### Hick hammers Zimbabwe

HARARE, Feb 20: England's Zimbabwe-born batsman Graeme Hick's innings of 80 in 95 balls should have triggered a formidable score by his adopted country against his compatriots here in the third of four oneday internationals, reports

But in engineering a middleorder collapse Zimbabwe pegged the tourists back to a reachable 249 in order to win this third match.

They will have to do so in order to reduce England's series lead to 2-1 and give them a chance of squaring the series.

Hick showed no nerves after coming in when Nasser Hussain was caught at slip by Alistair Campbell for only one run in the second over of the innings and with England at 4-1 hitting 10 boundaries in his 80.

In an 81 runs partnership with Nick Knight. Hick reached his 50 in 50 balls, enabling England to set off at more than five runs an over. But he eased off after Knight went for 26 and was not so fluent.

He was run out by Murray Goodwin when he looked around at the fielder when called for a quick single instead of going directly to safe ground. His partnership with Darren Maddy, worth 64 runs, was a second platform for England's run-chase.

Hick scored 87 not out in Bulawayo on Friday and with allrounder Craig White he has been the success for England so far on this short tour. Darren Maddy, who made

53, required 83 balls. When he was out England were 198-5 and looked to be set for a big total with eight overs remaining.

But after removing Maddy, left-arm spinner Dirk Viljoen, who was introduced at a late stage, went on to dismiss Mark Ealham and Chris Read in his next over. Vikram Solanki fell to Gary Brent and the tourists slipped from 198-4 to 207-7.

Zimbabwe might well have been facing a near impossible target, but their later successes give them a realistic chance on a good wicket, even though White and Andy Caddick smashed 41 runs in the last 34 balls.

#### SCOREBOARD Scoreboard in the third one-

day international between Zimbabwe and England at the Harare Sports Club on Sunday: ENGLAND

Hussain c Campbell b Strang Knight c Strang b Olonga Hick run out (Goodwin) Maddy c Brent b Viljoen Solanki c Carlisle b Brent 14 White not out Ealham b Viljoen Read c and b Viljoen Caddick not out Extras: (lb-4, nb-3, w-17) Total: (For seven wickets in 50 overs) 248

Mullally Fall of wickets: 1-4: 2-85: 3-149; 4-171; 5-198; 6-198; 7-207 OMRW Bowler 0 44 Streak 10 Strang 0 Johnson 16 Olonga 0 G Flower Brent

Viljoen

Campbell

Did not bat: D Gough, A

Henman disposes of Kafelnikov

20

ROTTERDAM, Feb 20: Tim Henman won a titanic struggle in the semifinal of the World Tennis Tournament Saturday, besting top seed and world No 2 Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in a match which hinged on a single late line call, reports AP.

The Russian thought he had just driven a perfectly judged groundstroke past the fifthseeded Briton to save a break point at 3-4 down in the final set. He was preparing to serve again when the umpire told him the ball had been called out.

Henman seized the chance and served out, winning the match-point with his 14th ace. At the start, Henman left

Kafelnikov standing in the blocks, breaking to love in the first game thanks to three thumped passes and a dropshot, and storming to a 4-0 lead. Kafelnikov could not get his first serve working consistently but came back to 4-3 before Henman regained his grip on the set.

In the second set Henman surrendered a break with a double fault, then broke back chipping and charging on Kafelnikov's second serve in the eighth game, only for the resilient Russian to break back

The match just kept on hotting up with Henman saving six break points to hold serve in the eight-deuce third game of the final set. Every point was a doglight and both players yelled at themselves in frustration af-

ter the smallest error. And after all that effort, the pair were due to return to the Centre Court in the Ahoy Arena on the same side of the net in the evening, as doubles part-

Henman will play Frenchman Cedric Pioline, seeded eighth, in today's final after he beat unseeded compatriot Jerome Golmard 6-3, 6-4.

### Courier crashes

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 17: Laurence Tieleman beat sixth-seeded Jim Courier 7-6, 6-0 Wednesday night in the St. Jude tennis tournament, reports AP.

