SPÖRT



Andre Agassi eyes a shot against Fernando Gonzalez of Chile during the quarterfinal match of the Countrywide Classic UCLA in California on Friday.

Agassi's LA voyage over

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Andre Agassi bid farewell to a tournament that helped shape his glorious career, losing to Fernando

Gonzalez in the quarterfinals of his final appearance at the Los Angeles ATP event on Friday. The eight-time Grand Slam winner Agassi was the defending Los Angeles champion, and he also

captured the title in 1998, 2001, and 2002. He was runner-up in 1988 and 1999. Gonzalez needed one hour, 53 minutes to win 6-4. 3-6. 7-5 over

Agassi, who is retiring after next month's US Open. "I am at peace with my career," Agassi said. "I feel great about the

decision to retire and I look forward to the summer. The 36-year-old American

survived three match points in the third set, but couldn't hold serve in the final game as Gonzalez clinched the victory with a backhand winner

"It was a high standard match," said Agassi, who received a long ovation as he walked off the University of California at Los Angeles courts for the last time. "He stepped it up at the end of the game with some pretty spectacular shots. It is a disappointing loss for me."

Gonzalez, of Chile, won their only other meeting 3-6, 6-4, 7-6

Flovd Landis. fighting a doping

scandal that could cost him the Tour

de France crown, made his case on

US television on Friday and received

a vote of confidence from seven-time

Landis, appearing on CNN's

"Larry King Live" programme from

Madrid, reiterated that his positive test

for an abnormal testosterone-to-

Hayden's 380 and Lara's world

The 29-vear-old, who declared

at the fall of his wicket, received a

standing ovation as he returned

after a marathon innings lasting 12

hours and 42 minutes in hot and

humid weather in the Sri Lankan

Jayawardene hit 43 boundaries

The Proteas, already without

and a six during his 15th three-

figure knock as the depleted South

the injured duo of skipper Graeme

Smith and Jacques Kallis, also

missed veteran all-rounder Shaun

Pollock, who opted out of the match

following the birth of his second

second Test of the short two-match

series which starts at the Sara

hore the brunt of the assault, con-

ceding 221 runs in 65 unsuccessful

overs. Dale Steyn took 3-129 in 26

overs and pace spearhead

Makhaya Ntini went for 0-97 in 31

There was little the South

Africans could do to stop the ram-

paging Jayawardene and

Sangakkara in good batting condi-

batsmen in a Test innings since

It was the best display by two

Left-arm spinner Nicky Boie

stadium here on August 4.

Pollock will be available for the

Africans wilted in the heat.

record score of 400 not out.

capital.

Tour winner Lance Armstrong.

Cycling

Output

Description:

AFP, Los Angeles

(7/5) in Washington in 2003.

lower the curtain on another American tennis legend's career. Gonzalez beat Michael Chang

6-3, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 in the first round of Chang's final match at the 2003 US Open. Chang retired after the "It is a pleasure and honour for

me to play against Andre," said Gonzalez, who turns 26 on Saturday. "He is 10 years older than me, so I grew up watching him play Pete Sampras and Boris Becker. He is still motivated and still competes like he did 15 years ago." The bronze medallist in singles

from the 2004 Athens Olympics advances to the semis where he will face No. 8 Dmitry Tursunov of Russia, who won in a walkover over top seed Andy Roddick.

The other Saturday semifinal will see sixth seeded Tommy Haas square off against Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty.

"He absolutely murdered some shots," Agassi said of Gonzalez. "He changes the pace well and mixes up his serve a lot.

