Millennium cricket

AFP, Cardiff

There will be no chance of rain stopping play when Cardiff's Millennium Stadium hosts its first cricket match in October.

It may be pouring down in the rest of the Welsh capital but with the stadium's retractable roof closed a series of matches between a British XI and a World XI should carry on

England skipper Nasser Hussain is set to captain the British XI

And the World line-up is expected to feature India paceman Javagal Srinath, Sri Lanka spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, Pakistan duo Wasim Akram and Shoaib Akhtar as well as former West Indies quick Courtney Walsh.

As well as the unusual venue, the players will be taking part in a new format of the game - 'power cricket'.

This is a shorter form of the oneday game with innings lasting just

The sides will play two matches, on October 4 and 5 with the winners of each game taking a prize of 25,000 pounds. An artificial pitch will be specially

installed at the Millennium Stadium under the supervision of former England spinner Derek Underwood.

Hussain, taking time out from the build-up to England's third Test against India at Headingley on Thursday told the BBC: "I am looking forward to captaining the Brits against the rest of the world side.

"I believe international cricket at the Millennium Stadium will be a great success. "I'm convinced this new form of

the game will prove to be dynamic and will attract great interest and support throughout the country and

Panic grips ad market

Cricket

6AFP/REUTERS, Bangalore

A sponsorship battle being fought between Indian cricketers and officials will hurt the advertising industry, which banks on big name players in the sport to push products, officials said Wednesday.

"There will be a major impact on the advertising industry," said VP Muralidharan, spokesman for Optimum Media Solutions, a media planning unit of Mudra Communications.

"The big guns (Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid) are not playing. So the television ratings will go down drastically," said Muralidharan. "And some of the companies who have already signed the players for endorsements will be left high and

"Most of the advertising agencies fear that their clients might stop their campaigns. This means huge loss of revenues for them. India's TVS group alone spends 350 million rupees (7.1 million dollars) on advertising," he said.

Pepsi and Coke are the major sponsors of cricket in India. Others include South Korea's Samsung Flectronics and LG Flectronics. Indian cricket board secretary

Niranian Shah said India had decided to pick a second-string squad for next month's Champions Trophy after the Indian team refused to sign a controversial contract drawn by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

India has in recent years become the marketing Mecca for world cricket with a host of multinational firms pumping in millions to sponsor cricket tournaments involving the national squad and getting team members to endorse

heir products Live telecast of cricket matches and the popularity of the one-day game has made the game a major revenue-churning industry in India with the top players enjoying iconic

"When India fields a secondstring team the immediate impact will be a drop in the number of television viewers. This means those advertisers which have not committed to booking slots (for the matches) may withdraw,' Muralidharan said.

Sony Entertainment Television and state-run Doordarshan have the rights to broadcast the ICC Champions Trophy and the World

"Currently both of them charge about 100,000 rupees (2,040 dollars) for a 10-second slot. That may not be the case anymore. Some of the companies will renegotiate the rates," Muralidharan said.

"It will be a setback for clients and the advertising firms who have pinned their product on, say, one player or on the whole team," he

About 2.5 billion rupees are spent on cricket sponsorship on "If one adds the cost of airing

commercials and the endorsement fees it will be quite a huge amount. The stakes are pretty high here," he Shubha George, general man-

ager of MindShare, a media planning unit of Lintas company, echoed the same views and hoped a solution would be found to the impasse soon.

"In a sport with such large investments from all sides riding, normally a palatable compromise is eventually reached in time. Advertisers hope this will come true in this stand-off too," George said.

"If a second-string team were to represent India, this is most likely to affect the viewership and in anticipation of this eventuality, the adver-. tising rates will move southwards,"

Tendulkar, regarded as the world's richest cricketer, easily leads the list of elite earners from

A recent survey by a domestic market research group, Indica Research, placed Tendulkar on top in terms of overall visibility, ahead of leading Indian film actors and

He has a one billion-rupee deal over five years with a marketing company WorldTel for each of his endorsements. His endorsements include Fiat,

Hero-Honda, Toyota, India's TVS group (two-wheeler makers), Ceat, Pespi, Visa, Adidas, ESPN and Britania. If he signs the ICC contract he

will have to shed two of the automobile companies, which would deal a severe blow to these firms and the advertising agencies involved. Ganguly and Dravid, though not in the same league, also earn at

least 50 million rupees every year from television ads for big companies, said an industry source. Besides, each player earns around 3,196 USD for a Test and

2,785 USD for a one-dayer. India played 13 Tests and 24 one-dayers

Speed's speedy departure

AFP, Bombay

The International Cricket Council's chief executive officer Malcom Sneed, who has been camping here since Tuesday, has turned out to be too fast for Indian journalists.

