrero, a heavy crowd favourite

surprise.

one win each

the line to seal victory.

this win." said Dent.

Khannouchi's record-breaking run in London in 2:05:48. he emphatically claimed his first marathon win in six starts and set the third world record of his career.

He set the 10.000 metres world record with 26:27.85 in 1997 although the time was improved a vear later by his Ethiopian rival Haile Gebrselassie, and owns the world's best time of 59:17 for the half-

Berlin has a reputation for producing fast times and Tergat's achievemnent came despite a late change of course so the race would finish through the Brandenburg Gate.

It is the fourth world record registered in the German capital in five years, since Ronaldo da Costa of Brazil started the sequence in 1998.

record the following year in 2:20:43, and that was broken by Naoko Takahashi of Japan in 2001, when she became the first woman under two hours 20 minutes, with her

Kirmani India's chief selector

SPÖRT

Former Test wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani was named chairman of India's selection committee at a meeting of the cricket board here on Sunday

"Syed Kirmani will be the chief of India's senior selection committee," president of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Jagmohan Dalmiya announced a day after ensuring a third term at the helm.

Kirmani replaced his former Karnataka teammate Brijesh Patel, who is recuperating after heart surgery at a hospital in the southern Indian city of Bangalore.

Arguably the best wicketkeeper produced by India, Kirmani finished with 198 victims in 88 Test matches and was named best wicketkeeper at the 1983 World Cup in England. He last played for India in 1986.

Kirmani, representing south zone, pipped north's Kirti Azad.

Azad, also a member of the 1983 World Cup winning squad, remains a member of the five-member selection committee along with Pranab Roy (east), Kiran More (west) and Sanjay Jagdale (central).

BCCI secretary S Karunakaran Nair will be the convenor. Dalmiya also announced that former India captain Sunil Gavaskar

would remain the chairman of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore. "The working committee has

decided to improve the infrastructure of the NCA and will try and buy land with the purpose of setting up a research centre and laboratory apart from other basic require ments." he said.

Regarding the prospects of a bilateral series with Pakistan, Dalmiya said the issue was not security but of getting a 'go-ahead'

"Once the two governments decide to let their teams play, security will be taken care of. I am optimistic about an India-Pakistan series in the near future," said Dalmiya.

Dalmiya also said that the working committee had decided to put on in the quarter-finals on Wednesday hold proposals of some other cricket

"The ICC has proposed a series between the World one-day champion and a Rest of the World XI as well as one between the World Test champion side against a Rest of the World XI in 2005.

Dalmiya demands

continuous cricket

FROM PAGE 13 matches played by Indian cricket-

"Players are not getting any respite in between and are playing

"It was decided by the board to request and represent to the ICC to have this programme spread over 12 to 14 years.

The current programme had rced India to pla about 18 months until this year's World Cup, he said.

The ICC's Test programme was launched in February 2001 to help long-term planning and marketing of the game and providing more opportunities for weaker teams such as Bangladesh and

Welcome Barmy

FROM PAGE 13

the International Gallery will be kept vacant during the entire England tour as renovation works are going on in that part. The first Test will start at the BNS

on October 20. The second and third one-day matches, both daynighters, will also be played here on November 10 and 12. Chittagong will host the second

Test starting on October 29. The first one-day international on November 7 will also be held in the port city.

Akash, Yuvraj hit form



AFP/REUTERS, Visakhapatnam

Opener Akash Chopra slammed a fine unbeaten hundred for the Indian Board President's XI on the third and final day of the rain-hit tour match against New Zealand here on Sunday. Chopra was 103 not out at close

as Board President's XI reached 227-1 in the truncated tie, strengthening his case for an opening slot for the upcoming two-Test series against New Zealand.

Chopra, who struck six fours off 263 deliveries, got to his century with a pulled boundary from offspinner Paul Wiseman. The captains decided to call off play with that TOO LONG. I DO BELIEVE IT OUGHT TO HAVE stroke.

"It was wonderful to get these runs and I am looking forward to our next match," said Chopra, who is also a member of the India A side due to take on the visitors from October 2 to 4 at Rajkot.

Left-hander Yuvraj Singh, a regular in the Indian one-day team, also staked a claim for a Test berth with an unbeaten 80.

Scoreboard on the final day of a three-day tour match between New Zealand and an Indian Board President's XI on Sunday: INDIAN BP XI: First innings

Chopra not out 103 Sehwag retired Das c Hart b Butler 16 80 Yuvraj not out Extras: (nb-16, w-1, lb-2) Total: (For 1 wkt in 84.5 overs) 227 Did not bat: Laxman, Sriram, Ratra Mishra, Powar, Bhandari, Trivedi

Fall of wicket: 1-61 0 R W Bowler 6 32 Mason 12 4 24 3 2 0 Styris 26 85 0 Vettori 4 82 23.5 Wiseman NEW ZEALAND: Fleming, Richardson, Astle, McMillan, Vincent, Styris, Hart, Vettori, Wiseman,

Butler, Mason

Result: Match drawn.