"I hung in there. I just wasn't getting enough looks on points on

"I might have been able to get a little more aggressive and taken a few more chances " Agassi, who was playing in just

his second quarterfinal of the year, announced in June at Wimbledon that he would retire after the US

epitestosterone level "was a shock as

He said he would do everything he

"I'm going to do my best to defend

Armstrong, who has himself been

my dignity and my innocence," said

the American who rides for the Swiss-

dogged by doping allegations that he

has consistently denied, spoke to the

Los Angeles-based King on the

"Obviously, I was very surprised,"

Sobers made the unbeaten 365

and Conrad Hunte 260 for the West

Indies against Pakistan in Kingston

career-best knock, surpassing his

270 against Zimbabwe three years

ago, lasted 11 hours and 15 min-

utes during which he hit 35 bound-

309 when he saw his partner depart

iust before tea, but himself returned

after the break in a bid to overtake

the second over after lunch through

four byes conceded down the leg-

side by wicketkeeper Mark

the field, hugged each other amid

applause and a loud burst of fire-

crackers in the stands as umpire

Mark Benson signalled the four

82nd Test, surpassed 6,000 runs

during the course of his innings.

Sangakkara, a veteran of 61 Tests,

has hit four double hundreds in 10

Scoreboard at stumps on the third

day of the first Test between Sri

Lanka and South Africa at the

Sinhalese Sports Club ground in

century-making innings.

SCOREBOARD

Colombo on Saturday:

Jayawardene, who is playing his

Both batsmen, close friends off

The partnership record came in

Lara's record score.

Boucher off Boje.

Skipper Jayawardene was on

Left-handed Sangakkara's

much to me as anyone else.

could to clear his name

based Phonak team

broadcast by telephone.

SL pair shatters WR

Armstrong backs Landis

Open, which starts in August. Ironically, Gonzalez helped

"You never prepare yourself for the emotions of the moment.' Agassi said. "It is not just the game you are leaving but it is the people you share the experience with.

"It is like a business. And you stop doing that business and working with these people. It is like I am having to say goodbye on two

With temperatures hitting a scorching 43 degrees C (110 degrees F) on the court, Agassi withered in the final two games of the match. But he blamed the loss more on his mistakes and Gonzalez's strong game.

"The heat of his forehand was more of a factor," deadpanned

Gonzalez rallied in the ninth game of the third set to hold serve. Down 15-40, he fought off two service break points by firing a forehand winner and then an ace as he jumped out to a 5-4 lead.

Gonzalez has seven career ATP titles with his most recent coming last year in Basel, Switzerland.

Most of tennis' big names have passed on the Los Angeles hardcourt tournament. The 32player draw featured just two players Lleyton Hewitt (13th) and Roddick (10th) who are ranked in the top 15 in the world and they are

Top seed Roddick pulled out of the tournament with an side injury iust hours before a Friday

result, which has yet to be confirmed

"I was at the Tour. I watched Floyd

. I thought it was unlike anything I've

But Armstrong acknowledged the

"Although I still believe in Floyd

Armstrong said that there was

and believe him to be innocent, it's not

never any suggestion during Landis's

three years on Armstrong's US Postal

team that the younger rider would be

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 169

(De Villiers 65; Fernando 4-48,

SRI LANKA: First innings (over

Sangakkara c Boucher b Hall 287

Extras: (b-17, lb-5, w-8, nb-8) 38

Total: (For 5 wkts decl in 185.1

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-14, 3-638, 4-

Did not bat: P Jayawardena

25

65

Maharoof, Malinga, Fernando,

3 97

0 45

0

0 22

0

SOUTHAFRICA: Second innings

Total: (For no loss in 15 overs) 43

0 М 129

114

99

22

13

W

0

5 221

Tharanga c Boucher b Steyn

Jayasuriya Ibw b Steyn

Jayawardene b Nel

Dilshan Ibw b Stevn

Kapugedera not out

Muralidaran 4-41)

night 485-2)

overs)

751, 5-756

Muralidaran

Bowler

Steyn

Hall

Boje

Rudolph

De Villiers

Hall not out

Malinga

Maharoot

Fernando

Dilshan

Muralidaran

Rudolph not out

Extras: (nb-6)

Prince

good for cycling," Armstrong said.

seen in cycling -- and I mean that in a

affair was a blow to cycling.

by a B sample test

good way.'

quarterfinal match against Tursunov. Roddick first suffered the left side strain during his 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, leaders with four points each. 6-2 second round win over wild card

Scott Oudsema "It is really disappointing," Roddick said.