In the thick of the ongoing sponsorship contract controversy, Speed suddenly disappeared from the Marriott luxury hotel in Bombay's posh Juhu district where he had been booked until Thursday.

Hotel officials said he had left with his luggage. "We may get a call anytime that he has checked out,"

Although Speed claimed Tuesday that his trip to Bombay was personal and planned three months ago, a lot is being read into the visit as sources say he is meeting sponsors of ICC's forthcoming Champions Trophy to be held in Sri Lanka.

The Indian cricketers, along with those of Australia, South Africa and West Indies, are refusing to sign a sponsorship agreement with the ICC and have consequently been dropped from the squad for Sri

The waiting reporters were left high and dry despite Speed having assured them of an update on the ICC's stand regarding the controversy in the wake of Tuesday's meeting in the southern city of Bangalore of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Lloyd backs out of Waugh war

AFP, London

David Lloyd spoke to Steve Waugh on Tuesday in a bid to defuse the row that has surrounded the Australia captain's return to English county cricket with Kent.

Waugh, due to make his Kent debut on Wednesday, dismissed ex-England coach Lloyd as "paranoid" after he suggested that the batsman's participation in county cricket was simply a cover for a spying mission on English players ahead of this winter's Ashes series in Australia

Both Waugh and twin brother Mark, who is back at Essex, are seeing out the English season as replacement overseas players.

Earlier this month, Lloyd told Britain's Mirror newspaper that Steve Waugh's participation in county cricket was an example of "glasnost gone mad".

Glasnost was the policy of political liberalisation in the Soviet Union ushered in by former leader Mikhail Gorbachev during the late

Lloyd's point was that while

Australian players could jet in to England at the drop of a hat there was next to no chance of an Australian state employing an English plaver

But on Tuesday former England opening batsman Lloyd said Waugh's presence would benefit county cricket.

"I spoke to Steve this morning and we're both very relaxed about it," revealed Lloyd. "We go back a long way to the days when he was playing for Somerset and I was a

will enrich county cricket just as overseas signings like Barry Richards. Gordon Greenidge and Clive Lloyd did more than 30 years

American Andre Agassi, a two-

time US Open champion, is the sixth

seed and Spaniards Juan Carlos

Venus rolls on

American Pete Sampras grimaces after losing to Paul-Henri Mathieu of

France in the second round of the Hamlet Cup in Long Island on August 20.

Tennis

Tennis

Unheralded Frenchman Paul-Henri

Mathieu posted what he called the

biggest win of his career here

Tuesday, ousting third-seeded Pete

Sampras from the second round of

AFP, Commack

AFP, New Haven

Top seed Venus Williams cruised past fellow American Meghann Shaughnessy on Tuesday night 6-2, 6-4 as she opened her quest for a

fourth straight title in this 585,000dollar WTA Tour hardcourt event. Williams, 22 and ranked second in the world, has won her last two tournaments and reached six consecutive WTA Tour finals, including

first-round byes, Williams owns a 51-6 match record this season, including a 27-3 mark on hard courts. Three of her six titles have come on this surface. Shaughnessy lost in the early

One of four seeds who received

and has not reached a quarterfinal since June at Eastbourne. She fell to 1-5 lifetime against Williams. Second seed Lindsay Davenport of the United States posted a 6-4, 7-

rounds for her fifth straight event

6 victory over Iroda Tulyaganova of Uzbekistan earlier Tuesday. Davenport was runner-up twice the French Open and Wimbledon, in the last three years and is trying to where she lost to younger sister win this tournament for the second

and San Diego before advancing to the final at Los Angeles two weeks In a first-round encounter, sixth

seed Amelie Mauresmo of France, who captured her second title of the vear in Canada on Sunday, continued her winning ways with a 6-2, 6-2

rout of Russia's Tatiana Panova. The 23-year-old Mauresmo is 5-

0 lifetime against Panova.

Clash of queens tomorrow The long-awaited clash between sprint queens Marion Jones and Zhanna Pintusevich-Block will take place in London on Friday It had been expected that their first meeting this season would be in the Golden League event in Brussels on August 30, but Pintusevich-Block revealed on Wednesday that the pair's eagerlyawaited 100m showdown will take place at London's Crystal Palace on FROM PAGE 13

Proteas chasing

Muralitharan not out Extras: (b-5, lb-5, nb-1, w4) Total: (for 7 wkts) Fall of wickets: 1-78, 2-119, 3-167, 4-179, 5-191, 6-202, 7-209 R Pollock Telemachus Klusener

Smith Donald 40 10 27 0 Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and Simon Taufel (Aus)

Third umpire: Srinivas

said.

