None but themselves to blame

SRILANKA 2002

Dejected South Africa captain Shaun Pollock blamed his team for their 10-run loss to India in the ICC Champions Trophy semifinals on Wednesday.

"We threw the game away," Pollock told reporters minutes after his team had slumped from a seemingly impregnable position chasing 262 to finish on 251-6.

"We have got ourselves to blame. We have to make sure this doesn't happen.

South Africa were coasting when opener Herschelle Gibbs, having made a potentially match-winning 116, was forced to retire with severe cramps and exhaustion.

India took a couple of quick wickets to turn the game on its head before piling on the pressure in the final overs.

Pollock said Gibbs was in no shape to continue. "It was unfortunate for us. He

couldn't grip the bat with either hand. We can't have a go at him." "It was brilliant batting, he set up

the victory for us and we just needed to finish it off.' Pollock said his team should have won despite Gibbs leaving the field and blamed the later batsmen

for failing to score quickly. But Pollock denied his team had choked again, refusing to accept comparisons with the World Cup semi-final elimination to Australia in 1999 after last man Allan Donald's run out with one run needed to win from three balls.

India captain Saurav Ganguly said his side were "down but never out" and praised his players for ensuring the "unbelievable victory". "We grabbed our opportunities.

We've fought till the end," he said. Ganguly said he was aware that a new batsman would find it difficult

to get going on the sluggish Premadasa pitch. South Africa lost three wickets for 19 runs after Gibbs went off the field.

"We bowled and fielded well under pressure. The result is victory. "In the last ten months, the best part is we have never given up, that was the key in this match and we are

again in the final," he said.

India had also reached the final in the 2000 Nairobi edition before losing to New Zealand.

India had chased 326 to beat

ment final in July before arriving at this 12-team event.

Virender Sehwag, who took 3-25 in five overs said he had never dreamt he would win a man of the match award for his bowling.

India's explosive opener had won the accolade for his matchwinning 126 against England in their

The 23-year-old said he was not too worried to bowl the final over.

"South Africa needed 21 runs, even if they hit me for six, I was confident because they needed lot

of runs," he said. **SCOREBOARD**

Complete scoreboard of the daynight semifinal between India and South Africa in the ICC Champions Trophy cricket tournament at the Premadasa Stadium on

INDIA: 261 for nine (Yuvraj Singh 62, V Sehwag 59, R Dravid 49; S **SOUTH AFRICA** Smith c Yuvraj b Zaheer Kallis c Dravid b Sehwag Rhodes c Yuvraj b Harbhajan Dippenaar c Kumble b Harbhaja**n** Boucher c Yuvraj b Sehwag Klusener c Kaif b Sehwag Pollock not out Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-5)

Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 251 Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-194, 3-

194, 4-213, 5-247, 6-251										
Bowler	0	M	R	W						
Zaheer	9	2	27	1						
Nehra	7.3	0	41	0						
Kumble	10	0	53	0						
Harbhajan	10	0	37	2						
Yuvraj	3	0	17	0						
Ganguly	1.3	0	15	0						
Tendulkar	4	0	32	0						
Sehwag	5	0	25	3						
Result: India win by 10 runs.										
Man-of-the-match: Virende										
Sehwag.										



India players are overjoyed after dramatically beating South Africa in the semifinals of the ICC Champions Trophy in Colombo on Wednesday.

Mixed day for Serena, Dokic

Tennis

INTERNET REPORT, Leipzig

World number one Serena Williams needed three sets to overcome qualifier Anca Barna to reach the quarterfinals of the Sparkassen Cup International indoor event.

Williams, who received a firstround bye, prevailed over the 25year-old German 6-1, 3-6, 6-1. Williams came to this tourna

ment after winning her seventh title of the year at the Princess Cup in Tokyo on Sunday. The French Open, Wimbledon

and US Open champion, Williams is the first top-ranked player to participate in this event since 1997. The last number one to claim the title was Steffi Graf in 1993.

Second seed Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia also received a firstround bye, but failed to make the most of the opportunity, losing in straight sets to unseeded American Meghann Shaughnessy 6-2, 6-4. It was the first time Shaughnessy has beaten Dokic in four meetings.

Justine Henin also struggled in her second-round tie before overcoming Czech qualifier Iveta Benesova 6-7, 7-6, 6-2. On three occasions, Henin was two points from losing in the tiebreakers

In the quarterfinals, third seed Henin meets number five seed Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, who beat Italy's Rita Grande 6-4, 2-

44 Piratic

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33 Candle

34 Andrea

36 Ultra-

37 Sir's

count

modernis

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41 Wing it 43 From one

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Mancha

19-Down,

20 Answer to 60 Pedestal

18 Talk

4 Facility

Number seven Silvia Farina Elia of Italy went the distance against compatriot Francesca Schiavone in her first-round match, eventually winning 6-4, 6-7, 6-2 and American Alexandra Stevenson advanced

with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Czech qualifier Denisa Chladkova.

