

Agarkar takes

FROM PAGE 13
months had been against top teams Australia and Sri Lanka.

He said he also hoped for a good performance in the Test series against the world's second-ranked side. "We are out there to play good cricket. They'll be a hard good side. We have to play well to stand a good chance to win the series," he said.

Ganguly said the return of leading batsman Sachin Tendulkar and leg-spinner Anil Kumble after injury lay-offs would boost the team.

Tendulkar was sidelined for the Sri Lankan tour because of a hair-line fracture on his right foot while Kumble is back after missing almost a year because of a shoulder injury which required surgery.

Ganguly is also under pressure because of his poor test batting form, having scored only one 50 in his last 16 innings.

But he said: "I thought I played well in patches in Sri Lanka. I have been hitting the ball well, so I hope I score some runs in South Africa."

The left-hander hit 98 not out to lift India to victory in the second Kandy test in Sri Lanka, but has largely struggled and recently asked his bat-makers to prepare lighter bats.

Ganguly's side will have 12 days before the one-day series to get used to the pacy pitches in South Africa. India begin their tour with a game against the Nicky Oppenheimer XI on October 1.

Conditions

FROM PAGE 13
BANGLADESH A: First innings (overnight 23 for 3 in 14 overs)
Rafiqu c Sabbir b Sharif 4
Mehrab c Anwar b Monjurul 10
Sanwar c Akram b Sharif 7
Sajjad c Akram b Enamul 0
Hasanuzzaman not out 39
Extras: (b-6, lb-1, nb-8) 15
Total: (For 5 wkts in 38 overs) 115
Fall of wickets: 1/1, 2/13, 3/20, 4/80, 5/98

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Monjurul	11	2	22	1
Sharif	10	1	10	3
Naimur	5	1	11	0
Enamul	6	1	26	1
Hasibul	6	0	28	0

Gibbs zaps

FROM PAGE 13
Nkala 10 0 72 0
P Strang 10 0 56 1
G Flower 6 0 36 0
Whittall 7 0 43 0
ZIMBABWE
Campbell c and b Pollock 81
Ebrahim c Klusener b Nel 0
Masakadza run out (sub - Dippenaar) 11
A. Flower run out (Rhodes) 34
Wishart c Kallis b Henderson 45
G. Flower not out 22
Whittall not out 5
Extras (b4, nb2, w6) 12
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 210
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-43, 3-97, 4-157, 5-189.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	9	0	33	1
Nel	8	0	27	1
Klusener	5	0	22	0
Ntini	10	0	51	0
Henderson	10	0	44	1
Kallis	5	0	22	0
McKenzie	2	0	6	0
Rhodes	1	0	1	0

Did not bat: H. Streak, P. Strang, T. Friend, M. Nkala.
Result: South Africa won by 153 runs.

Man of match: Herschelle Gibbs.
Umpires: Charles Coventry, Jeff Fenwick (both Zimbabwe). TV umpire: Justice Tafumaneyi (Zimbabwe). Match referee: Naushad Ali (Pakistan).

Remaining matches: Harare, Sept 29; Harare, Sept 30.

Shanghai Open Rainer's



AFP, Shanghai

German Rainer Schuttler picked up the second title of his career, winning in a Chinese metropolis which he insisted reminded him of home against good friend Michel Kratochvil at the 400,000-dollar Shanghai Open Sunday.

Schuttler, seeded second, had mentioned during the week that long trips on the road left him occasionally yearning to see family in Germany and friends at his base in Switzerland.

The 25-year-old was able to successfully put all that aside as he won a one-hour, 37-minute struggle 6-3, 6-4 against one of his best tennis friends, then admitted that even faraway Shanghai could somehow seem a bit like Germany.

There was, however, an explanation: "I was shown around the city by some really nice German girls," he said after pocketing the winner's cheque for 54,000 dollars and 35 ATP Champions race points. Kratochvil, playing in the first final of his career, won 31,500 dollars.

Schuttler took his only other title in Doha, the Gulf, in 1999. His title-topping performance was by far his best this season.

The winner received a huge and delicate white case with yellow flowers and butterflies painted on it -- far from the usual tennis trophy. Third seed Kratochvil, still looking for his first career success but pleased enough to have played for an initial title, got a ceramic plate. "It was a great day and an amazing week," said the winner.

