# Rivalries renewed

## Australian Open starts today

Tennis

AFP, Melbourne

Venus Williams takes a 20-match unbeaten run into the Australian Open hoping to swell it by another seven over the next fortnight.

Jennifer Capriati may be the new women's No.1 and defending champion heading into the year's first Grand Slam tournament, but Venus is bidding to claim her third straight major here having won last year's Wimbledon and US Open.

Yet while 21-vear-old Williams has swept the tennis world her form down under has not done her jus-

She will be looking to redress the imbalance after her horror semifinal appearance to Martina Hingis here last year, when she won just two games in a 6-1, 6-1 thrashing in just 53 minutes.

That is the furthest Venus has reached in three Australian Open

campaigns. Like last year Venus will be in the same half of the draw as Hingis and her sister Serena, the 1999 US Open champion.

Venus could play four-time winner Monica Seles in the quarters, while Serena and Hingis are on course to face each other in another quarter-final. Venus starts off on

Imran Khan has called for the aboli-

tion of match referees in Test cricket

as the Mike Denness controversy

speaking after denying that either

the International Cricket Council

(ICC) or the Indian cricket board

(BCCI) had contacted him to sit on

the newly-formed Referees

referees in cricket as they are creat-

ing controversies one after another

and instead their powers should be

given to the two umpires on the

should be invested in the umpires to

Rahman plays

Rahman never mentioned that he

would reinstate the ousted commit-

tee but said: "You see, we need a

peacefull solution to the problem

and for that I am ready to do any-

Zen-Ruffinen, in his letter to the

BFF, explicitly mentioned that "The

ban will apply until the situation

returns to normal, namely the

bers are re-installed in accordance

solve the elected committee and

form an ad-hoc body instead,

Rahman however admitted that he

was not much aware of the strength

that also concerned the people of

the country, we certainly do some-

thing to solve it. But, nobody knows

how the previous committees were

formed. We are going to inform all

was also not held properly," said

Rahman, threatening that he might

form a probe committee to investi-

by the Harunur Rashid-led previous

camp for the SAFF Championship,

which was supposed to commence

in the capital later this month has

heen officially called off on Sunday.

of BFF has called a meeting on

Besides, the ad-hoc committee

gate into all the irregularities done

Meanwhile, the national team

"Moreover, the previous election

these to the AFC and FIFA.'

"Now that we have a problem

Defending his decision to dis-

cted executive com

of (AFC) and FIFA.

committee

January 15.

refractor

23 Melan-

choly

music

25 Quartet

26 Disposi-

27 Priestly

vestmen

with FIFA and AFC decision."

FIFA General Secretary Michel

decide disciplinary issues.

He went on to state that power

"There is no need for match

The former Pakistan captain was

**Imran gives** 

no points

**INTERNET**, undated

gathers fresh pace.

Commission.

field," he said.

FROM PAGE 13

thing that is required."

refs

Monday against American qualifier

Ansley Cargill.

Former world No.1 Hingis showed she is fully recovered from ankle surgery she underwent in October by outplaying American Meghann Shaughnessy in Saturday's final of the Sydney International.

It was her 39th title and ended an 11-month drought for the 21-yearold Swiss player, who is chasing her fourth Australian Open crown. She is seeking her first Grand Slam title since the 1999 Australian Open.

Venus and Capriati shared two Grand Slam titles each last season with Capriati adding the French to her breakthrough Australian tri-

Capriati enters the major as world No.1 having supplanted Lindsay Davenport, who is out for at least four months following knee

surgery last week. Capriati appears to be in the easier side of the draw, but the 25year-old American rejects any otion of easy going in the top half.

longer any easy matches in omen's tennis," she said Sunday. On the men's side, Andre Agassi has a minefield to negotiate if he is to "three-peat" this year's Australian

'There is no easy ride and no

Agassi has put in the hours on the court, thrives in the conditions, loves the Rebound Ace hardcourt

and is the acknowledged favourite to lift the trophy for the fourth time on

But the 31-year-old modern-day great has a draw loaded with obstacles making this one of his greatest tests to chalk up his eighth grand

Agassi is bidding to become only the third player to win the Australian Open three times in a row following Jack Crawford (1931-33) and Roy Emerson (1963-67). Agassi won here in 1995, 2000 and 2001.

