

Thorpedo hits China

Swimming 🖉

INTERNET REPORT, Beijing

Hello, Flying Fish. Goodbye, Big Foot. As Ian Thorpe began a highprofile visit to Beijing at the weekend, publicists were going all-out to imprint a new nickname for the world champion swimmer in the minds of Chinese fans.

Fei Yu (Flying Fish) is the name they hope will take hold, replacing the widely used Da Jiao (Big Foot), by now quite unfair to a young man whose feet are entirely proportionate to his tall and robust frame.

By whatever name, Thorpe kept up his customary good humour before a throng of Chinese media as he saw the sights of Beijing ahead of working engagements this week to spread the "Olympic spirit" and raise funds for his charitable trust for handicapped children.

Nursing a sore throat, Thorpe kept up a ready smile, going out of his way to pose with children at the Great Wall, having snaps taken with tourists from Shanghai at the Forbidden City, and reverently taking delivery of a scroll by 91year-old calligraphy master Xu Bangda.

Behind all this, though, is a broader campaign run by the Australian Embassy and the China-Australia Chamber of Commerce to promote the idea that Australia is especially well placed to help Beijing make a success of its Olympic games in six years' time.

This is not just about goodwill and mutual helpfulness. Beijing will have billions of dollars in contracts for the 2008 Olympics, and Australia hopes to get some of the work.

The Beijing Organising Committee for the Olympic Games recently selected the winning design for the Olympic village to be built on the northern side of the city, and in coming months will open tenders for several hundred million dollars in construction contracts.

Memories of how Australia pipped Beijing for the 2000 Olympics are not being jogged. stands." he said.



counterparts of the lobbying efforts by Australians such as former prime minister Bob Hawke to make sure Beijing got the 2008 event.

Thorpe will meet officials from the Olympic organising committee today and, according to an embassy statement, will "express support for the close co-operative relationship between Australia and China on the staging of the 2008 Games".

For Thorpe, the personal highlight of his trip will probably be a visit to the Zhiguang Special Education and Training School for mentally and physically disabled children, which will receive a donation from his Fountain for Youth Trust.

Tomorrow evening he will give a speech at a Chamber of Commerce dinner to raise funds for the charity, where guests who have paid 950 yuan (210 Australian dollars) to attend will bid for items such as a lycra body-suit worn by Thorpe in a recent tournament and the calligra-

phy scroll by Mr Xu. Several BOCOG officials will be among the special guests, and a second speech will be given by former Sydney Olympic executive Sandy Hollway, who is in Beijing for the Sydney-Beijing Olympic

Secretariat recently set up by the NSW State Government to promote Australian interests in Beijing's investment for the Games. One thing Thorpe will not be

doing here is going for a swim, although he will visit a sports centre for promising young Chinese swim-As Thorpe approaches his 20th

birthday on October 13, he is heading to Europe for a holiday. "I'm on a break from swimming at the moment, so I don't want to even to get near a pool," he said.

After his holiday, Thorpe will get back into training under his new coach, Tracey Menzies. But he is modest about whether

AIR KO

12

he can hang in until the Beijing Games, when he will be nearly 26. "I am looking forward to it, whether I am competing as an

30. athlete or watching from the Rating Chess

SPORTS REPORTER

PHOTO: AFP Australian swimming superstar lan Thorpe looks around at the Forbidden City in Beijing on September 22. Safin sees Russia thru'

opportunity

United Insurance **Chess Academy** begins Oct 1 SPORTS REPORTER

The United Insurance Chess Academy starts its journey on **REUTERS**, Moscow October 1

Marat Safin has steered Russia into A joint venture of the United the Davis Cup final by beating Insurance Company and Bangladesh Chess Federation, Argentine David Nalbandian 7-6. 6admissions are going on for a three-7.6-0.6-3. month course aimed at boys and girls under 12 years. runner-up clinched the home side

In some cases, however, players aged 15 will be allowed to take part.

up a final clash against France, The course fee is Taka 1,000. victors over the United States in the Applications should be sent to the other world group semi-final in BCF office on or before September

The Shah Altaf Associate FIDE

Rating Chess Tournament begins

on September 26 at the Bangladesh

features members of the

Bangladesh Olympiad team, will

also include players with a rating of

The open tournament, which

Chess Federation Auditorium.