Courier was among three seeded players who failed to reach the second round.

Earlier Wednesday, top-Brian McPhie 6-2, 6-4 in his opening match.

Philippoussis, the 1998 tournament winner, moved into Thursday night's feature match against 16th-seeded Magnus Larsson.



Fredi Bobic (L) of Borussia Dortmund battles for possession with SC Freiberg's Bul Diarra during their Bundesliga fixture at Freiberg on February 19.

### World Cup bid

# Blatter lifts English spirit



MAIDENHEAD, England, Feb 20 (Reuters/Internet)

FIFA president Sepp Blatter praised England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup finals on Saturday and at the same time said it was not, as some had predicted, a foregone conclusion the finals would go to Africa.

Blatter, in England for the annual meeting of FIFA's lawmaking International Board at sense. the former stately home of

Cliveden, told Reuters in an interview: "I was misquoted when I said that Germany were 'nearly favourites' for the World

when I was in Germany recently for the 100th anniversary celebrations of the German

bid -- and the English bid is July 6. equally strong. Everybody around the world knows that both of these countries are able to organise a World Cup -- but the difference with England's bid is that all the others have to reach FIFA's, standards --

England have them already. England already has safe. secure all-seater stadiums. There is a special feeling for the World Cup in England and I can understand the feeling and complimented the Interna-

Board for how the game is organised here.

tional Football Association

football. I know there is a lot of sympathy around the world for football in England, the Premier League and the FA Cup -but there is also a feeling that the World Cup should rotate

around the continents. "However, the idea of 10tation is not yet anchored in FI-FA's regulations -- it might be in the minds of ; eople -- but people will have to vote not with their hearts but with reason and a rationale that makes

"FIFA cannot impose the idea of rotation -- it is not definite the World Cup will go to Africa because of rotation.

The idea of rotation should be done by consensus if that is the right way for it to be done." And Blatter admitted his biggest fear when the vote is taken by the 24-man FIFA ex-"I said they had a very strong ecutive committee in Zurich on

> "I have spent a lot of time thinking what would happen if the vote is split 12-12. If that happens, I, as FIFA president, have the casting vote -- and what would I do? I am not sure I can say now."

One point Blatter was sure about, however, was that he did not want FIFA's inspection committee to present five "equal" bid evaluations when they complete their five-country tour of inspection shortly. They have already visited

Brazil, England and Germany and will be visiting Morocco This is the homeland of , and South Africa in the next

few weeks.

When they came back Asia four years ago the ins tors said there was nothir choose between South K and Japan. Well, when they port back to me this tim want the bids to be ranked

1 to 5. "Of course all the bids equal at the moment and I not looked at the reports of of them. I want to see ther together.'

While the 2006 World ( the focus of much attenti the bidding countries, B said he was pleased with th progress being made to the next World Cup in Sou

rea and Japan in 2002. "I don't think we will any problems as far as o sation and facilities is cerned. We saw when th was made in Tokyo in I ber everything worked r and I am sure it will be t in South Korea.

"The only thing th worry me is that in e have two World Cups one income -- you will main press centres, t national Broadcasting -- and 10 stadiums country.

"Still, I am sure very interesting becau first time both the E countries and the Sout can countries will be "away" and I am sure t be some upsets.

## CONCACAF Gold Cup

## USA, Honduras knocked out



MIAMI, Feb 20 (Reuters/Internet) Colombia ousted the United States in penalty kicks before Peru took a

5-3 victory over Honduras in a tumultuous CONCACAF Gold Cup quarter-final Saturday that ended in chaos as fans stormed the field to protest a disallowed Honduran goal.

The Peru-Honduras game was halted in the final minute but the result was official, sending Peru to the semifinals in San Diego on Wednesday against Colombia.

Colombia beat the U.S. team in penalty kicks, 2-1, after playing to a 2-2 draw after 120 minutes of regulation and extra time before a crowd of 32,972 at the Orange Bowl. HONDURAS-PERU

The second game of the quarter-finals doubleheader never got to the end of regulation.