But his quarter of the draw is the toughest of this year's Open. To get through to his fourth final in seven visits he is likely to encounter rising American Andy Roddick in

the fourth round, a possible 33rd career meeting with Pete Sampras in the quarters and could face a semifinal with world No.1 Lleyton Agassi has drawn Zimbabwean qualifier Byron Black, whom he beat in three sets in their only encounter in the Davis Cup two years ago.

Sampras comes into this event as eighth seed, but flew to Australia a week earlier this time to get his year off to a good start under new coach Tom Gullikson.

The all-time Grand Slam leader with 13 majors, 30-year-old Sampras believes he is still a contender for the big events, even though he hasn't won a major since

Llevton Hewitt has developed a siege-like mentality in the lead-up to his national Open, refusing to talk to the press. But those around him say he has recovered from chickenpox, which hit him during the Hopman Cup in Perth a few weeks ago.

Hewitt capped a phenomenal closing half of last year by finishing the youngest year-end world No.1 after landing the US Open and

Tennis Masters in Sydney.

He goes into the Open as the first Australian top seed since Ken Rosewall in 1976, the same year the last Australian, Mark Edmondson, was a home winner.

Gustavo Kuerten may be the second seed, but the flamboyant Brazilian has a dire record here, losing more matches than he has won. He relinquished the world No.1 ranking last November after losing all of his three round-robin matches at the Tennis Masters in

In contrast Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov thrives on the Australian conditions, winning the Open in 1999 and finishing runner-up to Agassi the following year.

In his last five visits, 27-year-old Kafelnikov has at least reached the guarterfinals and in the bottom half of the draw the fourth-seed could find himself again at the business end of the tournament.

# SA guided by Rhodes

Cricket

REUTERS, Melbourne

Jonty Rhodes led South Africa to a four-wicket victory over Australia in a tense finish to their triangular series one-day international.

South Africa, chasing 199 to win before a crowd of 62.621 at Melbourne Cricket Ground, scored

199 for six from 48.3 overs. That was despite some tight bowling from Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne (1-19). The home side had won the toss and batted, making

198 all out from 48.5 overs. One-day specialist Rhodes, who top-scored with a patient 43 not out from 101 balls with no boundaries, shared a 65-run partnership with Neil McKenzie (34) for the fourth wicket after South Africa looked vulnerable at 71 for three in the 17th

With two overs remaining, South Africa were 193 for six, requiring a further six runs to win as Rhodes hit a two through mid-wicket then took four leg-byes after trying to evade a short ball from Brett Lee (2-42) which struck the batsman on the upper body.

Australia, missing Glenn McGrath through suspension, had trouble with their fifth bowler as Andrew Symonds went for 41 from seven overs and occasional spinner Michael Bevan conceded 10 runs from his two overs.

Earlier, Australia's innings fell away from a comfortable 164 for four to 171 for eight as Jacques Kallis (3-30) built on the early success of captain Shaun Pollock (3-25).

Australia captain Steve Waugh made 62 and Ricky Ponting contributed 51 from 75 balls before he was run out at 106 for four.

The Proteas made an excellent start to their run chase, scoring 51 without loss in less than 10 overs before three wickets fell for 20 runs. all caught by Australia wicketkeener Adam Gilchrist, who later caught Lance Klusener for 18.

Gary Kirsten (22) hit a boundary through point in the 10th over but the eft-hander was out next ball to the bowling of Andrew Bichel.

Jason Gillespie (2-28) removed Jacques Kallis (6) and Herschelle Gibbs (38) as the Proteas slumped to 71 for three, bringing Rhodes to

29 "I give

30 Adver-

31 Ex-GIs

32 Fool

34 Den

**35** Stage

Australia's Waugh and Damien Martyn (31) shared a fourth-wicket stand of 58. Andrew Symonds (0), Warne (4) and Lee (0) were out cheaply as Australia were suddenly fighting hard simply to bat out the 50 overs.

