

The South African national team assembles on the victory podium after clinching the third spot in the tournament's Cup at Accra on February 12.

English Div One Charlton hit purple patch

LONDON, Feb 13 (Reuters/Internet): English First Division leaders Charlton Athletic recorded their 10th successive win in all competitions when they beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-0 on Saturday.

Second half goals by Graham Stuart and Steve Brown kept Charlton four points clear of Manchester City, who needed two late goals by Mark Kennedy to see off Norwich City's challenge.

Kennedy struck in the 82nd and 83rd minutes to help his side to a 3-1 win.

Ipswich Town remained third a point behind City. Marcus Stewart scoring the winner in a 2-1 defeat of his former club Huddersfield Town.

Lyon to appeal against Anderson ban

LYON, France, Feb 13: Olympique Lyon will appeal against a three-match ban on their Brazilian striker Sonny Anderson, club president Jean-Michel Aulas said on Saturday, reports Reuters.

"We want it reduced to one match plus one match suspended," Aulas said after Lyon's 1-0 home victory over Troyes in the second round of the French Cup.

The suspended match is a solution fitting for a player like Anderson with no disciplinary history," he said.

Anderson, sent off for a violent foul on Monaco's Marcelo Gallardo last Sunday, began serving his ban on Saturday.

Aulas said Lyon would lodge the appeal on Monday with a view to the French league's disciplinary committee hearing it the same day.

Lyon hope a successful appeal would allow them to field Anderson in Tuesday's First Division match at Nantes.

With runaway leaders Monaco 10 points clear, Lyon are involved in the three-horse race for two Champions League berths with Paris St Germain and AJ Auxerre.

Nat'l school, madrasah sports

Nasirabad Government Boys School, Chittagong, and J M Sen High School, Chittagong, emerged national school champions in cricket and hockey respectively in the 29th Bangladesh national school and madrasah sports competition at Physical Training College ground at Mohammadpur yesterday, reports BSS.

Moulana Kasimuddin High of Rajshahi, and St. Nicholas High of Dhaka became champions in volleyball and basketball respectively.

The five-day competitions, organised by Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Directorate (SHSED), concluded yesterday.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader distributed prizes among the winners as the chief guest.

Shoaib

From page 13

Shoaib was absent from the team's hotel the night before the second final in the tri-series in Sydney.

"He is an asset and we too feel sorry that we deprived a large crowd from seeing the fastest bowler in the world in action, but discipline is discipline," Zia said.

"Greats like Dennis Lillee, Mark Taylor, Imran Khan and Javed Miandad found nothing wrong with his action so we were sure he will get clearance," Zia said.

Zia also said the PCB recommended at the ICC meeting that the (nine-member) advisory panel was too large.

"We proposed it should be very small, like four members, with majority of them being former fast bowlers."

"We also thought the ICC should reform its advisory panel after some of the members had gone public, including Bobby Simpson, who criticised Jagmohan Dalmiya's decision to allow Shoaib Akhtar to play in one-dayers."

CONCACAF Gold Cup

Victories for Colombia



MIAMI, Feb 13: Gonzalo Martinez scored in the 15th minute and Colombia held off a late Jamaica

surge to record a 1-0 victory in an opening-round Group A match of the CONCACAF Gold Cup on Saturday night, reports Reuters.

In the first match of the doubleheader, the United States defeated Haiti 3-0 in a Group B encounter.

Martinez intercepted a clearance by defender Frank Sinclair and fired a 16-metre shot past goalkeeper Aaron Lawrence in a matchup of 1998 World Cup finalists before a crowd of 49,591 at the Orange Bowl.

Jamaica, which stunned Brazil with a scoreless draw in this same stadium two years ago, twice hit the crossbar on headers within a span of five seconds in the 88th minute. Deon Burton first headed the

ball off the woodwork from point-blank range, followed by Marcus Gayle's effort.

Colombia can advance to next Saturday's quarter-finals with a Group A win over Honduras on Wednesday night.

The Americans struck first on Jovan Kirovski's seventh international goal in the 18th minute off a corner kick in which four American players touched the ball.

Eddie Lewis sent the corner to Claudio Reyna at the right top of the penalty area. Reyna floated the ball across, he area to Wynalda on the left side. Wynalda then found Kirovski, who headed the ball down past goalkeeper Didier Menard from five metres.

Wynalda gave the United States some breathing room in the 55th minute, converting a penalty kick after Reyna was taken down in the penalty area. It was his 34th international goal in 104 appearances.