Venkataraghvan (Ind) Match referee: Gundappa

She has, however, failed to win a

"There's a lot of good players out

there and you can't win all the time

and it's just the way it is," Capriati

have still had a great year. I have

her win in Australia, reaching the

finals of Scottsdale and Miami, but

only had a few quarter-final losses."

"I haven't won the titles (but) I

She was indeed on a roll after

Capriati's gone full circle



REUTERS, Montreal

Capriati played her first U.S. Open twelve years ago, just as she was becoming, at 14, the youngest player to reach the top 10.

So far the Flushing Meadows title has eluded the 26-year-old American, but she is bent on breaking the Williams sisters' three-year hold on her home Grand Slam this

Capriati will arrive in New York on the heels of reaching the

"I know I'm playing good tennis so I won't let this match (against 16 weeks in the process. title since Melbourne

World number three Jennifer

ing her first final since the Miami Masters in March.

After a bumpy decade of per-

Capriati has roared back in the last two years.

slams at the 2001 Australian and French Opens and a third in Australia last January, grabbing the

losing both to Serena Williams. She then advanced to four semifinals in a row, in Charleston, Berlin, Rome and Roland Garros, where she was again seen off by eventual winner Serena.

The French Open marked the sixth consecutive major where Capriati had reached at least the semifinals. But that streak was finally broken on the slick grasscourts of Wimbledon.

Feeling off peak, the former world number one upped her training regime.

top spot of the women's rankings for

the TD Waterhouse Cup. because I really hadn't seen him Mathieu, 20, downed the 13-time play before," Sampras added. Grand Slam champion 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, There's no question he's got a lot of holding on for the victory after the American saved two match points in "It's a great feeling," Mathieu

said. "I think this is my biggest the second set. "He was playing great tennis," victory, to beat Pete Sampras." For Sampras, it was a disappointing warm-up for the US Open,

Sampras said. "I thought I was coming in with some pretty good (serves) and he was returning well. "I didn't know what to expect

Sampras exits

which starts on Monday in New Last year's runner-up here, Sampras has not reached the quarterfinals of an event since appearing in the final of the US Men's Clay Court Championships in May in Houston and has not won a title since Wimbledon 2000. Like all the seeded players here he received a first-round bye. Fourth-seeded Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui was also in action on Tuesday and snapped a three-match losing streak with a 5-7.

7-6, 6-4 victory over Richard Krajicek. El Aynaoui has won a careerhigh three titles this season, but has

campaign. Fifth seed Alex Corretja of Spain, the 1999 runner-up, rallied past Romania's Adrian Voinea, 3-6, 7-6,

struggled in the summer hard court

Corretja made his summer hardcourt debut last week in Washington and advanced to the quarter-finals. He has won two claycourt titles last month and reached the semifinals at the

Seventh seed Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina defeated US wildcard Jeff Morrison 6-4, 6-3.

French Open.

But Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic upset 10th-seeded Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina 6-4,

time. Her first triumph came in 1997,

the only year the tournament was

held in Atlanta and the last time it

missing nearly nine months while

recovering from knee surgery. She

reached the semi-finals at Stanford

Davenport improved to 13-3 after

took place outside New Haven.

Bowling worry for all

1992 and will come into this match with confidence high after his 92 in India's rearguard action at Trent Rahul Dravid's 115 and

Ganguly's dashing 99, also in the

second innings, showed that some

of India's stars were finding their

But, if India are to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test series outside the sub-continent in 16 vears, they must make a competi-

tive first innings score. Initial totals of 221 at Lord's and 357 at Trent Bridge, have left India on the backfoot from an early stage.

Opening bat Wasim Jaffer has

struggled in particular, averaging a

lowly 14.75 from four innings. He could yet lose his place to Shiv Sunder Das who made an impressive double century against Essex in India's final warm-up

match last week.

Andrew Caddick, in what would also be the Somerset quick's first Test of Caddick, who missed the first two Tests with a side strain will hope that reports of Headingley's newly-

recalled England fast bowler

Das may find himself up against

discovered docility have been greatly exaggerated. New Zealand-born Caddick starred at Headingley two years ago

in an astonishing two-day victory

over the West Indies He took five for 14 in the second innings, including four wickets in one spellbinding over, as the West Indies were bowled out for 61.

But whether he will line-up alongside Andrew Flintoff remains to be seen. The Lancashire all-rounder is still struggling with the groin injury that has hampered him throughout the series and England have yet to make a decision on his fitness.

