

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.

Agassi skips Euro meetSs

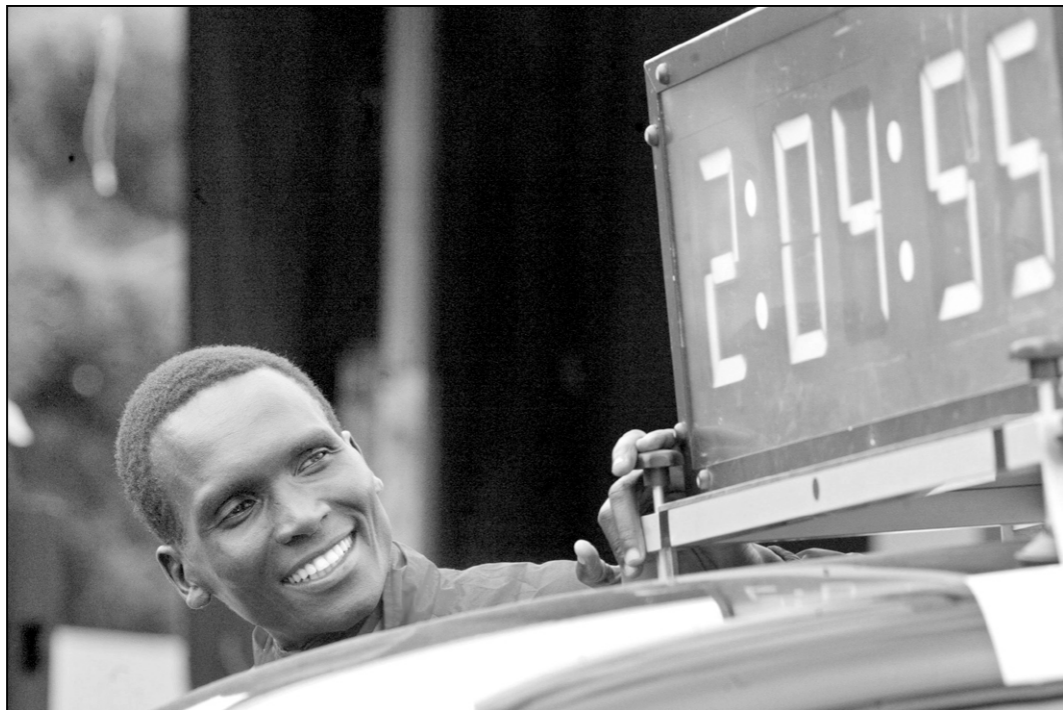
AFP, Washington American Andre Agassi has pulled out of three European tournaments scheduled for next month so he can devote more time to his family.

Ashrafal gets

FROM PAGE 13 Omar and Anwar Hossain Munnir 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.

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).



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

Record-breaking Tergat

Athletics

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

Tergat had to sprint at the finish to hold off his compatriot and pace-maker, 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.

Ferrero Dent-ed

Tennis

Taylor Dent denied world number one Juan Carlos Ferrero the first indoor victory of his career, sweeping past the Spaniard 6-3, 7-6 Sunday to lift the trophy at the 550,000-dollar Thailand Open.

best time. Tergat is considered a cross-country 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) 2:06:50 -- 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 Khannouchi (USA), 14/04/02, at London 2:04:56 -- Sammy Korir (KEN), 28/09/03, at Berlin 2:04:55 -- Paul Tergat (KEN), 28/09/03, at Berlin

Tennis

leveling in the second but losing in a deciding tie-breaker as the American put a winning return down the line to seal victory. "I got a bit lucky and snuck out this win," said Dent.

Taylor Dent

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Kirmani India's chief selector

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

Samba queens in last 16

Athletics

World Cup debut, tied it in injury time as Marinette Pichon scored from 12 yards.

Tennis

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.

Welcoming Barmy

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

Cricket

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.

Cricket

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.



THAT SINKING FEELING! Japanese custodian Nozomi Yamago is desolate after conceding a goal against Canada at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts on September 27.

It's off to Tokyo

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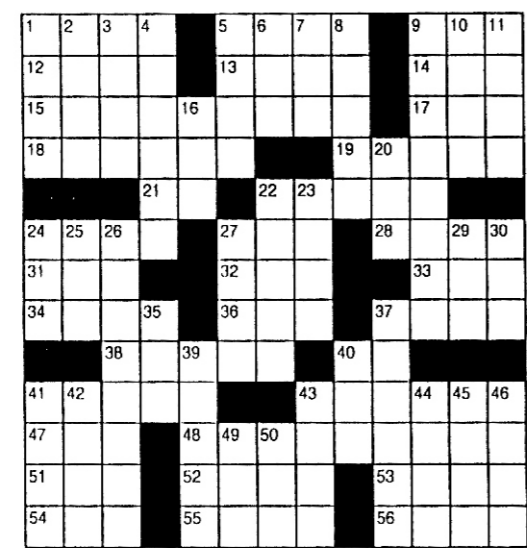
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Mystery writer 1 Slip up P.D. 5 Needing polish 9 Sartorial woe 12 "Aladdin" parrot 13 Actor Morales 14 Tennyson princess 15 Assistant foreman 17 Just out familiarly 18 Motifs 19 Boston airport 21 TV show set in Sluckeyville 22 Armada 24 Columbo's org. 27 Crally 28 Santa's runway 31 Partner of shock 32 Ward heeler, e.g. 33 Scale member 34 Mediocre 36 Work with 37 Wan 38 Goes sight-seeing 40 Lektor addition



CRYPTOQUIP

F N Z I I V N K F G ' N J V S I E K G K E O Q P F X G V J P E E G W K X K Q K X K K V X Z S I F X K P

"N I V X G P Z G W V X F G O."

Yesterday's Cryptogram: THIS TEXTBOOK IS TOO LONG. I DO BELIEVE IT OUGHT TO HAVE ITS APPENDIX TAKEN OUT.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: K equals E

The Cryptogram 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.

Akash, Yuvraj hit form

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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.