The Russian now faces

Granville has been making her

mark this summer, winning 24 of her

last 31 matches. She beat Mary

Pierce on her way to the fourth

round at Wimbledon, and just last

week she qualified and reached the

She broke Williams in the open-

She immediately lost her own

ing game, but that was virtually the

serve and double-faulted three

times in her next service game as

Williams gained control. In the

second set, the top seed won 11 of

happen and make a name, and I

have no trouble getting ready for

these kind of matches," Williams

of chances before securing the first

set from Mauresmo, and took the

second on just a single break of

Mauresmo's serve in the opening

game, and finally broke to lead 3-2

on her fifth break point. Then, serv-

ing at 5-4, Davenport dropped her

serve and then faced two set points

in the tiebreak before claiming it

went ahead on her fourth break

point, and then had to hold off a

break point as she served out at 5-3.

tiebreaker and it was a pretty close

match all the way through," said

match, and anyone that's come off

winning a tournament is always

going to be tough to beat because

they carry a little bit of extra confi-

Mauresmo, who won the

Canadian Open last week, was

playing with both her thighs heavily

strapped, and admitted her success

and run of matches was taking a toll

my legs are getting very tight,"

Mauresmo said. "The left leg it's the

abductor, the other side it's the quad

The Frenchwoman later with-

Schnyder was lucky not to be

drew from doubles with a left thigh

defaulted when she fired a ball in

anger midway through the second

set and skimmed a spectator who

dodged out of the way. If the ball had

made contact, she would have

and I felt I could do nothing," said

been happier as she heads into a

semi-final showdown with Williams.

played. I felt I could do anything on

Schnyder, explaining her outburst.

'She was playing great tennis

Hantuchova could not have

"I was really happy with the way I

received an automatic default.

"I am getting a little bit tired, and

In the second set, Davenport

"I played well to win the first set

"It was a very tough competitive

with a forehand winner.

The American led 40-0 on

serve in a tightly contested battle.

Davenport surrendered a bundle

"This was her chance to make it

end of her challenge.

the last 12 points.

third round of the Canadian Open.

Davenport for a place in the final.

Top seed tumbles

AFP, Singapore

Top seed Camilla Martin, who had expressed uncertainty about facing Chinese players in the Singapore Open, had her fears realised in the second round Thursday as she was dumped out by Xie Xingfang.

The Danish star came unstuck against the first Chinese player she faced in the 170,000 dollar tournament with Xie charging to an 11-7, 13-10 win to book a quarterfinal

Xie, the world number 13, was on a roll after defeating Singapore's recently crowned Commonwealth Games champion Li Li in the first

Fletcher

FROM PAGE 13

role. He showed a lot of guts." But he added: "Six or seven wickets down would have been par for the course today, on a good day it could have been all out.'

Referring to Andrew Caddick and Alex Tudor, he said: "Maybe the excessive bounce confused the bowlers over the length they should

Dravid, though, added: " thought they bowled quite well initially. My fingers took a beating but you forget that after scoring a hundred. It was quite a challenging

No headway

another huge outlay for the Inter

"We made very big strategic investments to bring Figo and Zidane to the club, but the market has now changed and we do not intend to pay a similar amount again," he said

He confirmed that Real's idea was to sign Ronaldo in a playersplus-cash deal

Spanish internationals Fernando Morientes and Pedro Munitis, Argentine winger Santiago Solari and Brazilian midfielder Flavio Conceicao have all been linked with the deal in the past week.

Inter boss Moratti had vowed to hang on to the player for another year if Real fail to match his asking price. "Ronaldo will play one more year for us, against his will, and then he will leave whether we win something or not. Just watch.

Nevertheless, if Ronaldo is kept against his will then he is reportedly ready to begin a one-man strike.

Reinaldo Pitta, Ronaldo's Brazilian agent, told Marcaon Thursday: "If Moratti makes him stay he will do so, but one thing is for sure: he won't play for Inter. We want to go to Madrid. We have already reached an agreement with them and we could sort a transfer out in a few minutes. We're optimistic and we hope that in the next few hours the situation will be resolved."