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Veteran US striker Eric Wynalda (R) trying to evade a tackle from Ernst Athis during their CONCACAF Gold Cup fixture at Florida on February 12. — Internet photo

Philippoussis crushes Courier



SAN JOSE, California, Feb 13: Fighting off a boisterous crowd and an American tennis hero, defending champion Mark Philippoussis out-gutted fifth seed Jim Courier 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals of the \$75,000 dollars Sybase Open on Saturday, reports Reuters.

The second-seeded Philippoussis will face surprise finalist Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden, who upset seventh seed Wayne Ferreira 7-6, 2-6, 6-3.

In knocking off Courier, Philippoussis played two extremely impressive games to close out the match. At 4-4 in the third set after Courier double-faulted at deuce, the big Aussie ripped an approach shot down the line and closed out the game with a sharp forehand volley.

"You can't give Mark that kind of a look at a second serve because you are going to pay for it," Courier said. "I didn't serve well at all. If you told me I was going to break him three times I would have said I would win the match in straight sets. I didn't do my job."

Serving for the match at 5-4, the 6-foot-4 (1.93 metres) Philippoussis nearly caused a power failure inside the San Jose Arena with a devastating serving display. A service winner, a 131 mph (211 kph) ace, a 138 mph (222 kph) ace, a 134 mph (216 kph) ace. The 138 mph (222 kph) was the fastest serve recorded on the ATP Tour this year.

"He has a tendency when he's closing match out or when he's behind to serve bigger," Courier said. "I was expecting him to serve huge in the last game and he did."

Philippoussis crushed 37 winners in the match, including 13 aces. "It takes lot of pressure off myself to get the first in. I had good rhythm going and I wanted to finish it off," Philippoussis said. "I didn't want to get to 15-15 or 30-30 and give him a chance to get into it."

Courier stood toe-toe with his foe from the baseline but could never match his prowess around the net.

"He can hit a winner from anywhere or he can make strange errors and hit a winner out of nowhere. He's very explosive," said Courier.

Tillstrom — an unassuming 27-year-old Swede who has had a quintessential journeyman's career — unlk asked his big low-slinging forehand and sharp crosscourt backhand in subduing Ferreira.

The South African blew numerous chances in the third set, frequently dumping his backhand into the net and falling to convert volleys.

"I felt in charge the whole time but I didn't use my opportunities," said Ferreira, who committed 27 unforced errors in the match. "I always felt like I had a chance to break him but I couldn't put it together. I just couldn't get through."

Tillstrom, who has won only one title in his nine-year career, is not exactly a household name. With a career-high ranking of 31st and a quiet manner, few fans outside Sweden could distinguish his mop haircut from that of countryman Thomas Enqvist or hundreds of other Swedish 20-somethings.

"If people want to know something about me, they'll have to come out and watch my game," said Tillstrom, who admired Swedish great Mats Wilander growing up. However, he plays with much more power but far fewer tricks in his bag than his hero. "I want to be at the highest level now, that's where the attention is."

Courier said that Philippoussis is the definitive favourite.

"The match is on Mark's racket, win or lose," Courier said. "If he plays well he'll win. Tillstrom is playing well but I don't see how Tillstrom will beat him. Philippoussis said he would be upset if he doesn't defend his title."

"I'm going out there to defend my title as well as I can," he said. "I'm not the kind of person who gets to the final and says, 'I don't care if I win. I'm playing better all the time and he'll have to earn the match. I'm not going down easy'."

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Rosset, unseeded, defeated title-holder Santoro, No 6 seed, 7-6, 7-5, while Federer also unseeded, ousted fourth-seeded Grosjean 6-3, 6-3.

Santoro held a set point in the first set against Rosset but volleyed out and never had another opportunity.

Rosset, a 29-year-old living in Monte Carlo, has collected five of his 13 ATP titles on French soil, and was happy to be meeting a compatriot in the Marseille final.

Roger's a friend of mine and a guy I appreciate," Rosset said. "Matches between people from the same country are rarely great. He'll be nervous tomorrow because it's his first final and me too."

Kasparov beats Barua twice

CALCUTTA, Feb 13: Russian GM Gary Kasparov defeated Indian Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua in two straight games to march into the quarterfinal of the Club Kasparov Grand Prix Online Chess tournament last night, reports PTI.

In the first game of the first ever internet chess competition, Kasparov, playing with white pieces, reached a good position but met with stubborn resistance from Barua. However, the Indian GM was hand-capped by time shortage and recapped by his 74th move.

Kasparov was at his best in the second game and put Barua under tremendous pressure forcing the Indian GM to resign after 57 moves.

Barua, the only Indian in the 21.12 lakh rupees tournament was based at the Tata Centre auditorium here, while Kasparov played him from Moscow.