Other injuries have been more clear-cut. Fast bowler Darren Gough is still out with a knee problem while all-rounder Craig White has sustained an abdominal tear.

Meanwhile. England's two batsmen of the past 12 months continue to be sidelined albeit for vastly different reasons CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 35 Farm 55 Leading

5 Ray's longtime partner Ships"

12 "-- sow, SO ... 14 All there 15 "Chicago Poems writer 17 Con 18 Refused 19 Firetruck need

21 Tackle's teammate 22 Sufficient. old-style 23 Grafton's Burglar" 26 Society newcomer 28 Beverage 31 Child's 33 "Monop

47 Palmist 3 Vanessa's 51 Continensister tal coin 52 Padres' 5 Slip-up 32 Mimics 34 Treated piace fields we 54 "Consarn 37 6 on the Solution time: 21 mins 39 Colored 42 Beginning 44 Paycheck

ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (captain), John Crawley, Alec Stewart, Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Andrew Caddick, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Dominic Cork, Steve Harmison

INDIA: Wasim Jaffer, Virender ehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, Ajit Agarkar, Parthiv Patel, Harbhajan Singh, Ashish Nehra, Zaheer Khan, Shiv Sundar Das, Anil Kumble, Ajay Ratra, Tinu Yohannan, Dinesh

Plane wreck

FROM PAGE 13

said Tuesday. Cronje, who was banned from cricket for life in 2000 for accepting money from Indian bookmakers and paving players to under-perform. died in June when a plane he was travelling in smashed into a mountain in remote southeastern South

Africa "A salvage operation started this morning (Tuesday) and should be completed by tomorrow," businessman Leon Dorfling, a friend of Cronje's, told the local SAPA news

Dorfling said he planned to set up a memorial for Cronje in either George or Mossel Bay, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) east of Cape Town and that he was seeking final approval from Hansie's wife, Bertha, this week

He said the wreck would form part of the display and that efforts were underway to find some more personal objects linked to Cronje for "Hansie gave thousands of South Africans tremendous pleasure on the cricket field and I think it

or museum in his honour," Dorfling He confirmed that he was paying for the expensive salvage opera-

tion, but did not disclose the cost.

is appropriate to create a memorial

Row goes brewing

FROM PAGE 13 probables who agree to the ICC conditions," Dalmiya told reporters on Tuesday

He said he had discussed the issue with ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, but declined to give Players from Australia, South

Africa and West Indies are also

refusing to sign the contract, but the

ICC has insisted it will not back The ICC confirmed recently that seven out of the 10 full member countries had signed its Participating Nations Agreement (PNA) for the Champions Trophy

and that all full member boards had

singed the PNA for the 2003 World Under the terms of the PNA, national cricket boards are committed to sending their strongest teams

to the tournament. If the top players do pull out of the Champions Trophy, boards could find themselves in breach of the PNA while the ICC's commercial artners could find themselves backing a "second-rate" tournament, a situation that could ulti-

mately threaten future deals for world cricket's governing body. In a further development England's players have been advised not to sign the contract,

according to British media reports on Wednesday. England players back ICC rebels

reports The England players' representative Richard Bevan has advised them not to sign up for the tourna-

"Discussions are going on at the moment and we hope by the weekend a compromise will be reached. If not the situation will get very serious indeed," Bevan, managing director of the Professional Cricketers' Association, told report-

The issue is to be discussed by Australian Tim May, joint chief executive of the International Cricketers' Association, and ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed.

CRYPTOQUIP 20. Younes El Aynaoui (Morocco) KNBTLPQOG CUCX 21. Gaston Gaudio (Argentina) UJBJOQND,

YNSKH JLLSPC GC'H KNUC

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUMPTY DUMPTY HAD A GREAT FALL. UNFORTUNATELY HIS 27. Nicolas Lapentti (Ecuador) 28. Fernando Gonzalez (Chile) WINTER WASN'T TOO THRILLING. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

IKNXQHJ TCEL

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, WOMEN

Australian Cricketers' Association, said: "There must be significant progress before we suggest (the

Bevan went on to say: "We will then sit down and review the whole thing again in October. Tony Irish, chief executive of the South African Cricketers' Association, said: "The rights to the

tournaments have been sold to

players) sign anything."

event sponsors, but the players' rights haven't been procured. "The main problem is that the ICC sold rights it didn't have," Irish said. "It's not simply about money for the players -- they are being put in a very difficult position with regard

to their existing sponsors." South African administrators and player representatives will meet on Thursday to discuss the crisis.