Chang talks

of retiring

Paris France won 3-2 after James Blake beat Arnaud Clement 6-4 6-3 in the dead rubber.

Safin's win over the Wimbledon

an insurmountable 3-1 lead and set

The final, from November 29 to December 1 will be in Paris or Marseille, the International Tennis Federation said on Sunday.

Mikhail Youzhny, a replacement for Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the redundant fifth match, was beaten by Juan Ignacio Chela as the Argentines reclaimed some pride in the Russian capital.

Argentine captain Alejandro Gattiger had gambled by replacing his number one player Gaston Gaudio on Sunday with Nalbandian, who had surprised everyone with his showing at Wimbledon

The switch surprised

action today. But unfortunately we The victory put Russia into the were a bit unlucky," said Safin, who was congratulated by former final for the third time in eight years. Russian President Boris Yeltsin "He played very well. I tried my after the match.

The 22-year-old Safin said he had felt so tired from the doubles that he was not sure if he would be able to complete his reverse singles match

"I was very nervous before the match because I wasn't even sure how I would recover from yesterday," said Safin, who fired 25 aces and two dozen service winners.

"But I had a massage vesterday and took some vitamins to prevent myself from cramping and fortu-



Serena still feels hungry

of her," said Serena, referring to a

three-set defeat to compatriot

lead but Venus is playing in Moscow

"Maybe next week I'll take the

While Venus might not thank

the French Open, Wimbledon and

the U.S. Open, the balance of power

has clearly shifted to the younger

unforced errors that used to under-

mine her game, now has her sights

on completing a non-calendar year

sweep of grand slam titles at the

Open (this year) made me more

determined to do well because I was

kind of lazy and wasn't serious,"

said Serena, who has compiled a

singles record of 49 wins and just

Bovina clinches

Russia's Elena Bovina has swept

aside Marie-Gaianeh Mikaelian 6-3,

6-4 to win the WTA Bell Challenge -

Seeded seventh here Bovina

beat the Swiss to add the \$170.000

title to the Warsaw crown she won

the second title of her career.

Bell Challenge

"I think not playing the Australian

Australian Open in January.

four defeats in 2002 since."

REUTERS, Quebec

earlier this year.

Serena, who has cut down on the

Williams.

Chanda Rubin in August.

Tennis

REUTERS, Tokyo

and, honestly, I think she'll win. The Less than an hour after winning her girl just never loses, especially seventh WTA tour title of the year at outside the grand slams.' the Toyota Princess Cup, Serena Williams warned her rivals in Leipzig Serena for reminding her that she this week: "I want number eight." lost to her little sister in the finals of

Williams, who tied elder sister Venus for the most singles titles in 2002 after a hard-fought 2-6 6-3 6-3 victory over Belgian Kim Clijsters on Sunday, heads a strong field in Leipzig including Clijsters, Jelena Dokic and Justine Henin. The world number one admitted to being rusty in Tokyo in her first tournament

since beating Venus in the U.S. Open final, but said she would be back to her best form in Germany. "I made so many errors off the ground today but by the end of the second set I started to make my returns the way they were almost at the U.S. Open," said Williams, who

turns 21 on Thursday. "After the U.S. Open I honestly just didn't practise, so maybe I was a little bit rusty. I think by the time I play in Germany I'll be where I was in New York.

Despite having won the last three grand slams of the season after missing the Australian Open with an ankle injury, the American said she was still frustrated that she had not won more tournaments than Venus in 2002.

"If I could have just done a little better in Los Angeles, I'd be ahead

Fleming not flying

FROM PAGE 13 but we have to show a lot more steel while competing at the highest level. We bowled well, but batted badly," said Mashud, whose team leaves for South Africa on Tuesday to play two Tests and three one-dayers.