"I had a lot of support, especially from some German fans." Schuttler took advantage of an early break in the first set to grab the early lead against the 22-year-old Kratochvil. The pair stayed level in

the second with hard-hitting displays from the baseline until a tiny chink in Kratochvil's armour gave the second seed the edge.

After saving three break points

Kratochvil said that he also felt the warmth of the Chinese crowd -- and was boosted by Swiss flags occasionally seen in the stands.

"I never thought that being here



PHOTO: AFP

Rainer Schuetler of Germany plays a backhand return against Swiss Michel Kratochvil at the Heineken Open final on Sunday.

in the sixth game -- brought on by a double-fault -- Schuttler took a 4-3 lead as Kratochvil double-faulted for a break point and then sent a forehand long to drop to 3-4.

Schuttler served up the next game, but the Swiss answered with a love game, 4-5. Schuttler profitted form a pair of long returns from his opponent to seal victory.

so far away that I'd feel so welcome," he said, "It was an amazing week, it almost feels like I'm playing at home. It's probably the best week of my career."

Both men move onto Hong Kong where neither will be seeded in a field headed by Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero and Marat Safin.

Britain blank Ecuador



AFP, Guayaquil

Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski hoisted Britain back into the World Group of the Davis Cup on Saturday, winning their doubles encounter to secure an unbeatable 3-0 lead over Ecuador.

Rusedski, who had performed brilliantly to oust claycourt specialist Nicolas Lapentti in his singles match on Friday, and Henman beat Giovanni and Nicolas Lapentti 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 to end the hopes of the South Americans, who had scored a shock victory at Wimbledon last year.

Henman won his Friday singles with Luis Adrian Morejon 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

Despite temperatures reaching a stifling 35 Celsius and a noisy, partisan crowd the British pair

proved too strong for their hosts as they stormed the net to great effect at the Club Nacional in the port city of Guayaquil.

Nicolas Lapentti was shellsocked after his earlier loss to Rusedski, whom he would expect to beat on clay.

And that showed as the Ecuadorian dropped his opening service game in both of the first two sets.

Although he recovered from that nadir, his 18-year-old brother Giovanni then missed a simple volley as he dropped serve in the first game of the third.

That effectively marked the end of the Ecuadorian challenge - but it was hard luck on Giovanni, who had been a star in the Wimbledon tie 14 months ago when he secured the final point in a 3-2 win.

In contrast to their opponents, Henman and Rusedski did not have to face a break point against either of their serves.

Harrison wins boring bout

REUTERS, Newcastle

Britain's Olympic super-heavyweight champion Audley Harrison won his second professional bout with an unspectacular points victory over Derek McCafferty Saturday.

Harrison, who won his first professional outing against American Michael Middleton in May with a first-round stoppage, was made to work against English-based Scot McCafferty.

"It's the first time I've done six rounds. I coped with it," Harrison told BBC TV.

"I paced myself and I'm very happy with my performance. The fitness felt good I was going up and down the gears.

"There was no point in me trying to blast him out of the ring as I need the experience."

Marathoners will run

AFP, New York

Organisers of the Chicago and New York Marathons vow their races will go on as scheduled despite terrorist attacks here and in Washington and the logistical nightmare of securing a 26.2-mile course.

"Everyone is on heightened alert and doing more than normal to protect the average citizen and the race," New York Marathon director Allan Steinfield said.

The Chicago Marathon, the world's largest race this year with 37,500 entrants, will be conducted October 7 as planned. The New

York Marathon will run as scheduled on November 4 with an expected 30,000 competitors.

"In the wake of the terrible events of September 11, the role of the 2001 New York City Marathon as a means of highlighting the diversity, energy and resiliency of New York City and New Yorkers is greater than ever before," said Steinfield.

"This will be our way to show the world and show the terrorists we won't be stopped."

No logistical changes are planned for the race because the route does not go near the rubble of the World Trade Center in southern

Manhattan.

Part of the safety concern at any marathon is for spectators. About 900,000 are likely to line the Chicago route, with more possible here after a call by organizers to come out and show civic spirit in the aftermath of disaster.

"We extend our sympathy to the friends and family of those who perished in this disaster and send heartfelt thanks to the many heroes working tirelessly to help those in need," said Chicago race chairman Mark Nystuen.