Ponting added 42 for the fourth wicket with Waugh before Ponting

Man-of-the-match Pollock had struck a crucial blow to dismiss Adam Gilchrist, caught at third man on the first ball of the match.

"Yeah it's great to get a win on the

the series to New Zealand by 23 runs on Friday. **SCOREBOARD** 

Scoreboard of the triangular series day-night limited-overs international between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday:

**AUSTŘALIA** Gilchrist c Donald b Pollock Hayden c Klusener b Pollock 10 Ponting run out 10 Bevan run out S Waugh b Kallis Martyn c McKenzie b Kallis 31



South Africa's Jonty Rhodes whacks the ball on the on-side during their tri-series clash against Australia in

board, it's obviously important at the start of a one-day series," Pollock

"It was a good effort to keep Australia under 200. We kept taking wickets at regular intervals."

The Proteas were thrashed 3-0 in Australia

by Australia in the recent Test series Australia lost the opening match of

		1	2	3			4	5	6			
	7					8			T	9		
10						11		T	T		12	
13	T	T		<b>†</b>	14						1	15
16		1		17		Τ				18		
			19						20			Γ
	21	22					23	24			T	
25		$\vdash$				26		$\vdash$	1			
27	T			28	29					30	31	32
33		1	34	<b>-</b>	1	1		Г	35		T	T
	36		<u> </u>	T		1		37			T	T
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			40	1	$\top$			41	T	T		

DJE PBSXMA

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DO YOU THINK CLASSICAL MUSIC COMPOSERS PLAYED "HAYDN SEEK"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals L The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for

196-9 М 0 Bowler Pollock Donald 10 0 9.5 Kallis 10 0 Klusene 0 Boie 0 **SOUTH AFRICA** Kirsten c Gilchrist b Bichel Gibbs c Gilchrist b Gillespie Kallis c Gilchrist b Gillespie McKenzie c Symonds b Warne Rhodes not out Klusener c Gilchrist b Lee Boucher c Symonds b Lee Pollock not out

Extras: (b-2, lb-12, w-4, nb-4) 22 Total: (For 6 wkts in 48.3 overs)199 Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-66, 3-71, 4-136, 5-169, 6-187

Did not bat: Nicky Boje, Makhaya Ntini, Allan Donald

0 42 9.3 1 2 28 Gillespie 10 3 2 Bichel 10 45 10 19 41 0 Symonds 0

Result: South Africa won by four wickets Man-of-the-match: Shaun

Next match: New Zealand v South

Africa, Hobart, Jan 15.

share lead UNB, Dhaka

SPÖRT

Zakia Sultana and Masuda Begum are jointly leading the points table after sharing a point in their fifth round match in the qualifying round

Chess tournament yesterday. Zakia Sultana of Bangladesh Ansars and Masuda Begum of Barisal bagged 4.5 points each after the day's round

Nazrana Khan Eva, Firoza Haq Popy, Mahmuda Haq Moly and Samima Akhter Liza followed the leaders with four points after winning their respective matches.

Seven top players will enter into the final round beginning from January 17.

## Gough ready

FROM PAGE 13 "My record speaks for itself. I have just overtaken lan Botham but if don't (find a place straightaway) will try to get back," he said.

Gough, with 147 wickets in 80 matches, went past Botham's haul of 145 wickets in 109 games last year and said he felt confident about his own form after doing well on England's recent successful tours of Pakistan and Sri Lanka

"India are a top quality side and Sachin (Tendulkar) is the best player in the world," he said, "I did well in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They were good opposition."

Gough also said that he would be targeting specific batsmen in the

Taking a leaf out of Australian Glenn McGrath's book, Gough told journalists: "I have my plans in place and will be singling out a batsman.

"It does not have to be the best player. It could be six different players in six matches.

Gough admitted, however, that England would have to play better than they did in their last one-day game in India.

"The last time we played here was at the World Cup in Ahmedabad (in 1996) and we lost," he said, referring to a defeat by New Zealand in a group match.

