

Ngam's World Cup in doubt

REUTERS, Johannesburg
South African fast bowler Mfuneke Ngam has been ruled out of action for three months with a broken right foot and faces a race against time to get fit for the World Cup on his home soil in February and March.
Ngam has been plagued by serious injuries in the last year. South African officials said they would do everything they could to get him fit for the World Cup.
With Allan Donald in the twilight of his career and captain Shaun Pollock's future threatened by South Africa's recent spate of defeats in key matches, Ngam is seen as an important figure in the rebuilding of the team's attack.

Games basketball China move into semis

AFP, Busan
National Basketball Association top draft pick Yao Ming scored 19 points and pulled down 14 rebounds here Saturday to lead China past Japan 104-59 and clinch an Asian Games semifinal berth.
The victory ensured China and Philippines would qualify from quarterfinal round Group One, eliminating Japan and Taiwan. South Korea and Kazakhstan can advance from Group Two with victories in their next matches.
The Chinese, reigning Asian champions, roared to a 33-10 lead after the first quarter and stretched the margin in every period. Yao had 12 points and six rebounds in the first quarter alone.
Liu Wei added 17 points while Gong Xiaobin had 13 points and Du Feng 11.
Takehiro Orimo led Japan with 24 points.
Menke Batere, China's reserve 2.10m center who played with Denver of the NBA last season, scored six points and had five rebounds after spending much of the game in foul trouble.
Batere was traded to Detroit on Tuesday and swapped to San Antonio on Friday in exchange for a second round 2003 NBA Draft pick.

Shoaib Express
FROM PAGE 13
Against the West Indies in his hometown of Rawalpindi in 1997 and since then has been considered one of the most exciting players in the sport with his speed and sometimes wild deliveries.
The 27-year-old and Australia's Brett Lee are regarded the fastest bowlers in the world and had been competing to be the first to reach the 100 mph landmark.
But Shoaib says he wants to control the speed to get more wickets.
"Basically, I am no longer interested in bowling faster," he told Reuters at last month's ICC Champions Trophy.
"It is more important to win matches...not to prove how fast I am," said Shoaib, clocked at 161 kph (100.4 mph), during a one-day against New Zealand in April.
But as such feats are not officially monitored, the ICC has said they must remain unofficial.
"I will consider this my best bowling only if Pakistan wins the match," Akhtar said.
"I have had problems with my rhythm and injuries in the past, but it was just perfect today. I want to be the best against the best."
Lee was clocked at 99.4 mph in South Africa this year, just under the second fastest delivery of 99.8 set by Australia's Jeff Thomson in 1976.
A good pace bowler would be happy to average about 85 mph.
Shoaib has also been cleared several times by the ICC after accusations of a suspect bowling action.
The eight wickets give him 77 from 22 Tests.



China's Qi Hui on her way to win the women's 400m individual medley gold at the 14th Asian Games in Busan yesterday.

Sino natants rule the pool



AFP, Busan

China dethroned Japan as Asia's number one swimming nation Saturday, winning the Asiad duel in the pool with Xu Yanwei taking her fifth gold of the Games and Qi Hui and Wu Peng their third.
The comprehensive 20-11 victory in the gold medal standings was sweet revenge after Japan pipped them 15-13 in Bangkok at the last Asiad four years ago.
China claimed its prize by winning four of the five gold medals up for grabs on the last day of the six-day competition Saturday.
Defending 800m freestyle champion Chen Hua handed China the sought-after title, by avenging her earlier defeat in the 400m to Sachiko Yamada.
Chen, beaten by Yamada at this meeting for the first time at an international event, dug deep to down her rival, pulling clear after 400m to touch in a new Asian and Asiad record time of 8:25.36.
Yamada, one of the few swimmers to wear a full length bodysuit here, settled for silver with China's Zhang Yan taking bronze.
"I didn't feel any threat. I raced without pressure," said Chen. "I am very happy to have retained my title."