It seems more than likely that Ronaldo has played his last game for the San Siro side, but whether he ends up at the Bernabeu or on a picket line has yet to be resolved.

Ronaldo joined Inter from Barcelona before the 1997-98 season but has spent most of the last three seasons on the sidelines following a serious knee injury. His contract runs until 2006.

Hayden

FROM PAGE 13

Meanwhile, the ACB is expected to announce the squad to prepare for the postponed Test series against Pakistan in October within the next few days. The venue of the series is yet to be confirmed with Sri Lanka and Sharjah the most likely alternatives

Most interest in the Test squad will centre on whether national selectors retain Australian Test captain Steve Waugh and twin brother Mark, who were dumped from the one-day squad earlier this

CROSSWORD

Bacher says CWC safe

Cricket

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the Cricket World Cup steering committee, said on Wednesday that the threatening crisis around clashing sponsorships in world cricket would in no way affect next year's World Cup in South Africa.

"The controlling bodies of all the participating countries have already signed contracts to ensure their best possible teams would take part in the World Cup. I have no doubt that the current crisis would be resolved by then.

"What is happening now must raise concern for cricket as a whole, but I definitely do not see it as an insurmountable problem. I can give you the assurance that the World Cup would not be under threat," Bacher said.

However, the same cannot be

said of next month's mini-World Cup, the International Cricket Council's Championship Tournament in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With world cricket staggering



DR. ALI BACHER

from one crisis to the next, that tournament risks to become a

After India already indicated earlier this week that they intend to send a second-string team to the event, England on Wednesday refused to sign the objectionable ICC contract which stipulates that players may not display individual sponsorships thirty days before and after the tournament.

The whole crisis has its origin in a 550-million-dollar sponsorship and commercial rights deal that the ICC concluded until 2007 with the company Global Cricket Corporation (GCC). Meanwhile, former South

African captain Kepler Wessels said that cricket should look at the example of tennis and golf where players are allowed their personal sponsor even in the four Majors of each sport.

"A cricketer's shelf-life in which to earn money is not very long and I cannot see why they should be denied the opportunity to earn money through individual sponsor-

On their own

Cricket

AFP. Bombav

Indian cricketers were increasingly isolated Friday in a major sponsorship row as key teams Australia. South Africa and England appeared ready to sign the players' contract with the International Cricket Council (ICC)

Australia said Thursday the 14 players selected for the Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka next month had agreed to sign the participating nations agreement, thus allowing it to send a full strength team.

England and South Africa also appeared ready to sign the ICC contract, while the three other teams -- New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Pakistan -- have already signed on the dotted line.

"It's a question of either being in the vanguard or in the doghouse, said Ayaz Memon, cricket writer for the Times of India. "It's a well known fact that Indian

cricketers, especially the big three or four, are the biggest brand endorsers in the game of cricket. They are either the biggest gainers or the losers from this whole issue

The cricket endorsement market is in cricket-crazy India is valued at over 10 million dollars per year, with the top three --- Tendulkar, Ganguly and Dravid --- gaining a major chunk of that sum.

Tendulkar, the world's richest cricketer, has a separate five-year contract with Adidas worth an estimated 20 million dollars. "In such a situation Indian play-

ers had to lead the fight, which actually is for all other teams also, although others may not be severely affected by the ICC contract," Memon said The ongoing controversy is now

seen as increasingly revolving over the failure of the Board of Cricket Control in India (BCCI) to communicate to the players the "ambush marketing" clause in the ICC's agreement with its global sponsors. The ICC has sold its rights to the sponsors for 550 million dollars until

The "ambush marketing" clause stipulates that no cricketer who has signed the players' participation contract would be allowed to endorse products of rivals of the global sponsors of ICC for 30 days on either side of any ICC tourna-

Former Indian captain Ajit

Wadekar said it seemed the BCCI had been aware of the ICC agreement since last year.

"Why did it not tell the players about this. Say a player like (Virendra) Sehwag who signed a Coca-Cola contract around four months back would not have done it had he known about the ambush marketing clause," Wadekar said.

the current crisis, but he said he expected the body to climb down from its "stubborn" stance of sending a second-string team to the Champions Trophy.