Sixteen outstanding GMs from five continents, including the world's top ten and one chess computer 'Deep Junior' are taking part in the knock out tournament which started on February 9.

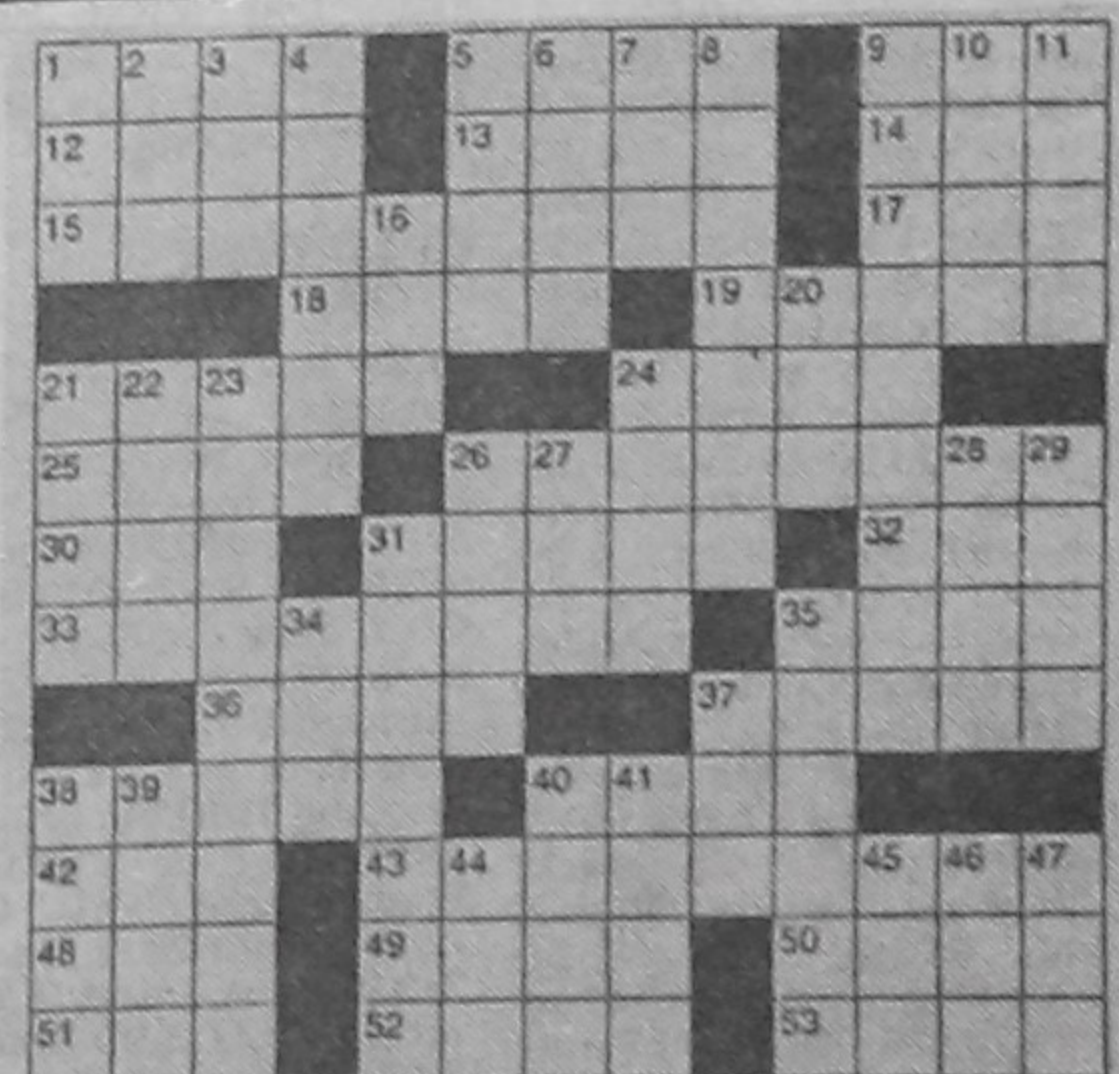
Every match is a best of two games, and the rules prescribe a tie-breaker in the event of a tie. A player gets a maximum of one hour in each game.



Kenyan Japhet Kosgei raises his arms after crossing the line to win the Tokyo International Marathon. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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CRYPTOQUIP

Q E M G A B C N O Y Q

N C Y N N C V D T Y G S E Q Y F N

E L Y N E L A O B V F M A F V T Q

Y C E N Y A L S M D D E E F

Yesterday's Cryptquip: AN EMOTIONAL GEOLOGIST ADMITTED THAT HE LISTENED TO SEDIMENTAL SONGS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals A

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.