### Radcliffe sprints to victory

LONDON. Jan 1: Paula Radcliffe stormed to one of the finest victories of her career in the Great North Cross Country in County Durham on Saturday.

reports AFP. Over a testing six kilometres | side's recent decline had left "a course, Radcliffe crushed threetime world cross country champion Derartu Tulu in a memorable race

It was Radeliffe's third victory in the event and without | tour with 182 in the third Test. doubt her most memorable against the double Olympic 10.000 metres gold medallist. After one of the most one-

sided international cross counirv races ever held. Radcliffe finished an amazing 75 seconds ahead of the brilliant Ethiopian. who never came to terms with the snow covering the Consett

Indeed as Radcliffe, who had fourth in the Olympic 10,000m in Sydney, crossed the line in 20 minutes 21 seconds the crowd was aware it had seen something special.

Even Tulu, who had tipped Radeliffe for victory beforehand. admitted: "I expected her to win but not by such a long margin.

"It was an incredible run from Paula. From the start I couldn't stay with her - I just couldn't get a firm grip in the And in a dig at Tulu, who

had questioned Radcliffe's pace in the closing stages of a race. she added: "Ask her now what she thinks about my finishing speed now. Paulo Guerra proved three

weeks ago in Mahno that he stands head and shoulders over Europe's best when winning a fourth championship gold medal.

But despite his well earned reputation the Portuguese was made to look very ordinary by Paul Kosgei.

#### BCB starts

From page 13

Jan 13 Rajshahi Tista v Khulna Rupsha

Jan 14 Chittagong Titas v BKSP Barisal Maroons v Metro Blucs

Jan 15 Rajshahi Tista v Chittagong

Barisal Maroons v BKSP Jan 16 Dhaka Rangers v Metro

Jan 17 Rajshahi Tista v Barisal Maroons

Khulna Rupsha v Chittagong Titas Jan 18 Dhaka Rangers v BKSP

Rajshahi Tista v Dhaka Rangers Jan 19 Khulna Rupsha v Barisal Maroons Metro Blues v BKSP

Jan 20 Chittagong Titas v Barisal Maroons Rajshahi Tista v Metro

Jan 21 Khulna Rupsha v Dhaka Rangers

(The semifinals and final will be held in on Jan 23 and

GrameenPhone Under-17

Group A (Venue: Dhaka) Teams: Rajshahi Padma. Khulna Tigers, Chittagong Karnaphuli, Sylhet Surma. Dhaka Colts and Metro Greens Date Match

Jan 10 Khulna Tigers v Dhaka Colts Rajshahi Padma v Metro

Greens Jan 11 Chittagong Karnaphuli v Sylhet Surma

Jan 12 Rajshahi Padma v Svihet Surma

Khulna Tigers v Metro Greens Jan 13 Chittagong Karnaphuli v

Dhaka Colts Rajshahi Padma v Khulna Tigers Jan 14 Chittagong Karnaphuli v

Metro Greens Sylhet Surma v Dhaka Colts Jan 15 Rajshahi Padma v Chit-

tagong Karnaphuli Kliulina Tigers v Sylhet Surma Jan 16 Dhaka Colts v Metro Greens

Jan 17 Rajshahi Padma v Dhaka Jan 18 Khulna Tigers v Chittagong

Karnaphuli one wants to top the rankings Sylhet Surma v Metro Greens Group B (Venue: Mymen-

Teams: Rajshahi Tista

BKSP, Khulna Rupsha, Metro Blues, Barisal Maroons, Chiltagong Titas and Dhaka Rang-

CFS. Date Match Jan 10 Rajshahi Tista v BKSP

Khuina Rupsha v Metro Blues Jun 11 Clittagong Titas v Dhaka

Rangers Khulna Rupsha v BKSP hin 12 Chittagong Titas v Metro

Rangers Jan 13 Rajshahi Tista v Khulna

Rupsha

Barisai Maroons v BKSP

Jan 16 Dhaka Rangers v Metro

Bluck Marcons

Abrilia Rupsha v Chit-Diguig Titas Dhaka Rampers v BKSP Rushim Tista v Dhaka

Knulma Rupsha v Barisal Maroone Metro Blues v BKSP

Margons Rajsham Tista v Metro Bhues

Rangers (The semifinals and final

Barisal Maroons v Dhaka

Barisal Maroons v Metro Blues

Jan 14 Chittagong Titas v BKSP

Jan 15 Rajsbahi Tista v Chittagong

Jan 17 Enstald Tista v Bansal

Jan 20 Chattagong Titas v Barisal

Jan 21 Khulna Rupsha v Dhaka-

will be held in Dhaka on January 24, 25 and 26.)