(board members) never tell the players anything. They take them for granted," said Wadekar.

issues which the board did not feel important to tell me. The Indian players asked

discuss the controversial clauses.

in the 400 metres individual relay at

the US national championships in

metres butterfly world record as his

goal for the week after narrowly

Phelps has targeted his own 200

The 17-vear-old is also set to

contest the 100 metres butterfly and

200 metres individual medley in a

Natalie Coughlin, meanwhile,

has warned that she can go even

faster after becoming the first

woman to break the one-minute

Fort Lauderdale last week

missing out in Florida

demanding schedule.

Wadekar blamed the BCCI for

"It's always been the case. They

"Even when I captained the team during the West Indies and English tours in the early 70s there were many legal and technical

Thursday for a dialogue with the BCCI over the contract clauses, while the Times of India Friday reported that the BCCI had called for an emergency meeting of the ICC's executive board in Dubai to

Pan Pacific C'ships start today Thorpe not so sure



Reuters. Yokohama

Australia and the US are set to resume one of the fiercest rivalries in sport when the Pan Pacific swim-

ming championships get under way

in Yokohama on Saturday. The mind games began early at a press conference on Thursday when Ian Thorpe dismissed his chances of breaking more world records while his Australian team mate Grant Hackett complained of

fatigue and a lack of motivation. Sitting next to Thorpe, American Anthony Ervin countered that there was no extra incentive to beat Australia, but it was clear that nobody was being fooled.

The US want revenge after Australia won 13 gold medals to their nine at last year's world championships in Fukuoka. The Australians will be desperate to hang on to their title of the world's top swimming nation.

Thorpe, who won a record six gold medals in Fukuoka, could set the tone for the competition and break his own world record in the 400 freestyle for the second time inside a month on the opening day

of the biennial Pan Pacific champi-The 19-year-old clocked a new

world best of three minutes, 40.08 seconds to win the first of his six gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. He also holds the world record in the 200 and 800 metres freestyle.

Thorpe, scheduled to enter the 100, 200 and 400 metres plus three relays in Yokohama, has broken the 400 metre world record at every major competition since the 1999 Pan Pacific championships.

But Thorpe, who enjoys celebrity status in Japan, said a "hectic schedule" could put a stop to that remarkable sequence, although significantly he added that he would still swim "really fast" in Yokohama.

While it would be foolish to bet against Thorpe adding to his 17 world records, Ervin and teenager Michael Phelps are just two members among a formidable American squad who could conceivably outshine Thorpe in Yokohama.

Ervin, world champion in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle, will be a slight favourite to put one over on Thorpe in the 100 metres.

Phelps, the closest thing America has to Thorpe, is on a high

after establishing a new world mark

QREJDMK, CRXJDMK XZAZMFEH RXXZYFZG D F

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A TOAD LIVED BY HIMSELF AND AVOIDED ANY ANIMALS, HE MIGHT BE HERMIT THE FROG Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals R

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

INTERNET, London England all-rounder Ronnie Irani

faces a race against time to be fit for the ICC Champions Trophy after undergoing an operation on his knee on Thursday. The Essex captain had keyhole surgery in Cambridge after injuring

his right knee in Essex's recent tour

Irani has

knee op

match against India at Chelmsford. During the procedure floating debris was removed which should enable him to return in time for Essex's game against fellow promotion-chasers Middlesex at

Chelmsford on September 4. But with the ICC Champions Trophy due to begin on September 12, Irani would have little time to prove his fitness in time for the tournament in Sri Lanka.

India pile

FROM PAGE 13

Together with Tendulkar he put on 150 for the third wicket in 39 overs to leave India 335 for three.