Referee Mario Sanchez of Chile stopped the game with 37 seconds remaining after several hundred fans, protesting a disallowed Honduran goal, ran onto the field and threw

liquor bottles, rocks, stadium seats, seat cushions and water bottles onto the pitch. Several fans were seen led away by police after the game, but officials could not immediately confirm how many were

arrested. Ted Howard, general coordinator for the venue, said the match would not be considered abandoned and would stand "as

an official, completed match." The disturbance began in the 89th minute, when an apparent goal by Honduran captain Carlos Pavon was disallowed due to

an offside call. An incensed Pavon kicked the ball into the stands and raised his hands up to the fans in protest. Sanchez red-carded Pavon and teammate Milton Reyes, further enraging Hon-

duran supporters. There was no post-game press conference by either team due to the fan disruption.

COLOMBIA-USA In the opener, Colombia overcame a pair of one-goal deficits, scoring the equalising goal from Gerardo Bedoya with nine minutes remaining in regulation and prevailing in penalty kicks in an intense confrontation between a pair of 1994 World Cup rivals. Gonzalo Martinez and An-

dres Mosquera converted their attempts for the Colombians. while John Perez hit his into the crowd and goalkeeper Brad Friedel dived to his right to deny Mayer Candelo. Eddie Lewis was the only

American to convert his attempt. Eric Wynalda, the U.S. all-time leading international goalscorer, fired his shot over the crossbar and into the stands. Claudio Reyna hit the bar, Chris Armas's attempt was knocked away by a righthanded save by goalkeeper Miguel Calero and Ben Olsen's feeble attempt was stopped by Calero.

The U.S. team grabbed a 2-1 advantage in the 51st minute on

a goal that did not touch the ground until it was in the back of the net. Friedel booted a long ball to McBride at the edge of the penalty area and he headed it to midfielder Chris Armas, who volleyed it past Calero from 12 yards.

The Colombians refused to wilt as Bedoya fired in a 25yard shot for the equaliser in the 81st minute.

"To give away two leads, it's painful," Eddie Lewis said. "We had the game in hand.'

Peru raced to a 4-1 lead in the second game before the Hondurans clawed back to within 4-3 in the 69th minute. Waldir

Saenz gave Peru some breathing room, scoring from 12 yards in the 87th minute before things got out of hand.

The third set was equally close and another tie-break was needed. Williams, showing more composure at the end of a tight battle which lasted more

than 2-1/2 hours, won it 7-3. Williams, who has fully recovered from the knee injury she sustained in her defeat by Nathalie Tauziat in last Sunday's Paris Open final, may prove too strong for Chladkova.

The unheralded Czech struggled against Sidot as the pair gave their all as they strow to reach their first final in a major event.

After losing the first set, Sidot fought her way into the match by breaking her opponent in the first game of the second set.

Chladkova broke back to level the set at 4-4 and forced a tie-break, which Sidot took 7-5 with a forehand winner on set point.

Chladkova dropped serve to go 4-2 down in the decisive set and Sidot then served for the match, leading 5-3, only to have her service broken.

bumpy ride through the Kroger St Jude draw came to a crashing end Saturday after a pair of tiebreakers in the semifinals of the 800,000 dollar event,

reports Reuters. Haas, the second-seeded German, was upset by 13th seed Byron Black of Zimbabwe 7-6. 7-6, halting his attempt for the second ATP Tour title of his ca-

Black will meet Sweden's Magnus Larsson, who advanced Saturday with a 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 win over unseeded Andre Sa of Brazil

Haas, 21, was extended to three sets in each of his three matches leading into the semifinals and his luck ran out against the 30-year-old Black. "I just didn't have the big serves when I needed them. Haas said. "And Byron Black played a great match and didn't

give me any free points.' Black, ranked 35th at the end of last year, took advantage

38 Opposite 58 Put into

43 Portugese variety

59 Tardy

DOWN

1 Pear

2 Initial

chip

5 "- Blue?"

beration

6 - de

deux

7 Rever-

8 Skier's

mecca

9 Carmi-

chael

classic

10 Waterloo

is there

bristles

spearean 11 Plant

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer

3 Sch.

in a

31 Low

32 Litter

hockey

according

to Arp?

like -

45 Requests

lative

Lowey

48 Annoying

insect

eye to

sympathy

amount

49 Give the

52 -- and

53 Whatever

represen-

43 World

44 Slept

47 NY

0134-

41 Recog-

nize

explorer

of the

Fab

Four

51 Really

54 Take a

50 Reaction

hungry

siesta

55 Barbie's

beau

56 Common

Latin

abbr.