## Lara's New Year wish



thoughts of taking early retirement but admitted that his huge scar on not only my career but on me as a person" reports AFP

Lara, who has hit form in just one innings on the current told BBC Radio from Australia. where his team are trailing 4-0 in a one-sided Test series, that he could carry on at the top level for another three or four years even though he is feeling the strain of attempting to hold together a largely inexperienced

The 31-year-old Trinidadian. who holds the world record for a test innings of 375 against so heartbreakingly finished | England in St John's. Antigua and is also the holder of the record for the highest score in first-class cricket 501 not out for Warwickshire against Durham in 1994, said he wanted to guide the West Indies back to form before stepping away from Indies cricket come back on out of. That's my aim at the the pressure.

"I had a little sabbatical away from the game but no still got to watch and I don't some sort of hope for the futhoughts of retiring have en- want to watch what's going on ture, some sort of success. If I tered my mind," he told the at present. I want to watch a go out when West Indies cricket

LONDON. Jan 1: into your 30s you don't feel the Legendary West same like in your early 20s. "I've been suffering from a So retiring is really and truly

few injuries but to leave West not at the forefront of my ludies cricket at this time is not thinking." the sort of thing that I'd like to



BRIAN LARA

"I'm someone who believes in success, someone who behappen and I'd love to see West thing you've got to work to get

"When I leave the game I've "It's tough, cricket. Getting on its feet and doing well.

"If I can play a little part now before I leave I'd love to do that.

Lara added: "I'm just 31 now and batsmen normally go into their late 30s. I'd love to play in another series against England and I can't leave my career losing against England.

"I'm looking forward to that at least and that would be in another three or four years." He admits the West Indies

decline is worrying and although he sees long-term hope in inexperienced youngsters coming through, he traces the start of the slide back at least 10 years due to a lack of forward planning. "It's been very tough. Over

the past three years, we've lost 15 tests out of 17 away from home and that is damaging psychologically," he revealed. "These are things you never

thought would happen in West

Indies cricket while you were watching on the outside. "Now you're part of it, it's lieves in seeing great things damaging enough. It's some-

"To see West Indies regain West Indies team that is back is on the up, then I'll be a happy person.

# Hingis, Kournikova split

number women's femis player Martina

orous Russian Anna Kournikova have ended their partnership in women's doubles. Hingis confirmed here Monday. reports AFP.

Currently competing in the Hopman Cup mixed teams tournament in Perth. Hingis said she would play doubles with American Monica Seles in the Australian Open in Melbourne later this month.

The split follows reports of a row between Hingis and Kournikova at a singles exhibition match in Chile a month

Hingis, while not commenting directly on the reported break-up, said here: "I want to be more independent. I have played a lot of tennis and I was very tired at the end of the sea-

"We (Hingis and Kournikova) played two exhibitions at the end of the year, and now I just don't want to play that much doubles.

"It was a lot of fun playing with her...but I just don't want an all-year partner.

"I will play with Monica in Melbourne, but we will see how it goes, and then I just will continue to play, with her or

controversial

Yevgeny Kafel

Russia's Kafelnikov, de-

lar and charismatic compatriot

enigmatic competitor, is un-

The former world number

again and has already made

public his ambition. "If I did it

once, why can't I do it again?"

ness and mobility has been

2001, reports AFP.

Marat Safin.

the year 2001.

Rios savs.

PENALTE

somebody else. I just want to concentrate more on the sin-

Hingis has won 30 doubles titles, including eight Grand Slams, one of them - at the Australian Open two years ago in partnership with Kournikova. Meanwhile, on Saturday the

Grafs taxing defeat!

