

Sport

Campbell's century

SOUTHAMPTON, England, Apr 30: Stand-in captain Alastair Campbell hit 108 not out as Zimbabwe gained some valuable batting practice against Hampshire in their tour-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-ruined 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 defeated Swedish number two seeded Magnus Norman 6-2, 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 Younes 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 Kembu 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 Kembu at the New York marathon.

In the women's category Malaysia's Yuan Yusang far outpaced her rivals to finish in 2:49:28. Indonesia's Riwiyati came in second with 2:58:43 and third was Thailand's Sunisa Patchara Powgith 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 triumphed with 2:51:12. He was followed by Thailand's Samia Karawawong with 2:55:32 and Peter Michael Lessing from Holland with 2:56:45.

Sunita Anand Godara of India won the women's veteran category with 3:34:44 ahead of Malaysia's A. Vasuki (3:38:37) and Keenice Uns-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?



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

"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 Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's political party.

Serbian television carried a report this week that the defector, 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 sup-

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

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.

Mihajlovic, one of the best dead-ball specialists in the game, played an active role in protests against NATO's military action against Serbia during the Kosovo crisis.

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