Tight security has surrounded the England squad since their arrival in this eastern city, with armed commandos standing guard at the two-hour practice session

## Upul, Thilan

FROM PAGE 13 against the spinners, pulling Marillier for a four and then taking three boundaries off off-spinner Trevor Gripper before falling in the closing session.

Marlillier to be caught by Carlisle at mid-off, but not before frustrating the tourists with his 167-ball knock which contained 10 fours. Samaraweera played a support-

Chandana mis-timed a drive off

ing role, patiently waiting for the loose deliveries to punish before being run out in the last session. He batted 335 minutes and hit only five fours off 232 balls. Zimbabwe's first success came

in the day's seventh over when seamer Heath Streak trapped Chaminda Vaas leg-before for eight after the hosts had resumed at 243-The tourists then failed to pre-

vent the hosts from reaching a position of strength with their defensive bowling as Chandana and Samaraweera batted with determi-Marillier was the most successful

bowler with 4-101, while Grant Flower and Streak each grabbed two wickets

## **SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the third and final cricket Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe at the Galle International Stadium on Sunday:

SRI LANKA: First innings (overniaht 243-6) Atapattu c Rennie h G Flower 50 Jayasuriya b Friend Sangakkara b Marillier

Jayawardene c and b G Flower 76 Arnold c A Flower b Streak Tillakaratne c A Flower b Marillier 3 Samaraweera run out Vaas Ibw b Streak Chandana c Carlisle b Marillier 92 Buddika b Marillier

Muralitharan not out Extras: (b-2, lb-5, nb-3) Total: (All out in 158.4 overs) 418 Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-107, 3-

To bat: Dion Ebrahim, Rennie, Andy Flower, Grant Flower, Craig Wishart, Heath Streak, Douglas Marillier, Travis Friend, Henry Olonga Bowler R W

Buddika 0 Muralitharan 3 Jayasuriya Chandana Lanka).

## Zakia, Masuda | Premiership

Football of the 23rd National Women's Newcastle United went back to the top of the English Premiership

> pacemakers Leeds. If that was not bad enough, Leeds were also were hit by the sending-off of defender Danny Mills for a petulant kick at Newcastle forward Craig Bellamy.

Saturday with a marvellous come-

from-behind 3-1 win over previous

The Magpies lead Leeds by a point though both Manchester United and Arsenal can go above Newcastle on goal difference should they win on Sunday against Southampton and Liverpool respec-

Elsewhere, Chelsea's Premiership title hopes took another knock as they twice went ahead only to be held 2-2 by Bolton.

West Ham's Paolo di Canio handed his team a possible farewell present should he leave for Manchester United this week with the only goal against bottom side Leicester. Leeds were ahead in the first

minute thanks to Alan Smith but an own-goal from Michael Duberry saw Newcastle level at half-time before Keiron Dyer and Craig Bellamy sealed victory for the home side

Leeds manager David O'Leary said of Mills: "I will deal with him internally. I cannot condone what he did. The referee was spot on. "I am getting worried about the

suspensions, and now we have got

a right-back who is going to be out

for a few games, someone you

would want playing in your team. "It is no good having him miss games for stupidity like that. In a game of football you don't want

As well as a suspension Mills

goals for, goals against, points):

Newcastle

Man Utd

Liverpool

Leeds

**Magical Magpies** 

(43,200 dollars). To add to O'Leary's woes, Robbie Fowler was forced to return to Merseyside in the early hours of the morning following the death of his father-in-law, a sadness which the 43-year-old Irishman said "puts

Newcastle manager Bobby Robson sympathised with O'Leary saying: "It has been a hell of a week for David O'Leary.

the game into prospective".

"He didn't need to come here. after losing a dramatic FA Cup tie at Cardiff, and play this sort of game.

"He lost Rio Ferdinand to injury and then Robbie Fowler, so with respect, he could have done with a much more simpler game rather than facing a side challenging for the championship."

Chelsea, meanwhile, twice threw away the lead against Bolton to drop more points against lesser opposi-

The Londoners looked to have rounded off the match when Finnish striker Mikael Forssell struck from the edge of the box in the 65th minute with only his second touch of the match. But minutes later Kevin Nolan had levelled it at 2-2 for his fourth in five games.

