

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 regardless.

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 one-day game with innings lasting just 15 overs.

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 beyond."

Panic grips ad market



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 dry."

"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 Electronics and LG Electronics.

Indian cricket board secretary Niranjan 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

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 advertising rates will move southwards," she said.

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

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, Pepsu, 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 last year.

Speed's speedy departure

AFP, Bombay

The International Cricket Council's chief executive officer Malcolm Speed, 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," he said.

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 Lanka.

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 1980s. 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 player.

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 first class umpire."

"He's a world class player who will enrich county cricket just as overseas signings like Barry Richards, Gordon Greenidge and Clive Lloyd did more than 30 years ago."

Sampras exits



AFP, Commack

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

the TD Waterhouse Cup.

Mathieu, 20, downed the 13-time Grand Slam champion 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, holding on for the victory after the American saved two match points in the second set.

"He was playing great tennis," 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



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.

Venus rolls on



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 \$58,000-dollar 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 the French Open and Wimbledon, where she lost to younger sister Serena.



American Venus Williams plays a backhand against compatriot Meghann Shaughnessy at the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven on August 20.

Capriati's gone full circle



REUTERS, Montreal

World number three Jennifer 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 year.

Capriati will arrive in New York on the heels of reaching the Canadian Open final last week. Despite losing the clash to France's Amelie Mauresmo, who also snatched Capriati's Wimbledon dreams in the quarterfinals last month, the American remained upbeat about her chances.

"I know I'm playing good tennis so I won't let this match (against Mauresmo) disappoint me," Capriati said last week after reach-

ing her first final since the Miami Masters in March. She has, however, failed to win a title since Melbourne.

"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 said.

"I haven't won the titles (but) I have still had a great year. I have only had a few quarter-final losses."

She was indeed on a roll after her win in Australia, reaching the finals of Scottsdale and Miami, but losing both to Serena Williams.

She then advanced to four semi-finals 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 semi-finals. But that streak was finally broken on the slick grasscourts of Wimbledon.

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

Bowling worry for all Row goes brewing

FROM PAGE 13 1992 and will come into this match with confidence high after his 92 in India's rearguard action at Trent Bridge.

Rahul Dravid's 115 and Ganguly's dashing 99, also in the second innings, showed that some of India's stars were finding their form.

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

Das may find himself up against recalled England fast bowler Andrew Caddick, in what would also be the Somerset quick's first Test of the series.

Caddick, who missed the first two Tests with a side strain will hope that reports of Headingley's newly-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.

SQUADS

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 Cook, Steve Harmison

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

Plane wreck

FROM PAGE 13

said Tuesday.

Cronje, who was banned from cricket for life in 2000 for accepting money from Indian bookmakers and paying 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 agency.

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 exhibition.

"Hansie gave thousands of South Africans tremendous pleasure on the cricket field and I think it is appropriate to create a memorial or museum in his honour," Dorfling said.

He confirmed that he was paying for the expensive salvage operation, but did not disclose the cost.

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 details.

Players from Australia, South Africa and West Indies are also refusing to sign the contract, but the ICC has insisted it will not back down.

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 signed the PNA for the 2003 World Cup.

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 partners could find themselves backing a "second-rate" tournament, a situation that could ultimately 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 tournament.

"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 reporters.

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

West Indies

FROM PAGE 13 Caribbean side for eight years.

ITINERARY

Oct 9-13: First Test, Bombay Oct 17-21: Second Test, Madras Oct 30-Nov 3: Third Test, Calcutta Oct 4-6: v Board President's XI venue undecided Oct 24-26: v India "A" venue undecided One-day series: Nov 6: First one-dayer, Jamshedpur Nov 9: Second one-dayer, Nagpur Nov 12: Third one-dayer, Rajkot Nov 15: Fourth one-dayer, Ahmedabad (D/N) Nov 18: Fifth one-dayer, Baroda Nov 21: Sixth one-dayer, Jodhpur Nov 24: Seventh one-dayer, Visakhapatnam

Serena, Hewitt

FROM PAGE 13 American Andre Agassi, a two-time US Open champion, is the sixth seed and Spaniards Juan Carlos Ferrero, Albert Costa and Carlos Moya occupy the next three spots.

Sebastian Grosjean of France completes the top 10 on the men's side.

