

## Campbell's century

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Apr 30: Stand-in captain Alistair Campbell hit 108 not out as Zimbabwe gained some valuable batting practice against Hampshire in their four-opener on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Campbell and Murray Goodwin, who made a rapid 70, boosted Zimbabwe to 281 for six in reply to Hampshire's first innings 131 on the third day of four.

Left-arm spinner Charles van der Gucht had figures of three for 53 on his country debut.

He removed opener Trevor Gripper (24), Goodwin and Stuart Carlisle (1).

Van der Gucht only played because Hampshire chose to rest their first choice attack, including Australian Shane Warne.

## Rain rules at counties

LONDON, Apr 30: Holders Surrey had to settle for just six bonus points from their rain-ravaged English County Championship draw against Somerset at Taunton on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Somerset reached 302 for eight declared on the fourth and final day of the competition-opener, with Marcus Trescothick (85) and Michael Burns (81) contributing 128 in a fourth wicket partnership. Surrey had totalled 185 in their first innings.

Half-centuries from former England all-rounder Phillip DeFreitas and Darren Stevens assured Leicestershire of a draw with Derbyshire at Derby.

The visitors had been in danger of the follow-on after being reduced to 100 for five the previous day in reply to Derbyshire's 359.

But Stevens, with 12 fours in his 78 off 92 balls, left Leicestershire in sight of safety.

DeFreitas made 79 and added a further 108 for the eighth wicket with Neil Burns.

Rain prevented further play in the Division One match between Kent and Lancashire at Canterbury and all three games in Division Two.

Nottinghamshire could be deducted 10 points if they are adjudged to have prepared a poor pitch at Trent Bridge.

Nineteen wickets fell on Friday after the first two days were lost to the weather.

England and Wales Cricket board pitch liaison officer Raman Subba Row said he would be reporting his findings back to Lord's after speaking to the umpires, opposing captain Matthew Hayden and the groundsmen.

The county already carry a 10-point suspended sentence from last season.

## Ferrero, Safin to fight it out

BARCELONA, Apr 30: Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero on Saturday booked his place in the final of the one-million-dollar Barcelona Open ATP tour event and was later joined by Russian Marat Safin, reports AFP.

The two 20-year-olds are set for a battle in Sunday's final after Ferrero overcame compatriot Carlos Moya 6-4, 6-7, 6-2, while Safin dismissed Swedish number two seed Magnus Norman 2-6, 7-6, 6-3 on the red clay here.

Ferrero looked to be cruising for an easy victory after breaking his opponent's serve in the ninth game to take the first set and rushing to a 4-1 lead in the second. He was then serving 5-2 for the match, when Moya rallied, forcing a tiebreak to win the second set.

But Ferrero did not waste any chances in the third set and secured the game with a 6-2 win. The young hope is a thing of the past. I think I've proved myself. I'm 20 and I'm no longer a child," said Ferrero after his win.

In the second semifinal Safin had a difficult match against Norman, after earlier defeating number eight seed Youssef El Aynaoui of Morocco 6-2, 6-4 in a game carried over from Friday because of rain.

## Kuala Lumpur marathon

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 30: Kenya's John Kemboi Segoro won the men's open category in the Kuala Lumpur International Marathon Sunday in a time of two hours, 30 minutes and 58 seconds, reports AFP.

The victory earned him a cash prize of 12,000 ringgit (3,158 dollars) and a place in the New York City Marathon in November.

Second was the Philippines' Allan Ballester, who clocked 2:31:07. Malaysia's K. Baskaran was third with a time of 2:33:25. Ballester received 9,000 ringgit and Baskaran 6,000. Both will join Kemboi at the New York marathon.

In the women's category Malaysia's Yuan Yufang far outpaced her rivals to finish in 2:49:28. Indonesia's Ruwiyati came in second with 2:58:43 and third was Thailand's Sunisa Patchara Powgphl in 3:05:00.