STUTTGART, Jan 1: Germany's former women's tennis world number one Steffi Graf conceded defeat at the hands of the German taxman and has agreed to pay him 13.2 million dollars in back taxes according to Saturday's edition of the tabloid Bild newspaper, reports

However, while 31-year-old Grafs lawyer Jorg Frick confirmed that she had withdrawn her complaint against the taxman he said that the figure suggested by Bild was exaggerated as his client had already paid off a large proportion of the tax arrears.

According to Frick Graf, decided to concede because the US tax authorities had closed her dossier several weeks ago without demanding a dollar in payment.

Bad boys start anew

leaf when they begin the Qatar sonable and fair target," said Grand Slam is within his ambit.

to public relations shortcom- circuit and one of its leading formances in Doha should

Kafelnikov have won the French

player for the past four years.

likely to try to alter his surly. But Kafelnikov, who reckons he could be Nicolas Kiefer, the

image, but instead has set him- may have only a couple of years. German who is more than good

The Russian claims that the

His problem is that full fit- the same mistakes that he has. placed the conventional ranking

hard to achieve after a groin old compatriot to the top of the more than 20 years.

self exalted on-court goals for left in him. has been trying to enough to regain a top ten place

adopt a more positive attitude.

characters in that it is possible to recover his

the world's top 30.

men's tennis, old brilliance.

nikon and Marcelo Rios, are ten in 2001 and after that be-

hoping to turn over a new year coming number one is a rea-

Open in the opening week of Rios, who finished 2000 outside

scribed by the British tennis target for the man once repri-

magazine as the tour's most manded by the ATP Tour for

miserable player, has admitted describing the press and the

Chile's Rios, regarded by Open's 'Prix de Citron' award

many as the ATP tour's most for the tour's least popular

ings since the rise of his popu- tournaments as "boring".

DOHA. Qatar. Jan operation and five months off rankings tree over the past few

1: The two most the tour. But a December break months may buoy up Kafel-

seems to have convinced him nikov's motivation.

"I'll aim to be back in the top the Qatar title this week, and a

That could be a stimulating perhaps the most talented cur-

Between them Rios and bourne in two weeks time.

tour has not been promoted as Santoro, the Frenchman who

it should have been and that he attracted much attention here

himself has been responsible last year when he became the

for that. But Safin reckons first leader in the ATP Tour's

Kafelnikov is unlikely to make Champions Race which re-

The elevation of his 19-year- system as a marketing tool after

ing on ways to overcome the

sisters, Venus and Serena, and American Lindsay Davenport had what she called "physical abilities", Hingis said: "I have other weapons and strengths. I have been working on that and,

"It is good motivation. I have just been practising for the past two weeks very hard, and I am looking forward to start all over

voungsters." Hingis said.

one again. "I was consistent and I won

was a very good year." Hingis, 20, who is teaming up with Roger Federer in the Swiss team at the Hopman

least one Grand Slam.

hopefully, I can overcome that.

again. "The field gets stronger - as well as the Williams sisters and

"It has become very difficult, but I cannot really say I had a bad year, because I made the finals at the Australian Open. two semis and a quarter, so it is just that the other girls play well, but I came out the number

nine tournaments. I think it

Cup, said she had high goals for 2001, including winning at "You have to have goals as

superior physical strength of some of her Amazonian rivals. Conceding that the Williams

the number one player in the

player revealed she was work-

Davenport, there are many

world. It does not matter which one. I will just go for it."

The fifth-ranked Olympic

champion is favourite to win

good start to 2001 may con-

vince him that winning another

Kafelnikov won the Austra-

lian Open in 1999, and Rios,

rent player never to have won a

Grand Slam title, was runner-

up the year before. Good per-

make both dangerous in Mel-

and Kafelnikov would make a

great climax to the tournament

although a danger to either

if he has an injury-free year.

The titleholder is Fabrice

Himmin

A showdown between Rios

#### Steve speaks his mind SYDNEY, Jan 1: Australian

cricket captain Steve Waugh has attacked the way other international teams play, saying they regularly employ "negative" tactics that prevent them from winning more often, reports Reuters. Waugh cited the recent

drawn matches between South Africa and Sri Lanka and New Zealand against Zimbabwe as cases where teams played to avoid defeat rather than pursuing victory.