Stevenson meets Slovakian Janette Husarova in the second round on Thursday, while Farina Elia faces wild card entry Barbara Rittner of Germany.



SERENA WILLIAMS

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CRYPTOQUIP

RISSVA HUKSXEZR DQEUVG SVGQU

RUEXXEMP GERZIR Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE TO LIKE TO BE STAR PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE FUTURE, I VALUE NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals M The Cryptoquio 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.

backed out from broadcasting Pakistan's tour of Bangladesh's last January.

to be very significant for two reain that country early next year.

release earlier this year that they would show Bangladesh's tour of South Africa live if there was enough interest.

Wasim taking a break only

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani fast bowler Wasim Akram said Thursday he bowed out of next month's Test series against Australia to give his body a rest and not because of any disagreements.

"I have opted out of the Test series against Australia due to overexertion. My body needs a rest and there is no rift behind me missing the series," Wasim told AFP.

Wasim, along with Inzamamul Haq, Shahid Afridi, Saeed Anwar and sacked manager Yawar Saeed returned from Sri Lanka on Wednesday night. Opener Saeed Anwar has also

opted out of the series while vice captain Inzamam and Yousuf Youhana had to pull out due to injuries.

"I am disappointed to miss an important series but it's no use playing when your body doesn't allow. It badly needs a rest and I had conveyed that I would not play the series long beforehand," said

Aussies uneasy about Sharjah

AFP, New Delhi

After refusing to tour Pakistan due to security fears, Australia's cricketers are now uneasy about playing two Test matches in the United Arab Emirates next month.

Australia are due to play a three-Test series against Pakistan at neutral venues from next Thursday, with the first Test in Colombo and the remaining two in the Gulf emirate of Sharjah

Australian coach John Buchanan, in Sri Lanka for the ongoing Champions Trophy, said his players had talked about the dangers of playing in Sharjah because of the possible US-led strikes against Iraq.

"There has been some talk on this," Buchanan told AFP from Colombo. "It all boils down to the advice we

get from the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) "If they say it's fine to go, we'll go

there and play. I don't think we'll be sent to places if they (the ACB) think we'll be in danger." The Australians are concerned at reports that the United States and

Britain were pressing for military action in Baghdad, geographically close to the UAE, team sources The players' main concern is

getting out of Sharjah if there is a conflict, even though the UAE itself is considered a safe place, the

Check your luck with WC tickets

AFP, Johannesburg

Cricket World Cup 2003 organisers on Wednesday said single tickets for next year's contest will be sold through a "ticket ballot or lottery" giving everybody a fair chance to get one and reduce endless rows of

From October 8, fans will be able to apply for individual tickets. Some 100,000 were available for a draw on November 25, Ian Smith, WC2003 commercial director said in a statement. "The draw will take place on

November 25, fans will be told on December 2 and have until January 10 to buy them." Smith said.

The system was introduced to avoid congestion of ticket sales which has hit snags since sales of ticket packages started on July 15.

"No one will benefit from being first in the gueue. All applications during the four-week window will stand an equal chance of success," "This means that you don't have

to rush on October 8. You have just as much chance as a guy who applies for a ticket on say, November 1," World Cup spokesman Rodney Hartman told AFP. Applications can be made at

WC2003 stadiums, on the official website or via a call centre hotline, said Smith.

Games were divided into two categories where up to four tickets in the first and 16 in the second would be sold to a single buyer.

Since July 15, tickets have been sold only in packages which were still available, Smith said.

How could they?

FROM PAGE 13 In fact, Bangladesh Television and the now defunct Ekushey Television had managed guite well by themselves once WorldTel had

The tour of South Africa is going

sons; firstly, not only is it Bangladesh's maiden tour, but more importantly, will help in our preparations for the World Cup being staged Interestingly, it was ESPN Star Sports which itself stated in a press

---Fahmida Waliullah, via e-mail



Sanowara

CU CORRESPONDENT

Abahani Krira Chakra junior blanked

Sitakundha Upazila Krira Sangstha

7-0 in the CJKS Sanowara Diploma

Milk Powder Kishore Football

Tournament 2002 played at the MA

while Siayed Noman completed a

Nasir Pakistan

manager again

Pakistan has reappointed a former

army brigadier as its cricket team

manager after the departure of

Yawar Saeed on Tuesday, the

dier Khawaja Mohammad Nasir

Ehsanul Kabir scored four goals

Aziz Stadium on Wednesday.

soccer

superb hattrick.