The three received the same cash prizes plus a wild card entry to the New York race.

In the men's veteran category, Hong Kong's Lee Kar Lun was triumphed with 2:51:12. He was followed by Thailand's Samia Karavayong with 2:55:32 and Peter Michael Lessing from Holland with 2:56:45.

Sunisa Anand Godara of India won the women's veteran category with 3:34:44 ahead of Malaysia's A. Vasuki (3:38:37) and Kestinee Unsa-Ard of Thailand (3:39:03).



Stand-in Zimbabwe captain, who hammered an unbeaten century against Hampshire, plays forward defensive on the fourth and final day yesterday. —AFP photo

## Sinisa quits Euro 2000?

BEGRAD, Apr 30: Yugoslavia's Sinisa Mihajlovic, embroiled in political controversy, has said that he would not play for the Yugoslav team at the Euro 2000 finals in June, Belgrade media reported on Saturday, says Reuters.

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"If we were to travel to the Euro 2000 finals now, I would most certainly not be a member of the team," Mihajlovic told Belgrade's Radio B2-92.

"It is not a team of the Socialist Party of Serbia, but of the entire Yugoslav people," he said, denying reports in the Yugoslav media that he had joined Yugoslavia's political party.

Serbian television carried a report this week that the defender, who plays for Lazio, had joined Milosevic's Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) and showed pictures of him signing a document.

Pro-government newspapers also reported Mihajlovic had joined Milosevic's party.

Mihajlovic says he signed documents to act as a "sporting ambassador" for Yugoslavia and denied he had joined the party or was a Milosevic supporter.

He said his mistake was not scanning carefully the documents he was signing. He gave the Yugoslav authorities until Saturday to make his views public.

"I talked to Mihajlovic by phone and he told me that he would definitely play for the national team," said Bulatovic, adding that his statement that he would quit the team had been made "in the heat of the moment".

Mihajlovic said he had been told by friends that Bulatovic's denial had only been carried by the independent media.

"I am very angry because of everything that has happened and I think I did not deserve this," he said on Saturday.

"But let's see what will happen — we have until May 20 or 22 to see what will happen, but it's a hard decision for me."

"As things stand today, I am not a member of the Yugoslav team."

"I have not been sleeping for three days. I have been thinking all the time. I feel very bad. Just like when they (NATO) bombed us," he added.

He said that on Saturday he had sent the Yugoslav media his version of events and hoped they would publish it.

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## PCB vows to make Qayyum report public

KARACHI, Apr 30: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman General Tauqir Zia said today that the findings of a judicial commission on match-fixing would be made public soon and guilty players punished.

"I have promised the International Cricket Council (ICC) to submit the report of the inquiry in June and I will live up to my words," Zia told AFP.

Any player found guilty of match-fixing would be punished, he said.

The report of the commission headed by the Lahore High Court judge, Malik Mohammad Qayyum, has been awaiting action since November.

Press reports suggest the ICC demanded the PCB submit the findings at its May 2-3 emergency meeting in England.

Zia dismissed the reports as "incorrect," saying a senior PCB official Yawar Saeed would take part in the meeting.

"We will make the report public before presenting it to the ICC," he said.

He said the case of former South African captain Hansie Cronje was on the ICC agenda and participants will give suggestions on dealing with the problem of match fixing.

Indian police on April 4 charged Cronje and three other teammates with match-fixing.

Cronje was dismissed as captain after he admitted to taking some 10,000 to 15,000 dollars for providing match information and forecasting result during a tri-series in South Africa in January.

Following the Cronje episode Pakistani cricket hero-turned politician, Imran Khan, demanded the government make the judicial commission's report public so that the players get relief or punishment.

Zia denied the report has gone missing.

He said the Sports Ministry "by mistake" sent it to military ruler General Pervez Musharraf's office. "That's why action has been delayed."

"The report is now in the office of the president who is the patron of the cricket board," Zia said adding he would meet President Mohammad Rafiq Tarar on Friday and discuss the report.