Many happy

FROM PAGE 13
on penalties - Ronaldo also netting the first spot kick.

So to the final. Like Pele, Beckenbauer and Maradona before him, this was Ronaldo's stage. The greatest player in the world inspiring his nation in the greatest match in the world.

The events of July 12, 1998 are well documented yet still mysterious. How injured Ronaldo was during that final will never be known but one thing is sure, Ronaldo had a shocker as France blew Brazil away in the most one-sided World Cup final there's been.

But Ronaldo's bad luck wasn't over yet. In October he inflamed tendons in his right knee, an injury that ultimately stole three years of his career - at least. Since then Ronaldo's story has followed a depressing pattern - operation, attempted comeback, breakdown, "Is this the end?" headlines.

Ronaldo may have been playing for 12 years, but at 25 another decade is still possible now he seems to be back. Whether after so long out he can ever regain his sharpness or his confidence - or the fear he instils in opponents - only time will tell.

Olympic pin record

AFP, Salt Lake City

A pin created to benefit those affected by the recent terrorist attacks on the United States has broken all records for sales of previous Olympic pins. Salt Lake Organising Committee (SLOC) chief executive Mitt Romney said Saturday.

More than 216,000 of the "We Stand United" pins have been sold in a three-day period generating over one million dollars.

"The 'We Stand United' pin is a sign of solidarity with our country and the world," said Romney, a businessman, who is spearheading the organisation for the 2002 Winter Olympics here.

"The Olympic Games are needed even more today than the day before," said Romney. "They have never been about sport alone. The Games are also a showcase for the great qualities of human spirit: courage, sacrifice, perseverance and determination."

"In light of our nation's tragedy they are also an affirmation of civilization and humanity. As the Games proceed, they evidence that terror will not bring the nation or the world to its knees."

Proceeds from sales of the pin, which cost five dollars each, will benefit The September 11 Fund, which was established to help respond to victims and their families affected by the attacks.

Meghann-Iva showdown

AFP, Quebec

Top-seeded American Meghann Shaughnessy and Croatian fourth seed Iva Majoli advanced to the final of the 170,000-dollar WTA Tour event here Saturday with straight-set semi-final victories.

Both winners, however, needed all of their resources to reach the final. In the first match of the day, Majoli downed Slovakian Martina Sucha 6-4, 7-5. But the Croatian often appeared fatigued and admitted she welcomed the chance to rest before Sunday's final.

Shaughnessy, who beat compatriot Alexandra Stevenson in a marathon quarter-final that needed three sets and three tiebreakers on Friday, rallied in the first-set tie-breaker to defeat third-seeded Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 7-6, 6-2.

The 22-year-old Shaughnessy posted her second victory of the year over Kremer. She rallied from a set down in July to beat Kremer in the first round of the hardcourt tournament at San Diego, California.

Croatia survive a scare

AFP, Rome

Croatia's Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic and his partner Ivan Ljubicic came within two points of defeat here Saturday in a Davis Cup doubles match but rallied to pull off a 6-7, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over Italy's Mose Navarra and Giorgio Galimberti.

The victory gave Croatia a 2-1 lead going into Sunday's reverse singles in this World Group qualifying round match on the red clay at the Foro Italico.

Italy have been forced to field inexperienced youngsters in this tie because of a dispute between the national tennis federation and senior players Davide Sanguinetti and Andrea Gaudenzi.

But Navarra and Davis Cup debutant Galimberti soared into a two-set lead before moving 5-2 up in the tie-break in the third.

But two double faults by Navarra allowed the Croatians to sneak the set and the visitors took full advantage by wrapping up the match, silencing a noisy Italian crowd.

Ivanisevic, who by his own admission has a "Good Goran, Bad Goran" split personality, looked to be having one of his less impressive days.

Following his unexpected singles defeat at the hands of the unheralded Filippo Volandri on Friday the Wimbledon champion again looked out of sorts with the calmer Ljubicic often giving him a pep-talk. Ljubicic had had to persuade his team-mate not to go home after the Volandri defeat.

But when victory was sealed Ivanisevic celebrated in his trademark manner, punching the air in euphoria and doing high-fives with Croatian supporters in the crowd.

Italy captain Corrado Barazzutti, a member of the only Italy side to win the Davis Cup in 1976 when the 'Azzurri' trounced Chile 4-1 in Santiago, chose to rest Volandri and his other singles player Federico Luzzi for the doubles.