World Cup debut, tied it in injury time

THAT SINKING FEELING! Japanese custodian Nozomi Yamago is desolate after conceding a goal against Canada at

Samba queens in last 16

Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts on September 27.

Brazil, Norway

and Canada

qualified for the

quarter-finals of

the Women's

World Cup on

Saturday, as

Germany

cemented their quarter-finalist

status by completing a perfect

capture first place in Group B.

Norway romped past South Korea

7-1 to clinch second place.

Germany in Group C.

Washington.

Brazil drew 1-1 with France to

Canada advanced out of the first

The Brazilians found the back of

round for the first time after defeat-

ing Japan 3-1, finishing second to

the net only once in the lowest

scoring match of the day, but it was

enough to clinch the Group B title in

avoid playing the host United States

in Foxboro, Massachusetts, if, as

expected the USA finish top of group

A after completing the first round

behind us, our expectations have

risen," said Brazil coach Paulo

Goncalves, whose team most likely

face the United States, Goncalves

replied: "Yes. As we advance, the

US is incredible. They have home

field advantage and unbelievable

crowds. They also have a great

goal of the Cup as she took advan-

tage of a rare mistake by French

goalkeeper Celine Marty in the 58th

minute. Marty had a moment of

indecision as she and Katia raced to

meet a long back from Maicon. The

ball bounced at the top of the box

and Katia chipped it on the half

The French, who made their

Katia connected for her fourth

support system here.

Asked whether it is a relief not to

will meet Sweden in the next round

"With three very good games

against North Korea on Sunday.

That means Brazil probably will

AFP, Washington

opening round

Wednesday, advanced past the first round in their third World Cup with a 3-1 victory over Japan. The Canadians will play the Group D winner in Portland on

Thursday - either China or Russia. "There was a lot of pressure on

us before the start of the match. partly created by ourselves due to our fine performances of late," Canada coach Even Pellerud said 'We didn't live up to our own expectations in the match against Argentina, but today we did better. I think we have turned a page."

Homare Sawa had given the Japanese the lead in the 20th minute, but the North American side equalized in the 36th minute when Christine Latham outmuscled Yasuuo Yamagishi and beat goalkeeper Nozomi Yamago from 15 yards out.

Canada took the lead for good as Christine Sinclair headed in a Brittany Timko corner kick in the 49th minute. Kara Lang closed out the scoring by lofting a 14-yard shot past Yamago in the 72nd minute. "I don't think our players don't

have stamina, but in terms of physical size we do have some disadvantages." Japan coach Eiji Ueda said. "It's hard to deal with high balls into the box because of that. It's something we have to work on." Norway rolled over South Korea

7-1 in Foxboro, Olympic champions Norway finished second in Group B to Brazil.

"We told ourselves that we are better than when we played against the Brazilian team," Norway coach Age Steen said. "We tried to score enough goals so that if France had beaten the Brazilians we would win the group. And we would have won the group had France won." Dagny Mellgren, who scored the

Golden Goal in the 2000 Olympics gold-medal match, and Linda Ormen, each had two goals for the

Marianne Pettersen created the first two goals, finding Solveig Gulbrandsen in the fifth minute and setting up Mellgren's breakaway on a cross in the 24th minute. Mellgren found the back of the

net, beating goalkeeper Kim Jung Mi for a 3-0 lead. Petterson scored in the 40th minute and Brit Sandaune tallied in the 52nd

Kim Jim Hee scored the first Women's World Cup goal in South Korea history in the 75th minute

Ormen closed out the scoring with goals in the 80th and 90th. The eight goals equaled a tour-

nament record for a single match, which has been accomplished on Germany finished off their

unblemished opening roundth a 6-1 victory over Argentina. Maren Meinert, the 2003 Most

Valuable Player of the Women's United Soccer Association, scored two goals and created two others. The victory, however, appeared

to be a costly one for the Germans as midfielder Steffi Jones apparently torn a ligmanet in her right knee and could be lost for the rest of the tournament. Meinert volleyed home Kerstin Stegemann's cross past goalkeeper

Romina Ferro in the third minute. but the European champions were far from finished. Bettina Wiegmann converted a penalty in the 24th minute after a foul on Birgit Prinz. Only eight minutes later Prinz

scored off a half-bicycle kick from 10 yards, her fourth goal of the Cup. Meinert made it 4-0 in the 43rd minute, striking from 20 yards.