In the morning India resumed on 236 for two with Dravid 110 not out and Tendulkar 18 not out after rain delayed the start of play by 55

And, unlike Thursday's cautious start India were soon into their stride with 41 runs coming off the first 10 overs.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 and India must win here to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test campaign outside the sub-continent in 16 years.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight

Bangar c Stewart b Flintoff Sehwag c Flintoff b Hoggard Dravid st Stewart b Giles 148 Tendulkar not out 113 Ganguly not out Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-14) 39 Total: (For 3 wkts in 141 overs) 421 Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-185, 3-335 To bat: V. Laxman, A. Agarkar, P. Patel, A. Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan R Bowler

11 80 Hoggard 29 84 10 102 0 Tudor Flintoff 20 52 27 77 Giles Butcher 0 Vaughan 0 ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (capt), John Crawley, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri),

Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng) Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIs)

BCCI won't copy

sonal sponsorship deals, losing millions of dollars if they signed the document "Cricketers in Australia and other

countries don't have big sponsorship contracts like they have in India," Shah said. "Whatever documents Australia has sent us are welcome but it's

with the ICC will be used as a template for us because the problems might not be the same." Players from Australia, England and South Africa said they did not have any direct sponsorship conflict for the Champions Trophy tournament, but had refused to sign the

unlikely the Australian resolution

document because the ICC deal was valid until 2007. Shah said the Indian players' main problem with the contract was an "images clause", which allowed official ICC sponsors to use player images from a tournament in their advertising campaigns for up to six

months after the event.

"Our players have expressed serious concerns over the images clause," Shah said. "We are hoping for a solution which can address their problems, otherwise there will be no option but to send a second string team (to the Champions Trophy). India has already short-listed 25

unnamed probables for a weakened team for the tournament. The final 14 are expected to be picked soon. "We are planning to select the

final 14... it will take two-three days, he said. Shah said the BCCI has done its

best by offering the rebels compensation for lost endorsement deals and support in case of legal hassles from their sponsors, though he feels his organisation has been handicapped by the absence of player contracts. "When we enter into contract we

can have provisions for such issues. but it is not easy (to finalise), it will take time." he added.

on August 31.

Myskina stuns Hingis



REUTERS, New Haven

Unseeded Russian Anastasia Myskina followed up her victory over Justine Henin by reeling off 11 straight games to upset Martina Hingis 6-7, 6-4, 6-0 in the quarterfinals of the New Haven Open on Thursday

In other last eight matches, the

the former number one in long baseline rallies and held for 4-2 before breaking the fifth seed to

The Russian then levelled at 4-4 and broke Hingis again, before serving out for the set.

A deflated Hingis failed to win a game in the deciding set and in her final two service games, Myskina added five aces to her stronger groundstrokes and persistence to claim a well-earned victory.

Hingis took some consolation in



Hingis in the quarterfinal of the Pilot Pen tennis tournament in New Haven on

leading players all advanced with defending champion Venus Williams needing just 53 minutes to dismiss rising American Laura Granville 6-2. 6-1 in her match.

Second seed Lindsay Davenport reached her fourth semi-final since returning to the tour after missing the seven months of the season with a knee injury, edging two tough sets to overcome sixth seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France 7-6, 6-Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova,

the seventh seed, also reached the semi-finals with a comfortable 6-4, 6-3 win over Switzerland's Patty Schnyder.

Myskina found herself facing defeat in the second set, down 4-1 and a break point that would have left Hingis serving for the match.

believing she had competed better than last week, which marked her first tournament since May. "I can be happy with the way I

played. I lasted a set and a half," Hingis said. "I played really well until then, compared to last week. I kept her

behind the baseline and made

some really great shots. Of course fatigue was a factor. Until a set and 4-1 I felt okay, but I was already trying to finish it off. Myskina just concentrated on

playing each point and ignored the "I wasn't thinking of the score

and just fought for every ball and

every point," she said. "It was hard for her because this is only the second tournament after a long layoff and when I saw she

the court and felt very confident from the first point," she said. "If I play like I did today I think I have got

a good chance against Venus

Haas rolls on

AFP, Commack

Germany's top-seeded Tommy Haas moved into the quarterfinals of the 480,000-dollar ATP TD Waterhouse Cup tennis tournament here on Thursday, the final men's tune-up for next week's US Open.