AFP, Karachi

Koreans' flag dilemma walking together at the opening

South Koreans perform during a rehearsal for the opening ceremony of the 14th Asian Games in Busan yesterday.

14th Asian Games **BUSAN 2002**

AFP, Busan

North and South Korea will march as one in a symbolic gesture of unity at the Asian Games opening ceremony on Sunday - but who will carry their joint flag could cause a headache for organisers.

The two Koreas will be represented by a 'unity flag', a blue picture of the Korean peninsula on a white background, when they take part in the extravaganza at the Busan Stadium. But the issue of which country

will provide the flag-carrying athlete is shrouded in mystery - and Olympic Council of Asia president Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah added a new twist to the debate

Spanish third seed Carlos Moya

kicked off his bid for a fifth ATP title

this year Thursday with a three-set

victory over American Jan-Michael

Gambill at the 400,000 dollar Hong

big-serving baseliners, Moya

avenged a straight sets mauling at

the hands of Gambill during last

month's US Open but not before

being made to struggle for one hour

Moya evevtually finished off the

match with a sweet forehand down

"I think I played a pretty good

match... it was my first match for 3-4

weeks and last time he beat me

pretty easily so it was very important

for me to win this match," the former

world number one said at a post-

The match had been scheduled

for Tuesday, but rain washed out

play then and on Wednesday,

making it likely players would have

to play two matches on Friday in

more worried by the fiercesome left-

handed serve of his next opponent.

Aussie Davis Cup star Wayne Arthurs, a 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 victor over

Jan Vacek, than the prospect of

and that puts lots pressure on your

serve because once you lose your

Moya thundered down five aces

and a barrage of forehand winners

to sweep the first set and looked to

have taken firm control of the match

when he broke Gambill in the first

serve in the set, you know that's it."

"He (Arthurs) has a huge serve

However, Moya said he was

the line for a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win.

match press conference.

order to clear the backlog.

playing twice in one day.

In a matchup between the two

Tennis

AFP, Hong Kong

Kong Open.

and 55 minutes

Asked at a press conference whether athletes from two countries could carry a single flag, Al-Sabah ruled it out. "No, we can't have two athletes

walking under one flag." Al-Sabah said. "We have a tradition of one athlete carrying the flag," the Kuwaiti official said, without referring to the two Koreas directly. At the Sydney Olympics, when

the two Koreas walked side-by-side into Stadium Australia at the opening ceremony, a member of each country's delegation headed the mixed procession. South Korean women's basketball player Chung Eun-Soon and North Korean judo coach Pak Jang-Chol entered the stadium with their hands in a symbol of unity. Despite his apparent reluctance

to let two Koreans hold the flag Al-Sabah expressed his delight at the prospect of the bitter historical rivals

But as the overcast sky gave way

to dim sunlight, the American known

as "Hollywood" for his good looks

also began to shine, unleashing

double-fisted winners from both

sides to break Moya twice en route

cent as the "match was going easy for

me, but in the third set I was still there,

the ground after a mis-hit backhand

gave Moya a break for a decisive 2-

for fifth in the Champions Race with

compatriots Juan Carlos Ferrero

and Albert Costa. was a step

towards one of the eight coveted

Moya confessed he got compla-

Gambill angrily flung his racket to

The win for Moya, currently tied

to sealing the second set 6-4.

still focussed and I kept fighting"

0 lead in the final set.

game of the second set.

ceremony. "This is a great symbol. Sport is the

engine of friendship," said Al-Sabah. North Korea's participation at the Asian Games is another indication of warming ties with the Stalinist

state's southern neighbour. The two countries remain technically war since no peace treaty was ever signed at the end of their bitter 1950-53 conflict.

The North's participation in the South is being governed by strict guidelines, with the communist country's flag only allowed to be raised at competition venues and medal ceremonies.

It is against the law in South Korea to unfurl the Northern flag and organisers have got the message: a page on the Asian Games information service showing flags of participating countries has a blank under

Umag and a Master Series win in

unfinished business in 10 minutes

with a comprehensive 6-2, 6-4 win

had begun the match on Tuesday

before rain halted play with Ferrero

leading 6-2, 2-2. The players com-

pleted one more game on

Wednesday in the three minutes of

Argentine fifth seed Juan Ignacio

Other first matches scheduled

play allowed in between persistent

Chela also moved into the second

round with a crushing 6-3, 6-4 win

over former French Open finalist

for Thursday include a clash

over against Stefan Koubek.

Meanwhile Ferrero wrapped up

The second seeded Spaniard

Cincinatti this year.

rain.