Blackburn ended a run of five defeats with a comprehensive 4-1 thrashing of Charlton Athletic.

The romp began with Turkish international Tugay curling in a delightful long-range effort.

Former Manchester United striker Andy Cole added a second before the break, curling in a shot from 20 yards out for his second goal - and his first in the Premiership since he left Old Trafford a fortnight

Charlton replied through Jason Euell but Blackburn veteran Craig Hignett made it 3-1 and then striker Matt Jansen added a fourth three

Premiership's top six

English Premiership table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost,

minutes from time to wrap it up wages, roughly 30,000 pounds

Blackburn manager Graeme Souness said of Cole: "He took the most difficult chance he had all afternoon and I thought it was a great goal

"He and Matt played like a pair and caused them all sorts of prob-

Ipswich's recent revival continued as they saw off Spurs 2-1, although the result still left them in the relegation zone.

Striker Marcus Bent gave George Burley's strugglers the lead before Tottenham's Uruguay midfielder Gustavo Poyet equalised

midway through the second half. But Ipswich showed the mettle that they rediscovered last month when they were adrift at the bottom and restored their lead nine minutes

from the end through John McGreal. Derby's relegation woes continued as they went down 2-1 at Aston Villa, who won for only the second time in 12 Premiership matches.

Villa took an early lead in their match, Darius Vassell cracking a shot into the top left corner from Juan Pablo Angel's pass. Derby showed some fight as

Jamaican international Darryl Powell fired in from 18 vards to bring the sides level in the 23rd minute but a minute later they were up against it as French defender Francois Grenet was sent off for a professional foul.

Things got worse inside two minutes as Villa went back in front, Angel heading in from close range for his ninth of the campaign.

Middlesbrough lost 2-1 at Fulham despite taking the lead through a Colin Cooper header from outstanding Argentine playmaker Carlos Marinelli's eighth free-kick. But five minutes before half-time Fulham levelled as Steed

Malbranque's free-kick was headed home by French striker Louis Saha, who had come on only five minutes earlier and at the start of the second half Saha set up Steve Marlet. Everton ended a run of five successive Premiership defeats

with a 1-0 win over Sunderland, increasing the pressure on manager Peter Reid. Everton's injury-plagued Swedish winger Jesper Blomavist popped up to score midway through

the first period with a rare header

from a cross supplied by compatriot

Niclas Alexandersson.

Primera Liga

# Tiko ticks well for Bilbao

20

Football

REUTERS, Madrid Athletic Bilbao moved up to second place in the Spanish First Division after two scorching long-range strikes from Tiko earned them a 2-1 win at home to Basque rivals Real

Sociedad. The 25-year-old Navarran midfielder set Bilbao on their way on 39 minutes, his right-footed drive leaving Dutch keeper Sander

Westerveld rooted to the spot.

freekick that curled round the wall, but Bilbao grabbed the points thanks to another stunning goal on

the hour mark.

This time, Tiko cut in from the right and beat Westerveld at his near post with an unstoppable shot. The result took Bilbao up to second on 34 points, a point behind Real Madrid, who will defend the

league leadership at home to fourthplaced Valencia on Sunday. Deportivo Coruna, who are away at Valladolid on Sunday, are now third on 33 points, ahead of Valencia

on goal difference.

ing night on his first start for Real Sociedad since re-joining from Lazio in December.

The Yugoslav striker, who scored 41 goals in three seasons at Real before moving to Juventus in 1999. was well over with a speculative drive from nearer the halfway line than the penalty area on four min-

Two minutes later he missed a great chance to re-open his account for the club, as he could only stab an inviting De Pedro cross wide at the

far post After the three-goal drama either side of halftime he looked to have grabbed an equaliser for Real, as he turned the defence and tucked past Inaki Lafuente only for the referee to blow for an offside decision that

looked incorrect. To cap a disappointing night for John Toshack, the Real coach was red-carded for protesting that decision and had to leave the dug-out.