57 Shake-

re Yorick

Across

of 36 unforced errors by Haas. He won the first tiebreaker when Haas followed a double fault at 2-5 with an unforced backhand error. In the second tiebreaker. Haas was serving at 5-5. but self-destructed with a pair of unforced forehand er-

1 Sheepish

remarks

Tarzan

territory

8 Marco

Polo

13 Singer

14 Pack

Davis

away

15 Armed

echino-

soldier?

18 Fragrant

shows

shots

24 Opposite

of 34-

25 Tease

28 Elevator

name

30 Diamond

arbiter

33 Feedbag

34 See 24-

35 Old

minutia

Across

French

coin

37 Novice

36 Top of a

swimsuit

Across

19 Met

21 Snap-

derm

17 King's

5 Crony of 39 Caviar

12 Formerly 46 One

new free points," Black said. "I'm just real happy to get through this match. It could have gone

either way.' Black will be seeking the

Split decision LAS VEGAS, Feb 20: The way Marco Barrera fought Saturday night, Erik Morales may be getting out of the super bantamweight division just in

time, reports AP. Morales escaped a bruising fight and a 12th-round knockdown to beat Barrera by a split decision and add the WBO version of the 55-kilo (122-pound) title to the WBC crown he brought into the ring.

The battle of Mexican champions went 12 furious rounds and was still in doubt until it went to the scorecards of the three ringside judges, two of whom favored the undefeated Morales.

"The people needed and wanted a great fight like this and we gave it to them." Morales

Both fighters were bruised. cut and swollen. Blood flowed from a cut beneath Barrera's left eye and late in the fight a cut opened up and bloodied Morales' right eye.

La soull, 25, a former top 10 player and winner of six career titles, outlasted newcomer Sa, a solid baseliner who was playing in his first Tour semifinal. As he did in his quarter-fi-

nal win over ninth seed Rainer Schuttler of Germany, Larscon, the 16th seed, dropped the o, ening set, won the second-set tiebreaker and wore down his opponent in the third with some of the game's smoothest groundstrokes and a steady

Larsson broke Sa. 22, in the ninth game of the final set, taking advantage of a Sa double fault, an unfortunate lob that hit a court light standard and an unforced backhand error on break point. "I think my experience

helped," Larsson said. "I also had my match from (Friday) on my mind during the second set. And when I got to the tiebreaker I felt pretty comfortable and I thought about him not having been in a semifinal before." Sa said Larsson's 11 years on tour account for something.

There's no doubt that he is a smart player," Sa said. "Every time I thought I had an opening. he got there somehow.

Larsson may have retrieved most of Sa's shots, but he had to do so despite a painful bout of tendinitis in his left knee.



An aerial melee during the CONCACAF Gold Cup quarterfinal between Honduras and Peru in Miami on February 19. - AFP photo

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 16 Part of TGIF . 20 Nuisance 22 Noted French perfumer 23 Downright 25 Sufferer parable 4 Cherub's 26 Scull superior 27 Use a telescope 29 Press sound member 34 Goblet feature 38 Pivot 40 Refuges 42 Bobby of

CRYPTOQUIP

LKU ZAJ MNFSU OUWSKIGL

EZWUXUW NWFJUJ KFOMUAE

IM I MUIMZGUJ XULUWIG. - Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULDN'T YOU SAY THAT A CHEERFUL FORTUNE TELLER IS SIMPLY A HAPPY MEDIUM?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals E The Cryptoquip 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.