Magnus Norman.

Pakistan Cricket Board announced Thursday. A statement said Saeed had asked to step down "due to personal Moya edges past Gambill circumstances" and former briga-

would be manager for next month's series against Australia. Saeed's departure had been widely predicted following the removal of coach Mudassar Nazar

due to the team's recent poor perfor-The media held Saeed equally to blame for the squad's rapid plunge

in form just three months after beating Australia in Australia. "Saeed recounted the team's

recent poor performance and said fitness problems were the main reason behind the team's slump, the cricket board said. Nasir was manager between

November 1999 and December 2000. He sparked a controversy when in June 2000 he accused India of being the hub of match-fixing. Pace bowler Mohammad Zahid

has been cleared to join the team in Sri Lanka after passing a fitness Pakistan meet Australia in

Colombo from October 3 in the first of three Tests. The second and third Tests will be played in Shariah from October 11-15 and October 19-23.

The home series was shifted to neutral venues over security fears

The change FROM PAGE 13

(Jayasuriya) over before I get on, "He (Jayasuriya) is a world-class

batsman and I know he hits it hard, but that shouldn't change our game. "There are a few things we might try to counter that but it is a matter of

sticking to our game-plans and not getting caught up in what they are "If we can play the way we have been doing over the past month then

I think we have got a red-hot chance

of beating them," added Lee. Australia have reported no injury problems ahead of Friday's match, with batsman Damien Martyn now fully recovered from the hip injury that caused him to miss the nine-

wicket win over Bangladesh. The winners of Friday's semifinal will face India or South Africa in Sunday's final.

Bangladesh-India

FROM PAGE 13 Group. But hosts South Korea are

the overwhelming favourites to win the 25-nation event after their dream World Cup campaign, where they finished fourth. The top teams from the six groups

and two best group runners-up will

move into the quarterfinals. BANGLADESH: Alfaz Ahmed

)captain), Biplab Bhattachariya, Rakib Mehbub Apel, Tito, Papel, Sujon, Mahmudul Hasan, Rajani Kanta Barman, Amit Khan Shuvro, Monwar Hossain, Matiur Rahman Munna, Arman Mia, Arif Khan Joy, Parvez Babu, faisal Mahmud. Kanchan, saiful, Liton, Bulbul and Mujibur Rahman Ritu.

Murali the only worry? FROM PAGE 13 South Africa by 10 runs in the first With that form behind them semi-final.

Shanghai.

Ponting said it was unlikely the make-up of the attack would

change. "Our fast bowlers have done a great job opening the innings and taking early wickets and, hopefully,

they'll do that again tomorrow," he

Ponting confirmed that batsman Damien Martyn would be fit for selection after missing the ninewicket win over Bangladesh with a hip injury. He is likely to return in place of Jimmy Maher.

Australia were scheduled to hold an optional practice session on Thursday afternoon after lengthy work-outs on the preceding two days. Sri Lanka, with no reported injury concerns, practised on Thursday morning.

The winners of Friday's match will play India in the final on Sunday after Saurav Ganguly's men beat **TEAMS** AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting

spots in November's season-ending

3.7 million dollar Masters Cup in

claimed titles in Acapulco, Bastad,

The Spaniard has already

(captain), Michael Bevan, Andrew Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Adam Gilchrist, Nathan Hauritz, Matthew Hayden, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Jimmy Maher, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne, Shane Watson.

SRI LANKA (from): Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Russel Arnold, Marvan Atapattu, Upul Chandana, Aravinda de Silva, Kumar Dharmasena, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Dilhara Fernando, Hasantha Fernando, Pulasthi Gunaratne, Mahela Jayawardene, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Sangakkara, Chaminda Vaas.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and David Orchard (South

Long live Martin AFP, Perth

also in action.

Spaniard Carlos Moya plays a forehand against American Jean-Michael

Gambill at the Salem Open Tennis Tournament in Hong Kong yesterday.

Ted Martin, who once played alongside the legendary Si Donald Bradman, Thursday completed the first century of the new Australian cricket season without even going on the field.

between local favourite Michael

Chang and Alex Corretja. Top

seeded Russian Marat Safin and

Thai star Paradorn Srichaphan are

Martin celebrated his 100th birthday here, the only Australian first-class player to achieve that The former Western Australia eg-spin bowler marked the occa-

sion with a quiet party at home with

his family and a few friends. No other Australian crickete had reached a century of years The closest was Ray Bardsley, o New South Wales, who was 9 vears and five months old when he

"I'm old in time, but not in mind Martin said, as he reflected on the highlight 70 years ago of his first class career.

died in 1983.