Oct 9-13: First Test, Bombay

venue undecided Oct 24-26: v India "A" venue unde-One-day series:

Oct 17-21: Second Test Madras Oct 30-Nov 3: Third Test, Calcutta

Nov 6: First one-dayer, Jamshedpur Nov 9: Second one-dayer, Nagpur

Oct 4-6: v Board President's X

Nov 12: Third one-dayer, Rajkot Nov 15: Fourth one-dayer, Ahmedabad (D/N) Nov 18: Fifth one-dayer, Baroda

Amelie Mauresmo of France rounds

On the men's side, 2000 cham-

pion Marat Safin of Russia is the

second seed. Next is Germany's

Tommy Haas, Russia's Yevgeny

Nov 24: Seventh one-daver.

West Indies FROM PAGE 13 Caribbean side for eight years. **ITINERARY**

first class umpire. "He's a world class player who Nov 21: Sixth one-dayer, Jodhpur

Visakhanatnam Serena, Hewitt

Ferrero, Albert Costa and Carlos Moya occupy the next three spots. Sebastien Grosiean of France completes the top 10 on the men's

Kafelnikov and Britain's Tim

SEEDINGS

out the top 10.

MEN 1. Lleyton Hewitt (Australia) 2. Marat Safin (Russia)

3. Tommy Haas (Germany) 4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) Tim Henman (Britain) 6. Andre Agassi (US)

7. Juan Carlos Ferrero (Spain)

8. Albert Costa (Spain) 9. Carlos Moya (Spain) 10. Sebastien Grosjean (France) 11. Andy Roddick (US) Thomas Johansson (Sweden)

14. Jiri Novak (Czech Republic) Guillermo Canas (Argentina) David Nalbandian (Argentina) 17. Pete Sampras (US)

18. Alex Corretja (Spain)

19. Xavier Malisse (Belgium)

13. Roger Federer (Switzerland)

22. Marcelo Rios (Chile) 23. Rainer Schuettler (Germany) 24. Sjeng Schalken (Netherlands) 25. James Blake (US) 26. Juan Ignacio Chela (Argentina)

Thomas Enqvist (Sweden) 30. Andrei Pavel (Romania) Tommy Robredo (Spain) 32. Max Mirnyi (Belarus)

1. Serena Williams (US) 2. Venus Williams (US) 3. Jennifer Capriati (US) 4. Lindsay Davenport (US)

6. Monica Seles (US)

7. Kim Clijsters (Belgium) 8. Justine Henin (Belgium) 9. Martina Hingis (Switzerland) Amelie Mauresmo (France)

11. Daniela Hantuchova (Slovakia)

5. Jelena Dokic (Yugoslavia)

12. Elena Dementieva (Russia) 13. Silvia Farina Elia (Italy) 14. Chanda Rubin (US) 15. Anastasia Myskina (Russia) 16. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)

17. Anna Smashnova (Israel)

19. Anne Kremer (Luxembourg)

23. Patty Schnyder (Switzerland)

25. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain

20. Daja Bedanova (Czech Republic) 21. Lisa Raymond (US) 22. Tatiana Panova (Russia)

24. Iva Maioli (Croatia)

18. Ai Sugiyama (Japan)

26. Nathalie Dechy (France) 27. Tamarine Tanasugarn (Thailand) 28. Eleni Danilidou (Greece) 29. Barbara Schett (Austria)

30. Meghann Shaughnessy (US) 31. Alexandra Stevenson (US) 32. Paola Suarez (Argentina).

American Venus Williams plays a backhand against compatriot Meghann

Shaughnessy at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven on August 20.

Canadian Open final last week. Despite losing the clash to France's Amelie Mauresmo, who also scuppered Capriati's Wimbledon dreams in the quarterfinals last month, the American remained upbeat about her chances.

Mauresmo) disappoint me.' Capriati said last week after reachsonal lows, during which she fell from grace and out of the top 100,

She won her first two grand

arouse 1 Honey fraction 36 Former comb 56 The Red 8 Dancer and the Duncan kingdom 9 Treat for Black now part 57 Knuckle Dagwood Vietnam 10 Stud fee? 38 Interlaken 58 Slight 11 Dam 16 Connecinter-59 Vortex 40 Dinner for 20 Moreover DOWN Dobbin 23 Badge-**41** 007 foe 1 "A Boy earning 13 Romanian 43 24 B&B 45 Prison sinae 25 Links 2 Birthright problem official 27 Bikini top 29 Heston's grp. 30 Crucial

disdain

phone

extra

46 Emana-

tion

49 "Yipes!"

50 Optimistic

trayload

45 Hosp.

7 Soldier's