•	Bowler	0	Μ	R	w
3	Bond	5	1	21	4
/	Oram	6	1	32	2
	Mills	5	0	13	2
	Vettori	3.3	1	10	2
	Result: I	New Zeala	nd v	vin by	167

16, 5-19, 6-37, 7-46, 8-56, 9-70

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-8, 3-8, 4-

Total: (All out in 19.3 overs)

runs Champions Trophy one-day cricket Man-of-the-match: Shane Bond. match between Bangladesh and New Zealand at the Sinhalese

TROPHY TABLE

NEW ZEALA													
Fleming c Jul		31	Final league standings in the ICC										
Astle c Kapali b Monjurul				5	Champions Trophy one-day cricket								
Sinclair c Rafigue b Ashraful				70	tournament after Monday's match								
Vincent c Ma				1	(tabulated under, played, won, lost,								
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Harris c Mashud b Ashraful				26	GROUPA								
Oram c Imrar	h b Ashr	raful		30	Australia 2 2 0 0 8								
Vettori c Muntasir b Monjurul			16	N Zealand	2	1	1	0	4				
Mills not out				3	Bangladesh 2 0 2 0 0								
Bond st Mashud b Rafique				8	GROUP B								
Hitchcock not out				2	India	2	2	0	0	8			
Extras: (b-1, lb-9, nb-2, w-14) 26					England	2	1	1	0	4			
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 244				244	Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0			
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-77, 3-79,					GROUP C								
4-119, 5-167, 6-198, 7-216,			8-232,	SAfrica	2	2	0	0	8				
9-242				W Indies	2	1	1	0	4				
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Monjurul	8	1	30	2	GROUP D	_	-	_	-	-			
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best but it was not good enough," said Nalbandian who had helped Lukas Arnold to beat Safin and Kafelnikov in the longest doubles match in Davis Cup history -- six hours 20 minutes -- on Saturday. "We had a very long and difficult

of giving up. I was fighting until the very end," Nalbandian added.

Russia a 2-0 lead by beating Chela and Gaudio in Friday's singles.

our substitute players see some

match yesterday but I never thought Safin and Kafelnikov had given "We should have finished the tie yesterday by going 3-0 up and let



PHOTO: AFP WELCOME: Ri Myung-Hun, who at 236 centimetres (seven feet eight inches feet) is the tallest basketball player in North Korea, walks into the airport terminal in southern city of Busan yesterday.

CROSSV	VORD .	By Eugene	Sheffer
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9 Round	39 Acknowl-	DOWN	4-Down
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AP, Hong Kong

2100 or above.

American tennis star Michael Chang, who received a wild card for next week's Hong Kong ATP Salem Open, said Saturday that ``retirement is definitely on the cards" for him

The 30-year-old Chang, who is a crowd favourite in Asia, said that `this could possibly be the last time that I will be playing in Hong Kong. This city has treated me well over the years and I hope this tournament will be great for me."

The three-time Hong Kong winner added that "retirement is definitely on the cards. The passion is still there but it is becoming more and more difficult to win tournaments."

His last tournament victory was back in 2000 in Los Angeles Having slipped to 120th in the world rankings, Chang was handed a tough opening-round match in the



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CRYPTOQUIP

TFUBFVB DZ ХВҮВ MSPHDFVDVK FZZ PWBXDVK DН WМА RBHHBY KSU. DV UDVH PFVADHDFV RΒ Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY TALKING FOOTBALL OFTEN PROCLAIMS TO PUNTERS, ' TALKING GET A BIG KICK OUT OF YOU!'

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals N The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands fo 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.

Russian team.

"To be honest, I didn't expect to play Nalbandian, especially as have a losing 2-1 record against Gaston and he beat me the last time we played in Hamburg last year,' said Safin.

"But maybe after Nalbandian reached the Wimbledon final they thought he was a better player on a faster surface and would have had a better chance against me."

The two men battled for nearly two hours and split the first two tiebreaks before Safin used his powerful return to break Nalbandian three times and wrap up the third set 6-0 in just 28 minutes.

In the fourth, the former U.S Open champion forced a decisive break in the eighth game to take a 5-3 lead, then held serve to clinch the

match and the tie on his fourth

Nasser's call to get

FROM PAGE 13

India captain Ganguly lauded Sehwag for hammering a 104-ball 126 and setting up the team's vic-

"Sehwag's century took the game away from England," he said. "He was brilliant and took the pressure off us. The way he batted he took the sting out of the England attack. The game was in our pocket when he was dismissed. We were not going to lose from that position. Sehwag got out at 192 after

hitting one six and 21 fours. This was the second time India

had won a tall-scoring game against England as they had successfully chased a 326-run target in the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's in

July. "The win at Lord's in the NatWest Trophy final and then the Test victory at Headingley mean more to me than this one, but every victory is satisfying at international level."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the day-night match between India and England in the ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament at the Premedasa Stadium on Sunday: ENGLAND: 269 for 7 (I Blackwell 82, N Knight 50; A Nehra 2-49, A Kumble 2-58) INDIA Sehwag c and b Blackwell 126 117 Ganguly not out Laxman run out Tendulkar not out Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-4, w-9) 15 Total: (For 2 wkts in 39.3 overs)271 Fall of wickets: 1-192, 2-200

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-	PHOTO: AFP

Marat Safin is full of joy after defeating Argentine David Nalbandian in Moscow on September 22 to earn Russia a place in the Davis Cup final.