It wasn't just Chen and China celebrating.
A dramatic tie for first place in the men's 50m freestyle dash between South Korea's Kim Min-Suk and Ravil Nachaev of Uzbekistan finally broke the stranglehold held over the Asiad swimming by China and Japan.
It was the first gold not won by either country.
The pair hit the wall in 22.86 to the jubilation of an ecstatic Korean crowd. Japan's Issei Nakanishi took bronze.
Xu meanwhile made it five firsts to become the most successful athlete at the Games so far.
She added the 4x100m medley relay gold to the ones already bagged in the 4x100m and 4x200m freestyle relays and the 50m and 100m free.
Xu anchored the relay team Saturday to inflict more misery on Japan with a new Asian and Asiad record time of 4:00.21.
Japan took silver in 4:05.75 and South Korea the bronze in 4:23.41.
Qi was the most prolific female swimmer in solo events, seizing three golds and one silver in total.
The 17-year-old army recruit, without goggles, won the 400m individual medley in 4:40.37 to add to her 200m medley and 200m breaststroke titles.
Such is her power and dominance in the breaststroke leg that she turned a two second deficit

behind teammate Zhou Ya Fei after 200m into a four second lead after 300m.
Zhou eventually finished third behind Maiko Fujino of Japan.
"I am very tired after winning three gold and one silver," said Qi. "I swam beyond my expectations and I am satisfied. There were a lot of good competitors who were strong and close so it was not easy."
Wu, just 15 and unheard of before the Asian Games, also took three gold, once again upsetting more established opponents, this time in the 200m backstroke.
He clawed back in the last 25m to touch in 2:00.40 and add to his 400m medley and 200m butterfly titles. The fancied Takashi Nakano of Japan took silver and Naoya Sonodo of Japan the bronze.
China and Japan have duelled for Asiad swimming honours for nearly 20 years.
Japan ruled the waves in the 1970s and early 1980s before China found its flippers in 1982, when it captured three gold to Japan's 21.
At Seoul in 1986 they narrowed the gap to 17-10 then exploded in Beijing in 1990 with 23 triumphs to Japan's seven.
Eight years ago, China won every women's gold en route to a 23-gold tally, which was reduced to 15 in the wake of doping failures by seven swimmers including two world champions.

Kafelnikov on course



REUTERS, Moscow

Yevgeny Kafelnikov kept alive his hopes of a record-breaking sixth consecutive Kremlin Cup title on Friday with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over French qualifier Cyril Saulnier.
The Russian, who plans to retire at the end of the year, booked his

place in Saturday's semifinal against seventh-seeded Dutchman Sjeng Schalken who overcame France's Nicolas Escude 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.
Kafelnikov is now two wins away from becoming the only player in the Open era to win a tournament for six years running.
After taking the first set in 32 minutes, Kafelnikov had to dig into his reserves as he battled back from 5-2 down to reel off five straight games to secure his 28th succes-

sive Kremlin Cup victory since losing in the 1996 final to Goran Ivanisevic.
"I just lost concentration in the middle of the second set but after he went 5-2 up, I knew I had to get my game together again because I didn't want this match to go into the third set," said Kafelnikov, adding that he is well aware of what is on the line for him.
"Of course, I know I can make history by winning a tournament for a sixth consecutive time because until now nobody else has been able to do that," he said.
Asked how he would rate himself on the all-time list, the outspoken Russian hesitated a bit.
"Well, I think tennis experts already made such a list a couple of years ago and I was somewhere 42nd or 43rd," he said after a brief pause.
"But if you talking about the last decade, then I think I definitely should be in the top five."
While Kafelnikov is gunning for his sixth Kremlin title, compatriot and top seed Marat Safin is looking for his first win in Moscow as he beat fifth-seeded Swiss Roger Federer.
Two breaks of serve, one in each set, were enough to give the Russian a 7-5, 6-4 victory.
"I have played him three times before and lost all three and the last two times I didn't have any chances to beat him," said Safin, who held his serve with ease throughout a 79-minute match.
"But today I even surprised myself how well I played. I would give myself a straight 'A' for the effort."
The former U.S. Open champion meets French qualifier Paul-Henri Mathieu, who eliminated German Rainer Schuttler 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.
In the women's tournament, France's fourth-seeded Amelie Mauresmo beat Slovenia's Maja Matevzic 7-6, 6-3 but compatriot Nathalie Dechy lost 6-4, 6-2 to Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva, conqueror on Thursday of Venus Williams.
"She (Maleeva) has been playing well here knocking off Venus and I expect a tough match" said Mauresmo, who has a 3-0 career record against the Bulgarian.
Amanda Coetzer, who eliminated defending champion Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia in the second round, beat Russian Nadia Petrova 6-2, 6-1.
The South African will meet American Lindsay Davenport, who overcame Russian wild card Elena Bovina 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.