SEEDINGS

- MEN
- Lleyton Hewitt (Australia)
 - Marat Safin (Russia)
 - Tommy Haas (Germany)
 - Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia)
 - Tim Henman (Britain)
 - Andre Agassi (US)
 - Juan Carlos Ferrero (Spain)
 - Albert Costa (Spain)
 - Carlos Moya (Spain)
 - Sebastian Grosjean (France)
 - Andy Roddick (US)
 - Thomas Johansson (Sweden)
 - Roger Federer (Switzerland)
 - Jiri Novak (Czech Republic)
 - Davidele Canas (Argentina)
 - Guillem Nalbandian (Argentina)
 - Pete Sampras (US)
 - Alex Corretja (Spain)
 - Xavier Malisse (Belgium)
 - Younes El Aynaoui (Morocco)
 - Gaston Gaudio (Argentina)
 - Marcelo Rios (Chile)
 - Rainer Schuettler (Germany)
 - Sjeng Schalken (Netherlands)
 - James Blake (US)
 - Juan Ignacio Chela (Argentina)
 - Nicolas Lapentti (Ecuador)
 - Fernando Gonzalez (Chile)
 - Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)
 - Andrei Pavel (Romania)
 - Tommy Robredo (Spain)
 - Max Mirnyi (Belarus)
- WOMEN
- Serena Williams (US)
 - Venus Williams (US)
 - Jennifer Capriati (US)
 - Lindsay Davenport (US)
 - Jelena Dokic (Yugoslavia)
 - Monica Seles (US)
 - Kim Clijsters (Belgium)
 - Justine Henin (Belgium)
 - Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
 - Amelie Mauresmo (France)
 - Daniela Hantuchova (Slovakia)
 - Elena Dementieva (Russia)
 - Silvia Farina Elia (Italy)
 - Chanda Rubin (US)
 - Anastasia Myskina (Russia)
 - Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
 - Anna Smashnova (Israel)
 - Ai Sugiyama (Japan)
 - Anne Kremer (Luxembourg)
 - Daja Bedanova (Czech Republic)
 - Lisa Raymond (US)
 - Tatiana Panova (Russia)
 - Patty Schnyder (Switzerland)
 - Iva Majoli (Croatia)
 - Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain)
 - Nathalie Dechy (France)
 - Tamarine Tanusugarn (Thailand)
 - Eleni Daniilidou (Greece)
 - Barbara Schett (Austria)
 - Meghann Shaughnessy (US)
 - Alexandra Stevenson (US)
 - Paola Suarez (Argentina)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- Honey-comb compartment
- Ray's longtime partner
- Three Ships
- "...sow, so..."
- Romanian coin
- All there
- "Chicago Poems" writer
- Con
- Refused to quit
- Firetruck
- 21 Tackle's teammate
- 22 Sufficient, old-style
- 23 Grafton's "for Burglar"
- 26 Society new-comer
- 28 Beverage
- 31 Child's play
- 33 "Monopoly" sites

DOWN

- "A Boy Named Sue" singer
- Birthing
- Palmit, e.g.
- 51 Continental
- 52 Padres' place
- "Consum it all!"
- 1 "A Boy Named Sue" singer
- 2 Birthright
- 47 Palmit, e.g.
- 51 Continental
- 52 Padres' place
- "Consum it all!"
- 20 Moreover
- 23 Badge-earning org.
- 24 B&B
- 25 Links problem
- 27 Bkint top extra
- 29 Heston's sister
- 30 Crucial
- 5 Slip-up
- 34 Treated with disdain
- 37 6 on the phone
- 39 Colored
- 42 Beginning
- 44 Paycheck extra
- 45 Hosp. triayload
- 46 Emanation
- 48 Act
- 49 "Yipes!"
- 50 Optimistic
- 53 Actress

CRYPTOQUIP

Q I J K N B T L P Q O G C U C X
Y C D O N D U B J O Q N D , E N S
Y N S K H J L L S P C G C ' H K N U C

OGC IKNXQHJ TCEL
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HUMPTY DUMPTY HAD A GREAT FALL UNFORTUNATELY HIS WINTER WASN'T TOO THRILLING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals C, 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.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12					13					14	
15			16							17	
18				21				22			
23	24	25	26		27	28			29	30	
31		32		33		34		35			
36			37		38		39		40		
			41		42		43		44		
45	46						47		48	49	50
51					52	53					
54					55				56		
57					58				59		