This was Roddick's first tournament under the guidance of his new coach, Hall of Famer Jimmy Roddick, who is known for his explosive serves and competitive

spirit, is hoping that by hiring

Connors, he will shake his "one slam wonder" label. Roddick captured the 2003 US Open title but he has not won a major since. He is winless on the

ATP Tour in 2006. Germany's Haas defeated Paul Goldstein 6-3, 6-4 in another

quarterfinal match on Friday. Haas said the loss on Friday of fifth seed Agassi and Roddick increases his chances of winning

his third ATP title in 2006. Second seed Hewitt was eliminated in the first round meaning, leaving Gonzalez as the lone player who is seeded in the top five.

"The door has opened up a bit." said Haas, who won the 2004 Los Angeles event. "Other guys will take the opportunity and try to jump

Hrhaty booked the final semifinal spot with a 7-6 (7/0), 6-2 win over American Robby Ginepri in the night match.

seduced by the lure of performance

lead us to believe he was a cheater,

we would have parted ways long

better offer from another team."

"If we ever suspected anything to

"When he did leave, he left for a

Landis said that although he had

clashed with Armstrong in the past,

the two were "back to being friends

And he said his current predica-

ment had given him insight into what

Armstrong has gone through at the

"I saw what he went through, and I

Armstrong also noted that the

didn't feel it because I hadn't gone

through it myself, and now I can

French laboratory that conducted the

test on Landis was the same one that

was involved in some of the allega-

"I'm a little sceptical of this particu-

But both Landis and Armstrong

"I don't know that that's the motive

lar laboratory," the now retired

refused to be drawn on whether the

suspicions they face owe anything to

behind this," Armstrong said in

of wonderful people in every country

I've gone to, so I'm cautious about

Marcelinho was recently forced to

apologise to his Hertha team mates.

officials and fans after extending his

holidays in Brazil and turning up to

in a fight with German international

defender Arne Friedrich at half-time

In April last year, he was involved

Capped five times for Brazil,

Marcelinho joined Hertha after an

unremarkable season with French

first division club Marseille in

pre-season training 10 days late.

during a Bundesliga match.

Landis added: "I have met plenty

response to a question from King.

hands of his accusers.

relate," Landis said.

tions against him.

Armstrong said.

anti-Americanism.

saying things like that."

FROM PAGE 20

2000/01.

Marcelinho

45

enhancing drugs

before we did.

Athletes who dope are like criminals

dope-cheats

AFP, Rome

and sports authorities must make fighting the problem a priority International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said on Saturday.

IOC chief blasts

"The problem of doping won't disappear overnight. Doping in sport is like criminality in society," Rogge said after revelations Tour de France winner Floyd Landis tested positive for muscle-building hormone testos-

"Doping is one of our responsibilities but above all one of our priorities. We are working hard to fight and eliminate it."

However, Rogge, who was attending a meeting of European Olympic committees in Rome, suggested cycling, which in recent years has been rocked by one doping scandal after another, was a pacesetter in exposing drug cheats.

Cycling was one of the few sports to introduce widespread testing of hematocrit levels that indicate abuse of blood-boosting agent erythropoietin (EPO), he said.

"As for cycling, we are looking for the solution to the problem," he said, adding, "few federations have the hematocrit test but cycling is one of

School chess

FROM PAGER 17 Rezaul Islam Babu, Saimon Siddiqur Rahman, Satyajit, Aniruddah Majumder, Mahfuzur Rahman, Kinjal Basu, S.M. Sharon, Sharif Hossain and Nazmus Shakib followed the

Ekramul Haque Siam took a solo lead in the class KG to V group competition with maximum five points while Savantan Das and Saayan Majumder of Kolkata shared the second place with 4.5 points each.