Players and officials of the Cricket Association of Bengal upon their arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

Old Walsh is gold

AFP, Cardiff
Former West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh led the Rest of the World to a seven-wicket victory over Britain in a 'power cricket' match under the Millennium Stadium roof here on Friday.
Walsh, 39, who finished with a world record 519 Test wickets before retiring from international cricket last year, took five for 50 from his allotted five overs as England were bowled out for 155 in their second innings on a match played on a specially laid artificial pitch.
In the first match of its kind played in Britain, the Rest of the World were also indebted to New Zealand's Nathan Astle who made 76 not out in their second innings as they successfully chased 111 for victory.
Power cricket differs from conventional forms of the game in that a match consists of two 15-over innings per side.
Batsmen also scored bonus runs when they hit the ball into different tiers of the Millennium Stadium's stands.
A hit straight into the lower tier was a six but balls landing directly in the middle section were classed as an eight with those going into the top deck of the 74,000-seater stadium were worth 10 runs.
Astle hit the evening's only 10 although had any batsmen landed the ball straight on the stadium's retractable roof they would have scored 12.
No one managed that feat although Pakistan's Shahid Afridi did come close in front of a sparse crowd at a ground more used to staging rugby union internationals.
Britain were led by England skipper Nasser Hussain with the Rest led by New Zealand Test captain Stephen Fleming.
The second match of the two-game series takes place at the same venue on Saturday.
If the Rest win that match as well they will collect all the 50,000 pounds (£78,500 dollars) 'winner takes all' prize money on offer.

SCORE SUMMARY
Score summary from the 'power cricket' indoor match between Britain and the Rest of the World here at the Millennium Stadium on Friday:
Britain 133 for 8 (M Muralitharan 3-29) and 155 (C Walsh 5-50) versus Rest of the World 179-6 and 112-3 (N Astle 76 not out)
Result: Rest of the World beat Britain by 7 wickets.

Condon pulls for Skerritt
AFP, London
Lord Condon, head of the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), has said West Indies manager Ricky Skerritt was "understandably upset" by his treatment by the Sri Lankan police during last month's ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka.
Much of the attention during the event focused on what the players did off the field.
Security officials battled with players to enforce the "access control" regulations ordered by the ICC in the teams' hotel.
Skerritt accused police bodyguards of "high-handed and authoritative" behaviour after a move to crack down on women entering the players' rooms.
Strained relations between the local police and the West Indies delegation culminated in a Sri Lankan newspaper story that insinuated "prostitutes" had been found in the luxury hotel rooms of Skerritt and team analyst Garfield Smith.
Skerritt later said that all visitors to his suite were persons of "impeccable character," but police revealed that three women who had been invited to his room had forged identity papers.
However Condon said in a letter to Skerritt he had been the victim of a "bad and unfair experience", according to a statement from the West Indies Cricket Board released on Friday.
"I have spoken to the Sri Lankan police, staff at your hotel, Rev. Wes Hall and my ACU colleagues and there is no reason to doubt at all what you have said publicly and to me," Lord Condon wrote.

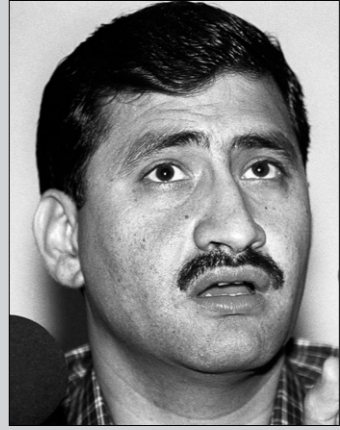
Akhtar tears
FROM PAGE 13
AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Langer c Taufiq b Saqlain 25
Hayden c Taufiq b Saqlain 34
Ponting b Akhtar 7
M Waugh b Akhtar 0
S Waugh lbw b Akhtar 0
Martyn c Nazir b Saqlain 20
Gilchrist b Akhtar 5
Warne lbw b Akhtar 0
Lee c Misbah b Saqlain 12
Gillespie lbw b Sami 1
McGrath not out 5
Extras: (lb-16, nb-2) 18
Total: (All out in 39.5 overs) 127
Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-74, 3-74, 4-74, 5-74, 6-85, 7-89, 8-107, 9-112
Bowler O M R W
Waqar 8 1 23 0
Akhtar 8 2 21 5
Saqlain 15.5 0 46 4
Taufiq 2 0 8 0
Sami 6 0 13 1
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).

