

## WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

LONDON, June 26 (AFP): Wimbledon diary on Monday: HEADS OR TAILS

Two disadvantaged youngsters will make Wimbledon history this year when they are allowed to toss the coin to decide who serves first at the men's and women's singles finals.

Until now, the task has always fallen to the umpire but this time, 12-year-old Raju Tital, from Calcutta in India, and 17-year-old Anthony Mills from Egham in England will perform the pre-match ritual.

Both have been nominated by charities chosen by British number one Tim Henman, who picked a children's cancer care organisation, and the Duchess of Kent, who plumped for a Calcutta-based charity.

Tital, who now lives just yards from where doubles and mixed doubles champion Leander Paes was born, is an orphan, while Mills is receiving treatment for leukaemia.

## GOURMET TIME

Come rain or shine - and the weather was forecast to be cloudy but warm and dry on the opening day - Wimbledon always attracts the gourmets and this year is set to be no different.

As ever, strawberries are in the thing, with 27,000 kilos set to be scoffed during the fortnight.

Punters will also get through around 200,000 sandwiches, 12,000 kilos of salmon and 140,000 ice creams.

Although the price of tickets has risen from 37 pence (60 cents) to watch the whole tournament a century ago to a top Centre Court day price of some 60 pounds (100 dollars) the strawberry price index has been kept firmly in check.

In the past seven years a car has gone up just 10 pence or six per cent.

## TAKE YOUR SEATS

Despite the rain clouds and opposition from Euro 2000, this year's Wimbledon is set to prove as popular as ever as fans looking for late tickets had already pitched their tents outside the All-England Club long before Monday's start of play to ensure a place near the front of the queue.

Ticket touts were also moving into position with Centre Court tickets going for up to 20 times their face value.

Chawla has been implicated by the Indian police, and Cassim said this was the same man

Judge Edwin King listens to Hamid Cassim's testimony in Cape Town yesterday. — AFP photo

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Johnson shines for Zimbabwe

TAUNTON, England, June 26: Zimbabwe were indebted to a Neil Johnson hundred as they overcame Somerset by 21 runs in a 50-over friendly at Taunton, reports AFP.

In the first of five warm-up matches for next month's triangular series with England and West Indies, Zimbabwe posted a challenging 248 for four after taking captain Heath Streak had chosen to bat first.

Half-centuries from Piran Holloway and Mike Burns kept a depleted Somerset side in with a chance, but the tourists took the last four wickets for seven runs to seal the win with eight balls remaining.

Medium-pacer Gary Brent claimed four for 36, while Streak returned three for 27.

Unusually for one-day cricket, Johnson played more freely for his first 50 than for his second.

Ten fours hurried him to a half-century from 61 deliveries, but there were only three more boundaries as he moved to his hundred from a further 73 balls.

The former Leicestershire left-hander finally departed for 101 in the 47th over when he holed out to Mark Lathwell at long-off from Peter Trego's bowling.

## World champs

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metres out.

But he made up for it just four minutes later when Zidane, who in January 1999 picked up the FIFA World Player of the Year award, smacked a free-kick into Santiago Canizares' top right hand corner.

Spain came back with an equaliser when Pedro Munitis, who had been causing Lilian Thuram trouble all match with his dribbling runs down the left flank, was tripped in the area by the France defender and Mendieta converted.

But Patrick Vieira set up a magnificent strike for Djorkaeff in the 44th minute to put the world champions back in front.

The Arsenal midfielder ran straight at the Spanish defence on the break and elegantly rode a tackle on the edge of the area before feeding the ball wide on the right for his overlapping teammate.

With Agustin Arranzabal arriving late Djorkaeff had time to loose off a piledriver into Canizares' top left-hand corner, with the goalkeeper beaten at his near post.

Spain recovered from the blow and kept pushing forward in the second half.

Guardiola steered in a series of free-kicks to no avail, while Spanish defender Paco was lucky to pick only up a yellow card in the 70th minute when he grabbed the shirt and shoulders of Henry as the French striker sprinted towards goal.

Guardiola was meanwhile unlucky to see a deflection take care of his shot, which had been neatly teed up by Alfonso after a snaking run by Munitis, although Vieira had no better luck after his 75th minute volley cannoned off a Spanish defender.

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