MSC shop

FROM PAGER 17

firmed the services of their striker Ariful Haque Prince for one more year. Goalkeeper Shakil, Tawhidur Rahman Tuhin, Rashed Hasan Ronny, Ashiqul Haque Rinku, Mahbubur Rahman Chayan, Sohag Gazi, Anisuzzaman Śweet and Sharafat Mia were the other players ioined the Mohammedan ranks. Defending champions Usha and

runners-up Abahani however completed strong line-ups in their hot pursuit to win the title

Big-spending Abahani recruited dependable defender Issa Mia from Mariners apart from retaining their own striker Russel Mahmud Jimmy for a reportedly highest pay of the season. The Abahani line-up also boasts Musa Mia, Faruque Ahmed, Mahbub Ehsan Rana and Hedayet Islam Raiib. Usha mainly focused on retaining

the team that won the title last year. Besides, they have also signed up Mohammedan trio of veteran striker Rafigul Islam Kamal, Shamsuddin Tuhin. Zahidul Islam Raian and Abahani's Shahidullah Titoo

Ibra & Camo

FROM PAGE 20

'I'll speak with the club as soon as possible to decide what happens, but my objective is to play for a team who is targeting the Champions League Final. I don't care in what country that is in "

Both players do have many admirers and have been associated with a number of clubs over the past few weeks.

Ibrahimovic is a confirmed target for Inter, while Manchester United could make a bid after they sold Ruud van Nistelrooy to Real Madrid. The Spanish giants themselves have also been linked, as have Milan. Ibrahimovic, signed from Ajax

for 11.5 million pounds in the summer of 2004, is now valued at around 14 million pounds by the Old Lady.

Camoranesi, a member of Italy's World Cup winning squad, has been associated with Valencia and French champions Lyon.

Juventus already have a replacement for Camoranesi after signing Marco Marchionni from

Parma on a free transfer.

Nistelrooy

FROM PAGE 20 Van Nistelrooy, who scored 150

goals for United and is the club's alltime leading European goal-scorer, had also been targeted by German champions Bayern Munich. His departure from Old Trafford

seemed certain from the moment he fell out with United manager Sir Alex Ferguson after a lacklustre display in an FA Cup defeat at Liverpool in February The former PSV Eindhoven

star, who joined United in 2001 and helped them win the Premiership in 2003, was dropped soon afterwards and his relationship with Ferguson deteriorated to such an extent that the striker walked out of Old Trafford after being told he would not be in the team to play Charlton in May.

Ferguson reacted by telling van Nistelroov he would not be welcome at Roy Keane's testimonial later that month and the Dutchman handed in a transfer request after this sum-

mer's World Cup.

Spurs ready to splash the cash

Football

INTERNET, undated

Tottenham will rekindle their interest in Wigan defender Pascal Chimbonda and Middlesbrough winger Stewart Downing after selling Michael Carrick to Manchester United for £15million.

Carrick will complete his move to Old Trafford on Monday after agreeing personal terms and completing a medical

Carrick, who turned 25 yesterday, rejected a new deal at Spurs to ioin United. The former West Ham

midfielder had two years left on his current Spurs contract but brought negotiations to halt and admitted he wanted to leave the club for

Tottenham made a profit of just over £12million on the England international and already have Ivory Coast international Didier Zokora as a ready-made replace-Martin Jol, who failed to hide his

disappointment at Carrick's decision to walk out on Spurs, will now use the cash to seal Chimbonda's

for Bolton

Football

South Africa international Quinton

Fortune believes he can make a

success of his new career with

Bolton Wanderers and prove

Manchester United they were

spent seven years at Old Trafford,

but saw his spell under Sir Alex

Ferguson brought to an end by a

long-standing knee injury which

caused him to miss the entire

After potential moves to Celtic

and Manchester City fell through in

the summer. Bolton coach Sam

Allardyce stepped in with a one-

I've ever been," said Fortune.

"I'm now in the best condition

"The injury was obviously frus-

"But I never had any doubts I

trating and you don't want anything

would return, even after

Manchester United released me. I

admit it was difficult to leave

"But I've come to learn you can't

get too attached to things. You

have to move on sometime, and

"He had a good season last season

and got in the World Cup squad

but I think my one reservation is

whether he can change a game

round," Winterburn said. "He has

certainly got fantastic talent and I

am sure he is going to be a big

asset to Manchester United. When

they play in the Premiership they

have a lot of possession, usually

more than 50 per cent, so they

need creative players. When they

go into the Champions League

and come up against good teams

will he still have that influence? I

long and short passing with both

feet. At times when I was at West

Ham I was waiting for him, in

games where we were struggling,

to take games by the scruff of the

"The main part of his game is

hope he can develop his game.

because I had good times there.