"I think a lot of sides don't play to their ability because they're not really letting themselves go." Waugh said.

"Every time we go to play a Test match we try and encourage the other side to play positively and play for the win and get a result. That's the idea of the game.

Besides us, I don't know any other side that looks like they're going to win ... or prepares to win from ball one.

Waugh said Australia's positive approach to the game was the key to their unbroken world record sequence of 14 consecutive Test wins.

And while he conceded Australia had an unrivalled lineup of top quality players to choose from, he said other teams could improve their results by adopting a more positive approach. We always try and score 300 runs in a day and if you do that vou're going to win most Test matches but you've got to have the players to do that," Waugh

That's the luxury we've got that other sides mightn't have but I still think if you don't try to do that then you're never going to achieve that.

Since replacing Mark Taylor as Australian captain two years ago. Waugh has quickly established himself as one of the most innovative leaders in the game, regularly challenging traditions and conventions in pursuit of victory.

While most captains prefer to bat first when they win the toss. Waugh invariably chooses to field and has shown no hesitation in chopping and changing from players in keeping with his "horses for courses policy". Only last week, he an-

men's singles to give his counnounced he had banned the accepted tradition of using night-watchmen to protect top order batsmen, believing the tactic is outdated and pointless. won the mixed doubles. "We play aggressively and we play to win." said Waugh, who

boasts the best winning per-

centage of any captain in

cricket history with 15 wins from 20 Tests. "Hopefully, they'll come around to that way of thinking

and follow our lead. We're winning regularly so we must be doing something right. I'm sure it'll catch on eventually.

#### Gambill has no clue

PERTH. Jan 1: Budding nerican tennis star Jan Michael Gambill declared here Monday he was puzzled why some American superstars did not play in the Davis Cup competition, reports AFP.

pras) place -- they are at a different level," said Gambill. competing with Monica Seles in the Hopman Cup mixed teams event here. "They are the superstars of the world and they have played

"To tell you the truth. I can't

understand it, but I am not in

Andre (Agassi) or Pete's (Sam-

tennis a long time -- and quite a bit of Davis Cup for their coun-"I think that what they have brought to the game, what they have done for tennis, is incredi-

ble. I cannot possibly judge "For me, it is a big deal and I think it always will be, but things change and you never know. Unfortunately, they don't want to play. It would be good if they did because we would be a very strong force and I think we

still can be. Gambill and Seles both deplored the poor crowd support for the Davis Cup and Fed Cup in the US.

"Two years ago at Stantord we got a really weak crowd." (for the Fed Cup) Seles said. "It does not help that we keep changing the format.

"From a player's point of view I do not even know what next year's format is. We had one format, then we changed it last year, and then there is a new format again. There is no continuate.

Gambill said that in some countries the Davis Cup was one of the biggest events. "In Australia, you guys are hugely behind the team, and in

Spain there was like a whirl-

wind of people watching us

13.000 people really out there just to kill us -- and it helped the team." he said. "When I played in the States - in Milwaukee -- there was a really weak crowd the whole time. It is very disappointing.

"What it should feel like -

the Davis Cup -- is a fifth

Grand Slam. That is the kind of

support you want to get. "It is disheartening to say the least. Unlike Monica. think we need to re-format somewhat. People have said we need to go for two years. like with the Ryder Cup in golf. "There are a lot of things to

here was anybody to blame for the present situation. The USTA has quite a bit of power in the US and a lot of resources at their command. Given time, they can resurrect it (the Davis Cup). It is not that bad, but it could be better." - . 1

Gambill said he did not be-



Boxing legend Mohammad Ali (C) pressing the ball down to mark the start of the New Year celebrations at the Times Square in New York. New York mayor Rudy Giuliani is on the left -AFP photo while Ali's wife Lonnie on the right.

## Hopman Cup

# Seles, Gambill guide USA

the New Year's Day tie.