He refuted speculation that Qayyum's report had been tampered with.

"I am not like that. Qayyum's recommendations will be implemented and facts will be published."

The judge has reportedly recommended a life ban on former captain Salim Malik and Mushtaq Ahmed and removal of Wasim Akram as captain and fines on several others.

"To my knowledge there are also recommendations of punishing those who hid the facts during the testimony," Zia added.

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## Fed Cup

## Spain, Czech Rep in final phase

PARIS, Apr 30: The Czech Republic and Spain will join defending champions United States in the final phase of the newly-formatted Fed Cup World Group competition in November after heading their respective pools Saturday, reports AFP.

The Czech Republic qualified after defeating Slovakia 2-1 in Bratislava to secure their third win in as many matches in Pool B.

Spain earned a hard fought 2-1 win over Germany in their Pool A tie in the southern Italian town of Bari, after wins over Croatia and Italy in the three days of their round robin competition.

In the decisive doubles match Czech duo Kveta Hrdlickova and Daniela Bedanovova beat Slovak pair Karina Habsudova and Daniela Hantuchova 7-5, 6-3, despite trailing 4-1 in the first set.

The Czechs benefited by Hantuchova's weak service in the sixth game to get back into the game and again in the 12th game to secure the first set.

The turning point in the second set came when Hantuchova lost her serve in the sixth game and the Czechs charged on to win the match largely due to Bedanovova's excellent serve.

It was a disappointing finish for the 17-year-old Hantuchova, who earlier created an upset when she won the opening single's game against Hrdlickova in straight sets 6-3, 6-2.

Ranked just 157th in the world, the young Slovak called in to replace Henrieta Nagyova, had no problem beating world number 46 Hrdlickova to give Slovakia the first point of the tie.

However, the Czechs came back with a vengeance in the

second singles with Denisa Chladkova easily dismissing Habsudova 6-4, 6-4.

In Italy Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario gave Spain their first point when she beat Andrea Glass in straight sets 6-3, 6-3.

But the Germans came back thanks to national number one Anke Huber overpowering Spanish number one Conchita Martinez in equally decisive fashion 6-3, 6-1.

In the crucial doubles rubber the Spanish proved the stronger with Sanchez-Vicario and Martinez beating Huber and Barbara Rittner 6-3, 6-2.

Meanwhile, all is still to play in the pool C tie in Moscow where France were subjected to a surprise 2-1 defeat at the hands of Belgium.

France and Belgium now have two wins each to their credit and who advances to the final phase now depends on whether Russia, who have already won one and lost one tie, win Sunday against Belgium.

The Belgian assault was launched by 16-year-old Kim Clijsters who totally outclassed French veteran Nathalie Tauziat winning the first set 6-1 in just 20 minutes.

Clijsters played faultlessly making her opponent run around the court by drawing her into the net and producing lobs and cross shots, before clinching the game with 6-4 in the second set.

Els Callens earlier defeated Julie Halard-Decugis of France 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, with French doubles pair Tauziat and Halard-Decugis salvaging French pride against Callens and Laurence Courtillot in the doubles by winning 7-5, 3-6, 6-3.

Italy defeated Croatia 3-0 in their Pool A tie on Saturday ensuring that they will remain in the World Group of the competition next year.

The two sides had started the third day of their round robin tournament occupying the bottom two places in the group behind Germany and Spain.

Tathiana Garbin, who won her first WTA event the Budapest Open last week, gave the Italians their first point when she secured a difficult 6-4, 7-6 win over Jelena Kostanic.

Italian number one Silvia Farina later defeated Silvija Talaja 6-4, 7-5 in the second singles match to give Italy the victory they needed to safeguard their World Group status.

The hosts went on to win the doubles when Rita Grande and Giulia Casoni overcame Kostanic and Talaja 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

Croatia have played and lost all three of their ties while Italy will face Germany on Sunday in their final tie.

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