The 29-year-old midfielder

AFP, Bolton

wrong to let him go.

2005/2006 season.

like that to happen.

vear deal.

move to White Hart Lane.

The Tottenham coach had wanted Carrick to return the loyalty shown to him by the club's management after his arrival at the club from West Ham.

Jol regularly picked Carrick ahead of previous first team star Pedro Mendes, who later left for Portsmouth, and in preference to Edgar Davids last season.

Disappointed Jol said: 'This is a move that Michael wants to make. We have given him every reason to stay, but he has asked to be allowed to leave.

Tottenham fought hard to keep Carrick after they dismissed United's initial offer of £10million earlier this summer

But the player's request to leave for United left the club in a no-win situation.

However, Jol now has the chance to meet Wigan's valuation of Chimbonda after they turned down Tottenham's initial £2million

The defender is due to return to Wigan this weekend and has not changed his mind about moving after handing in a transfer request

I've moved on to a great club.

"My fitness is now good, and

"With other clubs there was a

that's credit to the medical staff who

negative approach, but with Bolton

they were positive. There was

never any doubt about getting me

Fortune is confident his injury

nightmare is now behind him and is

determined to make the most of his

one-vear deal at the Reebok

to perform well to get into the

nity here and I'm looking forward to

the challenge. Hopefully I can stay

here longer, but that's down to me

to play good football, and most

Allardyce insists Fortune is

"He comes in every day and looks

"What he gives us is his experi-

ready to prove himself in the

Premiership again after 76 appear-

a happy man, and that's a great sign

ence after seven years at

Manchester United, and after

the way he plays the game, he is a

neck and change them round like

Vieira did at Arsenal, but I don't

think that's his style. He's not a

big tackler. He can get forward

but he will probably more sit in

front of the back four and support

Ferguson, who denies an

interest in Tottenham's Jermain

Defoe, may continue to search for

a more defensive figure. The

former United player Lou Macari

welcomed Carrick's signing but

feels a starting place cannot be

taken for granted. "There's noth-

ing obvious that stands out that he

will bring that others don't have,"

he said. "That's not being disre-

spectful to Michael Carrick. His job

is to make his mark and prove the

money spent is money worth

spending and stay in the team for a

number of seasons.

and look to get on the ball.'

mportantly help the team."

for me," said the Bolton boss.

"Nothing is set because I have

"I know I now have an opportu-

Stadium.

team." he said.

ances for United.

tough character."

United agree Carrick

have worked with me all summer.

to move to a bigger club despite Wigan boss Paul Jewell admitting he is ready to offer the player a lucrative new deal in an effort to

Chimbonda's switch to London was made all the more likely after Tottenham target Curtis Davies signed a new four-year deal with West Brom on Friday.

The 21-year-old, who impressed in the Barclays Premiership last season as Albion were relegated, pledged his future

to the club until 2010. Tottenham's search for a leftsided midfielder will again focus on Downing after they failed to persuade Chelsea's Damien Duff to

make the switch across London. Tottenham are understood to have had at least one bid rejected by Middlesbrough and new boss Gareth Southgate insists he wants the player, who has four years left on his current contract, to stay on Teesside.

However, Boro might find it difficult to resist a vastly increased offer for the winger from Spurs who are desperate to find an answer to their lack of balance on the left.

The 27-year-old is determined

B'DESH V ZIM Fortune grateful Utseya b Mashrafee Higgins Ibw b Mashrafee

Did not bat: Rainsford

Bowler

Mupariwa not out Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-3) Total: (For 8 wkts in 49.1 overs)248 Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-38, 3-50, 4-50 5-101, 6-215, 7-242, 8-242

1 41 Mashrafee 10 3 34 Shahadat 10 Razzak 10 1 49 0 17 Rafique 10 0 50 0 36 Kapali 0 17 Ashraful Result: Zimbabwe won by two

wickets and take 1-0 lead in the 5-ODI series. Man-of-the-match: Stuart

Matsikenyeri. Toss: Zimbabwe. Umpires: K Barbour and I Howell.