World number (7/4). four Monica Seles Michael Gambill gave the United States a great

start to the New Year when they beat the Slovak Republic on the sluggish -- start. I just could third day of the million dollar not find my rhythm. It was as if (554.000 US) Hopman Cup it took me a while to wake up. mixed teams tennis tournament at Burswood Dome here Monday, reports AFP. Seles, though below her siz- doors, where I have been praczling best, wore down a game tising -- sometimes in a high

Jan-

try an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the tie.

women's singles and give the

United States a flying start be-

fore Jan-Michael Gambill over-

came Dominik Hrbaty in the

game of the third set, in which Seles won in three sets, 6-3. 3-6, 6-1 in 80 minutes. Gambill he recovered in spectacular won 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in a slogging 104 minutes.

In the mixed doubles, Seles

PERTH. Jan 1: before winning 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 pretty well and was able to pull Seles, 27, admitted that she me. could not find her best touch in

> with my singles form," she said. "It was a very slow -- really

put it together in the third set. "Coming indoors from out-Karina Habsudova to win the wind -- made it a bit difficult. "Added to that, Karina gives Cup.

me trouble because she likes a bit of pace." Gambill had his difficulties minute play-off here Saturday against the tenacious Hrbaty, to sweep into the main draw of ranked 17th in the world -- the competition. The Americans made it a compared with the American's clean sweep when they also 33rd ranking -- and saved some of his best tennis for the final

> fashion to win after trailing 0-"That does not happen very

it out. It was a good start for The third-seeded Americans

now have their eyes on "I was not really pleased Wednesday's tie against the second-seeded Russians, represented by men's world number two Marat Safin and 21stranked Elena Likhovtseva. The United States have won

"But at least I was able to the Hopman Cup once -- four years ago when Justin Gimelstob and Chanda Rubin guided them to victory in the final over South Africa's Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer, the current holders of the Hopman Belgium defeated Japan by

two rubbers to one in a thrill-a-

Belgium's Olivier Rochus and Kim Clijsters beat Takao Suzuki and Ai Sugiyama 6-4. 6-4 in the decisive mixed doubles after the singles clashes had

been shared. Clijsters gave Belgium a wonderful start when she overand Gambill had to work hard often." Gambill said. "I served came Sugiyama 7-6 (7-3), 5-7, 6-4 in the women's singles.

But Suzuki made it all

square when he overpowered Rochus 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in the men's singles, leaving the doubles to settle the issue. "I am very happy to win with Kim, even though I lost my singles," said the 19-year-old Rochus, ranked 67th in the world, who now faces a huge challenge

Marat Safin, ranked number "I had not played a match for about a month, so for the first match for that time it was not so bad. I know that if I am playing well. I can beat a lot of

good players." The confrontation between Belgium and Russia -- seeded number two in the tournament, behind Switzerland's Roger Federer and Martina Hingis -will take place on Monday night.

hovtseva, currently ranked 21st in the world. The Belgians will come up against the Slovak Republic (Dominik Hrbaty/Karina Habsudova) Tuesday and the

Clijsters, ranked number 19.

will also meet a tough opponent

-- the 25-year-old Elena Lik-

United States (Jan-Michael

Gambill/Monica Seles) Thursday. It was the second year in succession that the Japanese pair had failed in a play-off for the right to compete in the

Hopman Cup main draw. Last year they were beaten by Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan and Tamarine Tanasugarn, who advanced to the final in fairytale fashion before being beaten by South Africans Wayne Ferreira and Amanda Coetzer.

#### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 36 Suitable 2 Help a 22 Strong

hood

figure,

Sir -

pronoun

3 Skywalker's 23 Clark's

1 "The Say 37 Allies"

Hey Kid"

17 Dread

18 Put into

words

medium

33 Flightless

Mandel

35 Guitar's

bird

34 Long

19 Forces

38 Leftovers partner monlor 5 Trump 25 Goddess: 4 Zone recipe casino Latin 39 Distant 5 Unisex hotel, for 26 Mischiel-41 "Skeshort 6 Bookmaker daddle!" 8 Strikekeeper: 27 Flybreaker 43 Blot on Abbr. catchers' 12 Reed one's instrument escutcheon 7 Pun place? 8 Bulgaria's 29 Desire 13 The 46 Corre-31 Man spond capital Name of the Rose" 50 Legal with an 9 Where to claim pay for alibi author 14 "Oops!" groceries 32 Author 51 Outing 15 Nocturnal 54 Rubber-Wallace 10 Med. 34 Injure attenneck sch. 55 Uncooked subj. 38 Vile dance-40 DeMille 56 Between 11 Arthurian taking