The 24-year-old defending champion defeated Agustin Calleri of Argentina 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in 1hr 34

But Haas had to wait to learn his

quarterfinal opponent when the night's final match between eleventh-seeded Jarkko Nieminen of Finland and Brazil's Flavio Saretta was halted by rain with Saretta leading 3-1. "He is a solid player. He hits the

said of Calleri. "I did some different things in the second set, served and volleyed. That kind of stuff helped Calleri, ranked 45th in the world, broke Haas in the ninth game with a

ball hard. It was a tight match," Haas

forehand winner and closed out the set one game later on an ace. But the third-ranked German kept his

focus and turned the tables

sixth game of the second set to even the match It was all Haas after that. The German, who reached the semifinals of his last three tournaments,

broke the Argentinian twice again in

He made a decisive break in the

the decisive set to secure the match on a service winner. In other matches Thursday, Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan cruised into the last eight with a 6-4, 6-1 dismantling of Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic. Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela eliminated American Jan-Michael Gambill 7-5, 7-5 and Spain's Alex Corretia out-

5-7, 6-4, 6-3. Also advancing into the quarterfinals was France's Paul-Henri Mathieu, who bounced Pete Sampras on Tuesday. The Frenchman saved one match point en route to a 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 victory over Spain's Alberto Martin

lasted Jonas Biorkman of Sweden

Canas follows Johansson

REUTERS, New York

Argentina's Guillermo Canas joined Australian Open champ Thomas Johansson as withdrawals from next week's U.S. Open due to injuries, the USTA announced on Thursday.

Johansson, who was seeded 12th, was forced to skip the tournament because of a right arm injury. The 27-year-old Swede has captured seven career titles and

reached the fourth round or better

three times in his last five U.S. Open appearances Canas had to withdraw because of a stress fracture in his right wrist.

The injury could not have come at a worse time for the 15th seed after

defeated four top-10 players en route to winning the Tennis Masters Series Canada last month Britain's Greg Rusedski and Finland's Jarkko Nieminen will take

the place of the two injured players in the draw in accordance with grand

PHOTO: INTERNET

German top-seed Tommy Haas in action against Argentine Agustin Calleri at

the ATP TD Waterhouse Cup tennis tournament in Commack on August 22.

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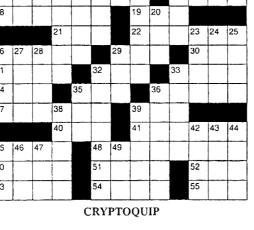
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Solution time: 25 mins.



AVRXKZG QDFV CRFFZXH

Abahani KC: Apel, Aminul (Partho), Nazrul, Ghansha, Mintu, Iqbal

TEAMS

Referee: Abdur Rakib. Yellow cards: Aminul, Nazrul, Colly (Abahani) and Juku, Apu (Arambagh)

barrier in the 100 metres backstroke at the US nationals. The 19-year-old will be chasing a gold medal treble in the 100 backstroke, 100 butterfly and 100

freestyle in Yokohama. The US squad also includes Olympic or world champions such as Aaron Peirsol, Haley Cope, Megan Quann and Jenny Thompson and American swimmers have had a distinct edge over their

Australian rivals this year. The US men rank higher in eight out of 13 events, while the American women have performed better in nine of 13.

Japanese and Chinese swimmers could have a say in how the women's medals are divided up during the six-day competition but the focus will remain firmly on the battle for supremacy between Australia and the US.

Fatique could prove an obstacle to the Australians, but the likes of Ervin and Hall -- who once famously said the US would "smash (the Australians) like guitars" -- are unlikely to show much sympathy once the competition starts.

Bidyut hands

FROM PAGE 13 five minutes later Abahani now have 16 points from

tion of their sixth match.

six matches and are top of the table ahead of arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club who have 15 points having played a game less. On the other hand, Arambagh

have earned eight points on comple-

(Shuvro), Parvez, Donald, Asad, Liton (Bulbul) and Colly Burnes. Arambagh KS: Nannu, Juku, Arman, Shahin, Biplab, Kamal Bidyut, Saiful, Tanveer (Kafi), Oinu and Awal (Don/Apu).

The Indian board plans to study the proposals worked out between the Australian board and its players' representatives before the ICC's executive board meeting in Dubai

But she continued to challenge was really tired, I just tried to move