Argentina finally scored their first World Cup goal - they were outscored 15-1 in three matches - as substitute Yanina Gaitan connected from 20 yards in the 72nd minute.

It's off to Tokyo



volley for a 1-0 lead.

Australia's Mark Philippoussis will be hoping to build on his weekend success at Shanghai when the Japan Open tennis tournament gets under way here on Monday.

The Wimbledon finalist, who crushed Czech Jiri Novak 6-2, 6-1 in iust 45 minutes on Sunday for his first ATP triumph since early 2001, is among a list of players hoping to capitalise on the withdrawal of the injured US Open champion Andy Roddick.

Thai star Paradorn Srichapan is also among the favourites along with top seed Rainer Schuettler of Germany, Sebastien Grosjean of France and Novak. Hopes are high that third seed

Paradorn, who defended the hardcourt ATP event in New York in August for his fourth career title, will repeat his excellent performance of last year. Paradorn's victory over then

world number one Lleyton Hewitt confirmed his arrival as a world tennis power. However, Philippoussis and

Paradorn will have to see off strong challenges if they are to lift the Tokyo trophy, won last year by Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark. Top seed Rainer, runner-up at

the Australian Open, will be looking to hit top form after Germany's 2-3 Davis Cup loss to Belarus saw them relegated to the Euro/African zone Group One. For second seed Grosjean, a

semi-finalist at Wimbledon, Tokyo is his first event since being dumped out of the US Open in the first round. "It's been 20 days since the US

Open. My right elbow has been a bit painful, but nothing is broken. I just needed a rest," said Grosjean. "I practised in Paris last week -- I

only started serving last week after a medical check, but I feel okay now." Schuettler is in the same half of

the draw with Philippoussis, 1999 Japan Open champion and sixth seed Nicolas kiefer of Germany, fourth seed Novak and up-and coming 10th seed Mario Ancic of Croatia

Last year's runner-up Magnus Norman of Sweden, the 11th seed is also in Schuettler's quarter.

Meanwhile Grosjean is in the bottom half with Paradorn, seventh seed Lee Kyung-Taik of South Korea, eighth seed Jan-Michael Gambill of the United States and defending champion Carlesen, the



Victoria Sporting Club president Shafiqur Rahman Munna (C) presiding over the biannual general meeting of the club at its premises on Saturday. Munna was reelected for a second term.

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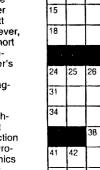
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer DOWN 22 Dentist's **ACROSS** 41 Mystery 1 Hear Slip up writer 23 Singer 5 Needing polish 43 Indepen matter Lovett 2 Swear 24 Retriever, 9 Sartorial dent for short nation 12 "Aladdin" since 3 Fairy-tale 25 Shoemaker's parrot 1991 13 Actor Morales frothy 26 Sphag-5 Sociálist 14 Tennyson feathers candidate 27 Boot princess 48 Massa 15 Assistant chusetts Eugene attach-6 Canteer foreman college, initials 17 Just out 18 Motifs 7 Part of

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CRYPTOQUIP F NZIIVNK FG'N JVSIEKGKEO

JPEE

VX ZSIFXK

ITS APPENDIX TAKEN OUT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals E The Cryptoguip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

"NIVXG PZGWVXFGO."

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.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS TEXTBOOK IS

marathon. Yasuko Hashimoto won the women's race in a time of 2:26:32 to hand Japan their fourth consecutive

victory in the women's race.

Tegla Loroupe set a women's

after the tearful quarter-final exit of

Thai hero Paradorn Srichaphan,

got off to a steady start but failed to

impose his game on the eage Dent went up a break for 4-2, forcing Ferrero to play catch-up. The Spaniard forced Dent to save a break point a game later with an overhead from Ferrero's backhand

But despite a Ferrero hold for 3-

Dent claimed the opening set after just 39 minutes from another stinging service winner. The 22-year-old American made good on his earlier effort, starting the second set with a break

winner down the line.

baseline.

to beat him today. This is a bit of a Ferrero was playing in his sixth final of the season while Dent is now return before recovering to hold, 3two-for-two in 2003 title matches as 4. Dent again came under preshe levels his series with Ferrero at sure, forced to save another pair of break points as Ferrero struggled to get back into contention.

of serve as a defensive Ferrero backhand lob landed beyond the Dent salvaged another break point as Ferrero pressed, but couldn't budge the 88-kg American. Dent reached a 4-2 lead then moved into match-winning position with two break points on the Ferrero serve. The Spaniard saved them both but wasted a game point with a wild