

Trouble in Zim cricket?

REUTERS, Harare
Zimbabwe's players considered striking before their final match in the one-day series against England...

Lanka bring

FROM PAGE 13
SQUAD
Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu (vice captain), Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardena...

England must

FROM PAGE 13
Test series, followed by five one-day internationals in January.
Recent media reports suggest England are uncomfortable playing at Mohali and Ahmedabad...

Capriati doesn't mind

Tennis

REUTERS, Zurich

Newly-crowned world number one Jennifer Capriati proclaimed her comeback complete before beginning her reign with a defeat in the Swisscom Challenge doubles.



PHOTO: INTERNET

Women's tennis new world number one Jennifer Capriati of the United States smiles during a news conference at the WTA tournament in Zurich on October 15.

demands and pressure of the sport, the troubled teenager was arrested for shoplifting and cautioned for possession of marijuana in 1993, her once promising career in ruins.

Scud's Davis Cup aim

Tennis

AFP, Stuttgart

Mark Philippoussis left the door open for a long-shot Davis Cup call-up as he moved into the second round of the 2.95-million-dollar Masters Series on Monday with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 revenge win against a Spaniard.



MARK PHILIPPOUSSIS

Hobbled Stuttgart holder Wayne Ferreira ignored the back problems which have all but wrecked his season, winning 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 over Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia.

Rixon, Lee have faith in Slater

AFP, Sydney

New South Wales coach Steve Rixon and captain Shane Lee believe Michael Slater will force his way back into the Australian Test cricket side this summer.

When Slater was dumped from the fifth Ashes Test against England last August for makeshift opener Justin Langer, he declared he would "hit the ground running" in the domestic competition to stake his claim for a recall.

Lee supported Slater's recall saying: "Hopefully, Michael's putting Test selection out of his sights at the moment and just worrying about getting runs."

IAAF decision irks Inger

AFP, Los Angeles

American athletics standout Inger Miller repeated her denials that she took abnormal quantities of caffeine in a statement here Monday, expressing disappointment with an IAAF ruling.

Miller was reacting to an IAAF decision announced by US officials Saturday that said her disqualified from a third-place finish in the 60 meters final at the World Indoor Championships in Japan in March of 1999.

Salt Lake's rock medals

INTERNET, Salt Lake City

When Mitt Romney unwrapped a sample of Salt Lake's roughewn Olympic medals, the IOC executive board was slow to give its approval.



PHOTO: INTERNET

This is how the 2002 Winter Games medal will look like.

Olympic Games at 1 1/4 pounds, can fill an athlete's palm.
When Romney took his gold medal sample to Lausanne, Switzerland, setting off metal detectors at airports on the way, some International Olympic Committee executives grumbled that it was not perfectly round.

earth," Romney said.
The debate over the medals raged for weeks until then-IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch called Romney saying, "I like it, go ahead."

Salt Lake planned to showcase the medals, all milled from gold, silver and bronze mined in Utah, on Monday. Romney was to join Kent Murdock, president and CEO of Utah Jeweller O.C. Tanner, which is making medals for 477 top Olympic athletes and hundreds more for Paralympians, tie-winners and

skating and short track, called Salt Lake's medals "nice and simple."

The Salt Lake medals are nothing if not durable. That's something speed skater Bonnie Blair, the winner of five gold medals at three Olympic Games, could have wished for when a neighbor dropped one of her gold medals, breaking the fragile, crystal-based medallion issued in 1992.

The Salt Lake medals depict 16 sports, another difference from standard Olympic design. The Olympic rings are shown more prominently than usual, a suggestion Romney said was made by former Olympians.

Romney likens the irregular-shaped medals no two shaped exactly alike to a piece of sculpture a half-inch thick. "This is not your standard commercial art," he said.

The gold medals come with 6 grams of gold plating. The silver medals are solid silver, and bronze is an alloy of 90 per cent copper and 10 per cent zinc over a silver base.

Nehra hopeful of Tests

Cricket

REUTERS, New Delhi

India paceman Ashish Nehra, sidelined for over two months after a groin injury, believes he will be fit in time for a three-Test series in South Africa starting next month.

Nehra missed a series in Sri Lanka in August and was ruled out of the current one-day tournament involving India, Kenya and hosts South Africa after failing a fitness test.

"I'm confident I'll be fit for the Test series," the left-arm paceman said on Tuesday. "There was a strain in my lower abdomen and groin, but it's almost gone now."

Nehra, who made his Test debut in 1998-99, was overlooked for two seasons before emerging as one of India's leading bowlers on tours of Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka this year.

He has picked up 12 wickets at 25.91 in three Tests and 13 in 10 one-day internationals at 29.92.

"I have spoken to Dr Anant Joshi. He will examine me shortly. I'm still waiting for the board to give me a date for my fitness test," Nehra said.

"I'm getting back my speed slowly and gradually. Things are going according to plan."

The India squad for the Tests will be strengthened by the return of Nehra and batsman Vangipurappu Laxman, who said this month he had recovered from knee surgery and would be available for the series.