BFF's emergency

FROM PAGE 17 'EC can resolve the committee

because they have the authority to do so," he added Replying to a question, Helal admitted that there were no voting in the EC meeting to select Babu as

a manager only to establish Salahuddin's Friday's claim that what his president had said at a press conference on Thursday regarding the selection of Babu speaking to Sir Alex and knowing was an aberration of truth "We discussed the issue but

there were no voting about the matter. The general sentiment however was in favour of Babu. said Helal.

former footballers, Sonali Otit Club, condemned the remark of SA Sultan where the BFF president said that he didn't know Abu Noman Nannu as a footballer.

"We protested and condemned this senseless remark. One can't make such comment if he has adequate knowledge about Nannu's rich background," the club said in a statement vesterday.

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 20 Harmison's first innings haul, on a

lively pitch, saw England capitalise on the fact that, as in the drawn first Test at Lord's, Pakistan were without leading fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar (ankle), Mohammad Asif (elbow) and Navedul Hasan (out of the whole tour with a groin injury). His return was then backed up

by Alastair Cook (127) and Bell (106 not out) who batted England into a commanding position with their second successive Test hundreds after they'd each reached figures at Lord's.

SCOREBOARD

of the second Test between England and Pakistan at Old

PAKISTAN: First innings 119 (Younis 44, Yousuf 38; Harmison 6-19, Panesar 3-21)

out; Gul 3-96)

Yousuf st Jones b Panesar

М 14 2 52 13 2 37 6 22 19.1 2 48

night 12-0) Farhat c Bell b Panesar Younis Ibw b Panesar

There is little time for the Tigers to recover as the second ODI will be

Scoreboard at tea on the third day

Trafford on Saturday: **ENGLAND:** First innings 461-9

declared (Cook 127, Bell 106 not

PAKISTAN: Second innings (over-Akmal c Jones b Harmison

Inzamam c Cook b Panesar Igbal not out Razzag not out Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-3, nb-4) 15 Total: (For 5 wkts in 52.1 overs)167 Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-60, 3-101, 4-117. 5-161

Bowler Hoggard Harmison Mahmood Panesar

bowled him.

the batsmen had shown a little more

patience. Atleast three top-order their zonal (Brahmaputra) final

start in less than 24 hours.

locked 1-1 in the regulation time. Football In the Tista zone. Navan scored a hattrick as Nilphamari reached into **SPORTS REPORTER** the zonal semifinal with a 3-2 victory Hosts Magura romped into the final round of the Jubok Phone National

Magura in final round

Football Championship when they handed a 3-0 defeat on Chuadanga in the Kaputakkha zone final yester-Kallol Kumar Gosh put the home team ahead in the sixth minute in

front of a strong five thousands home crowd at the Magura Stadium before Nurul Islam doubled the margin in the 64th minute. Noor Hossain sealed the fate of the match with an 85th minute strike. At the Tangail Stadium, Mehedi Hasan slummed a hattrick with four goals as hosts Tangail confirmed

berths with a 6-0 drubbing of Mymensingh. Shamim Al Mamun and Nasir Uddin added the other goals.

Bogra scored a 7-6 tiebreak win against Pabna at the Joypurhat Stadium to move into the zonal (Jamuna) semifinal. The match was

against Kurigram at the Gaibanda Stadium, Jahangir Alam and

Hasanur Rahman scored for the At the Bandarban Stadium, Noakhali advanced into the

Karnaphuli zonal semifinal with a 5-4 victory over Chittagong in the tiebreaker. Fielding let

FROM PAGE 17 one shot too many and Rafique

Bangladesh should feel they could have had 20-30 runs more if

batters fell to adventurous shots but the Tigers still have the runs on the board after being sent in and Zimbabwe have to play out of their skin to make this match competitive.

Meanwhile, the organisation of