Gone, not forgotten

AFP, Busan

Fallen giants Pakistan are calling upon eight-time world champion Jansher Khan to help inspire the next generation of squash players and lead the country into a new golden age.
The 34-year-old, who recently announced his return to the professional circuit, is being asked to drag his weary limbs and suspect knees into battle once more with Pakistan squash officials hoping that a little bit of magic will rub off on the country's future players.
Mehboob Khan, who coached the veteran player, believes the veteran player is capable of making an impact once again on the game.
"Jansher has been working with youngsters in Islamabad and recently 120 of them came along to see him and receive some tips," said Mehboob here at the Asian Games where he coached Mansoor Zaman to a final defeat by world number seven Ong Beng Hee of Malaysia.
"I think if he can avoid injury then Jansher can get up to around

number 15 in the world and if he does that we would all like to think that he can inspire more young



JANSHER KHAN

players to come into the game.
"They will learn a lot from seeing him on the court and watching his skills."
Jansher counted eight World Open titles and six British Open crowns amongst his total of more than 100 international titles, and was the world number one for six

years, but he retired in 2000 following two knee operations.
Before him, Jahangir Khan collected six World and ten British titles as Pakistan dominated the men's game.
However during Jansher's time out of the spotlight, Pakistan has suffered a collapse in its squash fortunes and Zaman is their highest ranked player standing at 25 in the world.
At last year's world team championship, an event which they had won six times in the past, the squad finished a miserable 11th place out of 24 nations.
Jansher's decision to quit in 2000 coincided with the start of the British Open that year which failed to feature a single Pakistani player in the main draw while, this summer, not one player managed to win a Commonwealth Games medal.
"The federation in Pakistan is working on the problem," said Mehboob.
"Some of the players around 19-years-old aren't very good but there are lots of very good young players around and we are concentrating on bringing along the 14 to 17-year-olds."

Women's hockey Favourites, hosts cruise



AFP, Busan

Favourites China and defending champions South Korea won their respective matches on the opening day of the Asian Games women's field hockey tournament at the Gangseo Stadium here Saturday.
China, winners of the elite Champions Trophy at Macau earlier this year, defeated India 2-0, while hosts South Korea beat 1998 bronze medalists Japan 3-2 in the four-nation event, being played on a league-cum-knockout format.
The top two teams will fight it out in the final while the remaining two will play to decide the bronze.
For China, captain Chen Zhao Xia's two penalty-corner conversions in the 39th and 62nd minutes sealed the win as Commonwealth Games champions India toiled fruitlessly throughout.
China controlled the game from early on and could have registered a bigger win but for some missed chances and some resilient Indian defending.
Indian captain Surajlata Devi and veteran Sita Gusain held off the initial threats from Tang Chun Ling, Hou Xiao Lan and substitute Zhang Hai Ying, who combined well in attack for China.
Indian goalkeeper Tingongleima Chanu was agile but was tested severely by the Chinese forwards, who hit the framework twice in the second session.
A reverse-flick from Tang hit the right post and Wang Jiu Yan hit the cross-bar even as India put up a desperate bid to reduce the margin.
A penalty stroke, awarded to India following a penalty-corner just seconds from the close, was also not put in as Manjinder Kaur's attempt was beaten out by custodian Nie Yali.
Indian coach Gurdial Bhangu conceded China played far better.



India's Kaur Manjinder (R) shoots the ball past China's Cheng Hui during the women's hockey competition at the 14th Asian Games in Busan yesterday.

"In terms of ability they are a rung above other teams," said Bhangu. "But we're still in the tournament with two more league matches to go."
China's South Korean coach Kim Changback predicted a final against South Korea.
"We're expecting to play South Korea in the final," said Kim. "It'd be a proud moment for me if our team (China) wins in my hometown."
Later in the day, South Korea warmed-up with some good midfield play and fine stickwork in the opposite half, but their defence looked suspect.
Kim Eu-Jin, captain Lee Eun-Young and Lee Mi-Seong were the scorers for South Korea, while Wao Sachimi and Saito Naoko scored for Japan.
South Korea led 2-0 at half-time but saw a resurgent Japan fight it out after the breather.
Kim converted a penalty-corner in the seventh minute and Lee Eun-Young swept in a cross from the right in the 15th to put the hosts in a comfortable position.
Japan reduced the margin when Sachimi hit one in from the top of the circle early in the second session.