That means they will be fresh for their respective assignments against Ljubicic and Ivanisevic on Sunday with both Croats being forced back on court after a tough five-setter here Saturday.

Arantxa stoops to Jelena



AFP, Tokyo

Veteran Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario had no answer to the power play of Yugoslav teenager Jelena Dokic as she lost in straight sets at the final of the Princess Cup tennis tournament Sunday.

The 29-year-old Spaniard said she had been pleased with her form leading up to the final but was disappointed with her performance against Dokic.

"First of all, I'm happy, because it's been another final. You have to play well enough to get to the final," said the fifth seed after her 4-6, 2-6 defeat at the hands of the third seed.

"I was not happy with the way I played. I don't think she won the match, I lost the match. I made many unforced errors and too many easy mistakes," said Sanchez-Vicario, the winner here in 1994 and five-time finalist.

The former world number one, currently ranked 19th in the world, had planned to "go to the net as much as I can," but she fell victim to Dokic's power-packed baseline strokes.

Sanchez-Vicario failed to capitalize on six break points, while Dokic converted three out of six such chances throughout the 70-minute final.

It was her third defeat against the 18-year-old Yugoslav this season, following losses at Hamburg and the US Open.

"Obviously those many, many enforced errors cost me the match and I'm not happy about that. It was the worst match for me in this tournament."

But Sanchez-Vicario, now 29 who has won the French Open three times and the US Open once, said she enjoys competing against younger players.

"I don't have pressure as before and that makes me feel better. I definitely did everything in my career and now I'm just enjoying

Definitely there's much more power right now than before.

"But I'm still enjoying myself, and still competing and winning a tour-



PHOTO: AFP

Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario hits a backhand return against Yugoslav Jelena Dokic at the Princess Cup final on Sunday.

myself more! I'm just trying to give my best in every tournament.

"I think it's great to have a young generation, different players and different personalities coming up.

nement against them and that's her first title in two years at Porto in April and added another at Madrid in May -- her 29th career title overall.

France move into final



AFP, Rotterdam

France reached the Davis Cup final for the second time in three years Saturday when veteran Cedric Pioline and Fabrice Santoro, comprising a makeshift doubles pairing, outlasted Paul Haarhuis and Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-1, 7-5 to give the French an unbeat-

able 3-0 lead in their semifinal in Rotterdam.

Pioline, who was in the squad which lost to Australia in the 1999 final in Nice, could now be in line for a potshot at Australia, who won the trophy that year.

Australia were 2-1 ahead in their final at home to Sweden in Sydney following Saturday's doubles.

The French had dominated proceedings in Friday's opening singles after bad luck hit the Dutch camp when Raemon Sluiter had to

retire with an ankle injury midway through the third set of his match with Arnaud Clement. The pair had split the two opening sets.

Nicolas Escude then beat Schalken 6-7, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6, 8-6 to leave the Dutch on the verge of elimination.

With the hosts' morale shattered, Pioline and Santoro, playing together for only the third time, wrapped up their encounter on the Rotterdam carpet in 1hr 53min to render the outcome of the Sunday return singles purely academic.

Pioline had initially been a replacement in the squad but came in for the unfit world number eight Sebastien Grosjean, so his joy at securing the win was all the greater.

French skipper Guy Forget said he thought his doubles pairing had surprised the Dutch.

The Dutch had shocked outgoing champions Spain in the opening round and then hammered Germany, winning both contests in style 4-1, and prior to this edition had never been past the quarters.

But the experienced French, who have now won three ties this year away from home, were a bridge too far and Sluiter's injury was just the start they needed to build on - something they achieved in style.

Schalken and Haarhuis stand 13th in the doubles world rankings and were semi-finalists at the US Open but Schalken was clearly feeling the effects of his 4hr 51min Friday marathon against Escude.

Dutch captain Tjerk Bogtstra saluted Pioline's performance.

This year's final will take place from November 30 to December 2 and will be played in Melbourne if Australia see off the Swedes or in France if the Swedes come back to triumph.

Eight-times winners France will be playing in their 14th final and their fifth in the past 20 years. Their last win came in 1996 in Sweden.