58 Individual 16 Feminine

20 November 43 Tortoiselike out responsi- 44 Buster DOWN 21 Exam 1 Crowds Brown's bility format 24 Hardwood Solution time: 27 mins. 45 Frizzy variety hairdo 25 A-line 47 -creator 28 Mr. Gingrich 30 Matisse's

57 Marries

59 AMA folk

anything for you" 48 After-bath applica-49 Peacocktail design 52 Fleming or Ziering 53 Ram's

22 23 47 48 49 43 44 51 52 53 CRYPTOQUIP

-AFP photo

JNVDLBZI

AVJJUL BVAHPA HUERL TPVAM LNGD TULR

RVAP-AVUDUGE LVIPD

SALESMEN BECOME DISCONTENTED

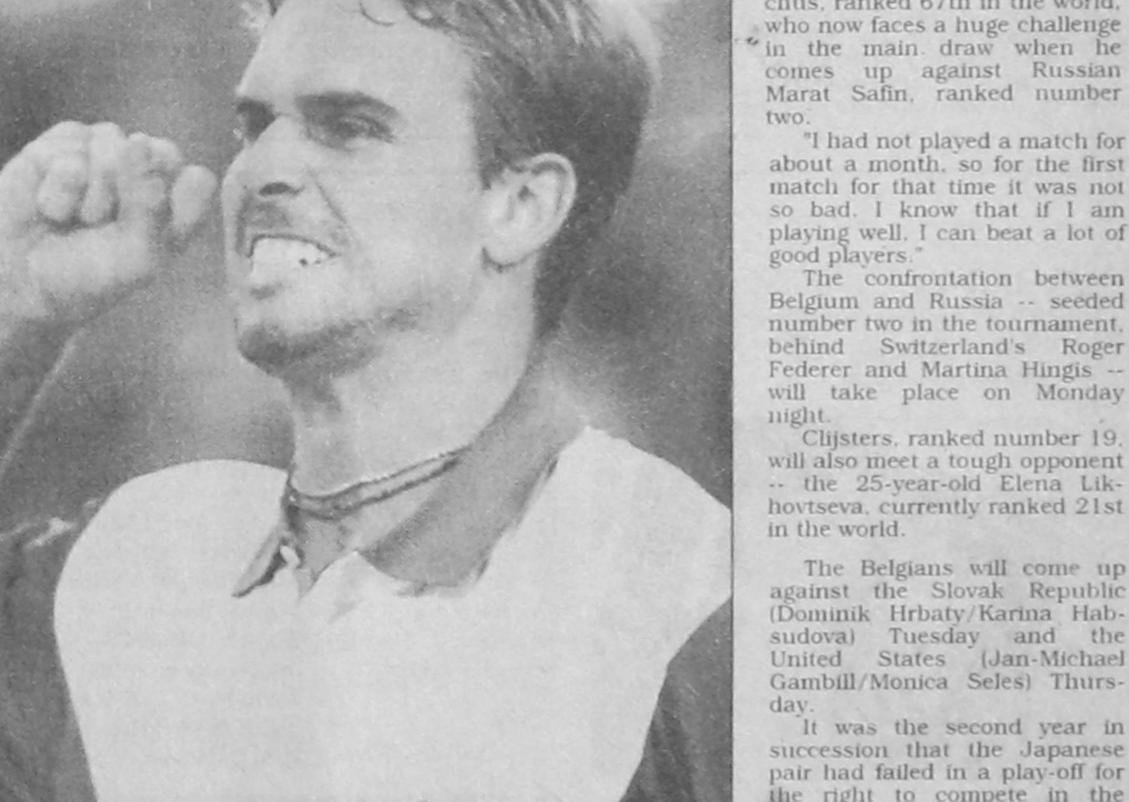
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TOPSOIL

PRIMARILY BECAUSE IT'S A DIRTY BUSINESS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals R 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.



secs in Sao Paulo on December 31.



American Jan-Michael Gambill exults after beating Slovak Dominik Hrbaty in the Hopman Cup encounter yesterday.

as -

or Moore-

head

42 He gives

a hoot