Real stay in 19th place, five points clear of bottom club Rayo Vallecano, who snatched a 1-1 draw at Villarreal with a Jose Maria Quevedo header in injury-time

top with a second-half effort from

Senegal international El-Hadii Diouf

squandered two home points and a

two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with

Bastia, leaving them stuck in 11th

been keeping faith with an increas-

ing amount of Latin Americans this

season and he was rewarded as

two of his samba stars came up

Ronaldinho put them in front on 20

minutes and striker Alex snatched

the second in first-half injury time

before Christophe Le Roux bagged

A brilliant freekick from

PSG coach Luis Fernandez has

Elsewhere Saturday, Marseille

securing a 1-0 success.

place

trumps.

French First Division

# **PSG** sail on Samba

Football

win at Rennes on Saturday. Reigning champions Nantes, meanwhile, eased a little nearer safety after a 2-0 home win over Breton neighbours Guingamp.

sially went ahead on a frozen pitch at Lille on Friday night, still lead the table virtually unchallenged after

Lens, whose match controver-

a consolation for a Rennes side languishing in the bottom five. Ronaldinho scored his fourth league goal of the campaign and proved he has a penchant for netting against Breton outfits having scored twice to knock Guingamp

out of the League Cup in midweek. Auxerre were to have played

Bordeaux but bad weather sweeping much of the country intervened and the match was postponed, as were the meetings between Lyon and Troyes and Metz and Sedan.

### **ACROSS** 40 Catcher's 10 Actress 28 "Star Wars" place? Joanne 1 Frenzied 12 Trans-4 Winter master 41 Indispenactions ailment sable 7 Pear 30 NASA 14 Standard DOWN 15 Bottom spaceapple Sponge line walk 19 Ever-8 Actress 33 1986 2 Beyond Lifetime control Dianne green 20 Newman 10 Slaver Achieve 3 "Lakme" 11 Corremovie poser 21 Pullovei sponded Grammy 13 Kids' winners 4 Skirmish shirts **36** Rap 5 Painter 22 Money in 16 Lead session? Neiman Moscow 6 PC 23 Jungle to a 37 Lends a seat sly hand operator snakes 24 Indy 38 Inch Paid (slang) Jones' 17 Swag players along 39 Eye-18 Greek 8 Cart quest 25 Distant cross 19 Non-26 Fibber taker of old flowering Solution time: 26 mins radio 28 Solo 20 Steerer's place 21 Rainboy familiarly

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

EOBGGZ AJJN

CGJT VJECO DBCQ. CXPKGZ Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AS LITTLE CHILDREN,

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.

Symonds c Gibbs b Kallis Warne c Pollock b Klusener 4 Lee c Rhodes b Donald 0 17 Bichel Ibw b Pollock Gillespie not out 12 Extras: (lb-6, w-6) Total: (All out in 48.5 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-39, 3-64, 4-106, 164-5, 164-6, 170-7, 171-8, R W 25

0 10 Bevan 0 Pollock.

125, 4-222, 5-229, 6-236, 7-254, 8-400.9-413 **Bowler** 11 70 Streak 32 26 58 Friend Olonga 52 G Flower 39 89 34.4 101 Grippe 0 41 ZIMBABWE: First innings Carlisle not out Gripper not out Extras: (b-2) Total: (For no loss in 19 overs) 18 Gavin

7 0 3 Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and TH Wijewardene (Sri

### Javi de Pedro levelled the scores Darko Kovacevic had a frustrat-Primera Liga's top six

Spanish league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points):

Real Madrid	19	10	5	4	36	22	35
thletic Bilbao	20	9	7	4	29	26	34
Deportivo	19	10	3	6	33	25	33
/alencia	19	8	9	2	23	16	33
Celta Vigo	19	8	8	3	36	22	32
Real Betis	19	9	4	6	20	18	31

# they moved eight points clear at the

Paris Saint Germain bounced back from last week's home loss to Monaco to move provisionally up to third in the French table with a 2-1

during a prize giving ceremony.



crew are seen with the Dubai Desert Golf Classic 2001 winner Thomas Bjorn