Laxman, who hit an Indian Test

record score of 281 this year to inspire his team to a shock 2-1 home series win over Australia, sustained a ligament tear in July during a one-day triangular tournament in Sri Lanka.

The injury forced him out of the subsequent three-Test series won 2-1 by Sri Lanka and also ruled him out of the current one-day series in South Africa.

Left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan is also hoping to make a comeback in the Tests after being left out of the one-day tournament because of a leg injury.

BCCI officials said on Tuesday Khan had submitted a fitness certificate and would be tested along with Nehra

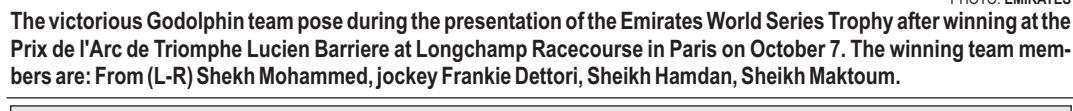


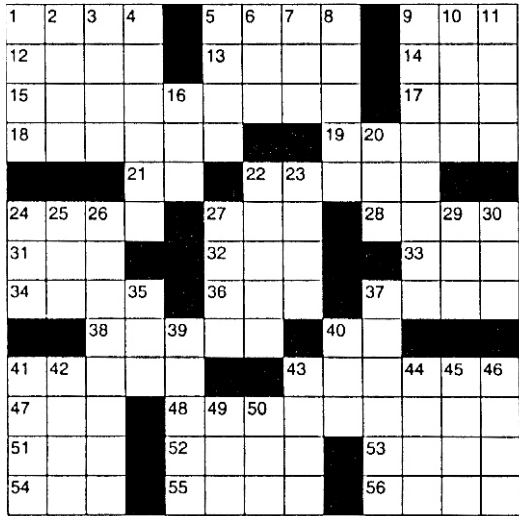
PHOTO: EMIRATES

The victorious Godolphin team pose during the presentation of the Emirates World Series Trophy after winning at the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe Lucien Barriere at Longchamp Racecourse in Paris on October 7. The winning team members are: From (L-R) Shekh Mohammed, jockey Frankie Dettori, Sheikh Hamdan, Sheikh Maktoum.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bloke
5 Carson's predeces-sor
9 Scooted
12 Goller
13 Pearl Mosque locale
14 League
15 It takes thyme
17 Runner Sebastian
18 Ring lightly
19 Occur-rence
21 Dorothy's auntie
22 Doc
24 Turned on the water-works

DOWN
3 Cupid's yokernate
40 Lead-in to "shucks"
41 Melancholy poem
43 David is a famous one
47 Obtain
48 Familiar, as a tale
51 Literary collection
52 Long lunch
53 Suspend-ed
54 Yule quaff
55 Mulligan, for one



CRYPTOQUIP
VC F Q D Z O Y A A Q G P M
O R Y O G P C H Q U R A H V G V Y I
U O G P R D H P F Q D M O F
V A C O V H Z O I P R
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TICKED-OFF KANGAROOS AREN'T SIMPLY ANGRY. I'D CALL THEM HOPPING MAD.

Insurers feel scared

AFP, Paris

International insurers, confronted with new and different kinds of risks, are resorting more and more to the last shot in their locker -- cancelling and renegotiating contracts.

"We're going from a situation where we insured for everything, with only a few exceptions, to a situation where everything is excluded, apart from just a few things that are covered," said Jean-Marie Nesi, chief executive of Axa Corporate Solutions.

Even before the World Trade Center catastrophe, insurers had already been confronted with a string of natural disasters stretching their resources.

The upshot of the WTC and Pentagon attacks is that insurers have been sending staff around to clients such as companies and airlines considered to be high risk, in order to renegotiate premiums and guarantee ceilings.

The new development has been given urgency by the fact that many contracts have to be renewed in December, and three months' notice is required.

The world's airlines received a letter from their insurers on September 17 imposing a extra premium charge of 1.25 dollars (1.37 euros) for each passenger, and a reduction in the total value covered to a maximum of 50 million dollars (55 million euros) per aircraft and per accident, compared to previous ceilings of between 1.5 billion and two billion dollars.

Insurers feel scared

AFP, Paris

International insurers, confronted with new and different kinds of risks, are resorting more and more to the last shot in their locker -- cancelling and renegotiating contracts.

"We're going from a situation where we insured for everything, with only a few exceptions, to a situation where everything is excluded, apart from just a few things that are covered," said Jean-Marie Nesi, chief executive of Axa Corporate Solutions.

Even before the World Trade Center catastrophe, insurers had already been confronted with a string of natural disasters stretching their resources.

The upshot of the WTC and Pentagon attacks is that insurers have been sending staff around to clients such as companies and airlines considered to be high risk, in order to renegotiate premiums and guarantee ceilings.

The new development has been given urgency by the fact that many contracts have to be renewed in December, and three months' notice is required.

The world's airlines received a letter from their insurers on September 17 imposing a extra