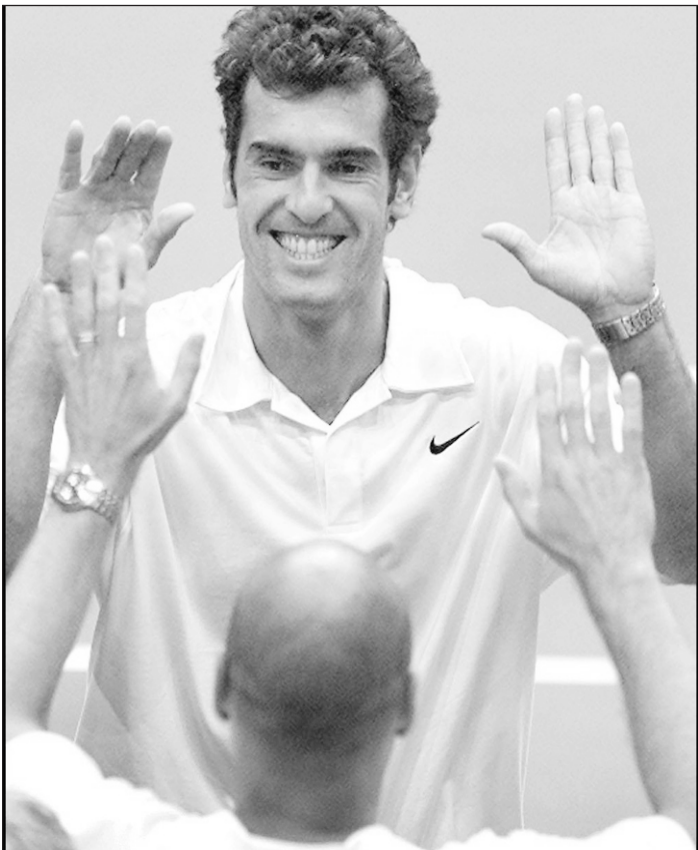


PHOTO: AFP

Frenchman Cedric Pioline celebrates with teammate after beating the Netherlands in the Davis Cup semifinal tie on September 22.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	42 Center X or O	3 Put in a box	21 Chit
1 Caffeine-rich brew	44 Basilica area	4 "2001"	23 Trey
6 Fold	12 His mount scolded him	50 Unimprovable place	24 Perfor-
12 His mount scolded him	46 Plato's P's	5 Pull an all-nighter	25 mance
13 Ceremony	14 Maroon	52 Copper-zinc alloy	26 Tuna type
15 National park in Maine	54 Drilling tools	55 Put one over on	28 Comprom-
16 Unit of force	56 Isn't frugal	10 Je ne — quoi	30 Wilde-beast
17 Appella-	57 Links warnings	11 Old Persian Gulf kingdom	31 Bottom line
19 Doctrine	20 Use a rotary phone	12 Founda-	33 Author Wallace
22 Took a meeting	24 Ottoman official	18 Wanted-poster data	34 Lowest form of humor
27 News-pa-	29 Portent	35 Option for Hamlet	39 Scottish land-owner
29 Portent	36 Birthright	37 Eccentric	41 Knight-wear
32 Driving distraction	33 Option for Hamlet	37 Eccentric	42 Margarine containers
35 Option for Hamlet	36 Birthright	37 Eccentric	43 On
36 Birthright	37 Eccentric	38 It does the hole job	45 Quarter-back's tactic
37 Eccentric	38 It does the hole job	40 — St. Vincent Millav	47 Golf target
38 It does the hole job	40 — St. Vincent Millav		48 Flaremn chessers
40 — St. Vincent Millav			49 South, or the Saint
			51 Pigsty
			53 Kanga's kid

Solution time: 27 mins.

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PLURIDUE		
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ITALIA	FLY	CONES
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WAVE	STAIR	FORD
LIBIS	IOWA	AGO
GENE	CONN	DOL

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5-12 CRYPTOQUIP

V C A D S K L V T L S T Q C M L I
Q N N R C M P , A D L N G C P S R C
S G A C I A D S T A N K N Q T

H M T L G Z G L I H G L
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DEFIANT SHOPPING
CART PROCLAIMS: "I'M TIRED OF LETTING
PEOPLE PUSH ME AROUND!"

Today's Cryptquip Clue: I equals S

The Cryptquip 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