Cautious Langer

AFP, Perth

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Australia would have to be on their guard against unpredictable Pakistan in the Test series to be R w 59 54 45 played next month, Australian opening batsman Justin Langer warned here Monday.

Despite Pakistan's recent woeful performances, they still had to be viewed cautiously because they had a talented crop of players, he said.

Angry Pakistan Cricket Board officials last week reacted to the team's dismal form by sacking coach Mudassar Nazar. The team had crashed to defeat in six of 10 recent one-dayers.

Langer, speaking as he prepared to leave here to join his teammates in Colombo, said despite missing several key players for the Test series starting on October 3, Pakistan had to be seen as potentially strong opponents.

"They are, besides us, the team with the most naturally talented cricketers, so you always have to be on your guard," he said.

The Australia-Pakistan series will be held in Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates after being moved from Pakistan because of player safety fears.

Langer said the absence of stars Wasim Akram and Saeed Anwar and injuries to Inzamamul Haq and Yousuf Youhana evened up the stakes for the Test series, given Australia's poor record on the subcontinent.

FROM PAGE 13

between Badda Jagarani and Rahmatganj at 6 pm

LEAGUE TABLE

	Brothers Union	13	4	1	3	5 14 19 17	
	Badda Jagarani	12	2	4	3	3 12 15 17	
)	Victoria SC						
1	Rahmatganj MF						
2	Farashganj SC	12	0	1	1 .	10 8 23 3	
,							

John Player in S'pore

20

11

17

PRESS RELEASE, Singapore

Ashraful c Styris b Bond

Kapali c Fleming b Bond

Mashud c Vincent b Bond

Mahmud c Fleming b Mills

Rafique c Harris b Vettori

Muntasir c Vincent b Mills

Extras: (lb-1, nb-3, w-4)

Monjurul b Vettori

Jubair not out

Imran c Astle b Oram

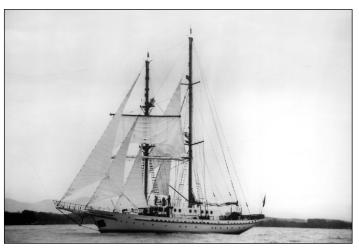
After travelling down the narrow Malacca Straits from Port Dickson. Malavsia, the John Plaver has arrived in Singapore, the fourth desination of its 2002 World Adventure.

The sight of the John Player in Singapore harbour amdist larger transoceanic container ships the size of 15-storey high buildings, was a remainder of the maritime strength of the country. Warehousing goods on their way from East to West, between Asia and Europe, the port was and still is one of the biggest businesses in Singapore, as demonstrated by the number of con-

waters. Tackling booming growth over the years has put large amounts of pressure on this resource poor island which has come to rely increasingly on creative thinking and innovative solutions to guaran-

tainer ships criss-crossing its

tee its survival. The John Player, a 140-foot mahogany and teak brigantine yacht, set sail from Dubai en route to Hong Kong on her new journey, the Spirit of Enterprise on July 23, 2002. This year's trip will explore how maritime history has contributed to economic success in each of the destinations along the route.



Did not bat: Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Neĥra. ОМ Bowler 7 0 0 Caddick 10 Hoggard 0 5.3 Cork 0 34 0 31 Irani 5 Giles Blackwel

Sehwag.

Paharis sizzle in Blue Star heat

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Blue Star Club yesterday reached the final of the Siraj Mahanagori Kishore football league by blowing away Pahari Ekadash 7-

The first semifinal of the tournament was played at the Dampara Police Lines ground.

Ehsan struck four goals including a brilliant hattrick for the Blue Star. Iqbal Hossain scored two goals and Masum one.

The second semifinal of the tournament between defending champions Madarbari Muktakantha and Eden Star Club will be held today.

0 46 Result: India win by eight wick-Man-of-the-match: Virender

Siraj soccer