However, South Korea increased the lead once more when Lee Mi-Seong scored in the 65th minute. Naoko's goal in the 68th minute brought some joy to the Japanese camp but the hosts wrapped up the remaining two minutes.

Carlsen stops Srichaphan



REUTERS, Tokyo

Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen advanced to the final of the Japan Open, outlasting rising Thai hope Paradorn Srichaphan 7-6, 7-6 to move a step closer to his second tour title.
The 29-year-old Dane prevailed in the clash of two hard-hitters with some powerful passing shots in the tie-breaks, while Paradorn's big guns, which downed world number one Lleyton Hewitt in Friday's quarterfinal upset, failed him.
"Today, I missed a lot of shots because I was trying to go close to the line because he's a quick player from the back...I tried to finish it off too early, so I was kind of rushing myself," Paradorn told a news conference.
Carlsen served his way out sticky moments, stacking up 11 aces in all, against six by the eighth seed Paradorn.
The 111-ranked Dane saved three break points when he was down 4-0 in a second-set match with three consecutive aces.
"Three aces. I can't do anything about it, it's not my mistake. What can I do," a laughing Paradorn said.
Carlsen will meet Sweden's Magnus Norman in the final. Norman, who has suffered badly over the last two seasons with injuries and loss of form, beat American Vincent Spadea 6-4, 7-6.
In the women's semi-finals, Silvija Talaja of Croatia breezed past American Sara Taylor 6-3, 6-4, while number two seed Tamarine Tanasugarn was upset by American Jill Craybas 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Craybas shocks Tamarine to reach first career final at Japan Open

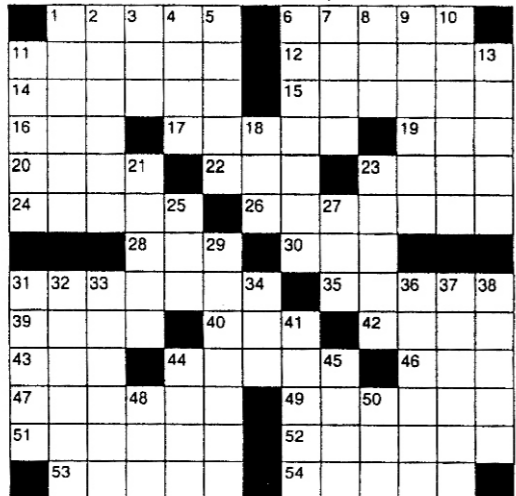


Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark exults after beating Thai Paradorn Srichaphan in the semifinals of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Beet by-product
6 "Dweedle Dee"
11 C&W singer
12 Hard to control
14 Guarantee
15 Smeltery slag
16 Heathcliff, for one
17 Virgule
19 Moment
20 Miniscule bit
22 Austin Powers, e.g.
23 Ribbon
24 Re John Paul II
26 TV comic
28 McKellen or McShane
30 Shooter's ammo
31 Stress
35 Neatens, in a way
39 Busy as
40 Realtor's offering

DOWN
2 Pull out the cork
3 Veldt dweller
4 Ostentatious display
5 Staggers
6 Put on your best clothes
7 Part of the foot
8 Street address?
9 Sacs
10 Most cunning
11 Summery overcraft
13 Luxury craft
18 Police alert initials.
21 Down the East
23 Carroll's "The Hunting of the —"
25 "The 7 Faces of Dr. —"
27 Cong. member
29 In math, it's memberless
31 Soothing agents
32 Wolf-pack fleet
33 Do over
34 Also
36 Contributions data
37 Bread
38 Talk a blue streak?
41 Bottom line
44 Tour de France need
45 Barry or Brubeck
48 Canape topper
50 Ovine comment



CRYPTOQUIP
Z V L A P Z R V F R M R A G P G W O
S K L K S T W Z I W Z T M L M D .
F G S W O P Z C F R L K G Q
R U K W G D L C Z W R Q I R M .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN YOU HEAR A RINGING IN THE EARS, DON'T WORRY A BIT. YOU'RE AS SOUND AS A BELL.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals L.
The Cryptquip 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.