Cricket

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has admitted that he is unable to run three weeks before the start of the Ashes series in Australia.

Flintoff is currently trying to regain fitness following a double hernia operation and is due to fly out with the rest of the England squad

He hopes to be fit for the first Test at Brisbane's Gabba ground on November 7 but Flintoff told



ANDREW FLINTOFF

Wednesday's edition of the Sun newspaper: "There's no question that my recovery is taking longer than I had expected. I was hoping to be able to bowl flat out as soon as the team arrived in Australia.

"As it is, the operation was more than six weeks ago and I'm not yet able to run. The pounding of running would be too much at this stage

well as do weights, and I've been working very hard on those things in Flintoff is well aware of the problems of coming back too soon.

"I can row, cycle and swim, as

He said: "As a lad, I used to dream about playing in an Ashes series and the World Cup. We have both of them in the space of a few months -- it is a massive winter.

"If I rush back, it could put me out for the whole Ashes series or even the World Cup.

"So I don't intend taking any risks. If necessary, I will aim to be fit for the second Test in Adelaide on November 21."

Flintoff played most of last season in growing pain from his hernia, with captain Nasser Hussain admitting England's use of the all-rounder while less than fully fit was "unpro-

Flintoff finally had an operation at the end of August following England's third Test defeat at Headingley where he collected a

England's plan was that Flintoff would be fully recovered by the time the team flew out to Australia.

As it is he has added to England's list of injury concerns. Fast bowler Darren Gough (knee) has said that he might not be fit until the third Test while fellow quick Simon Jones has been suffering from a side strain since July.

And another of England's pacemen. Andrew Caddick, has suffered with knee trouble.

Top order batsmen Michael Vaughan and Mark Butcher have both been struggling with knee injuries although they are expected to be fit from the start of the tour.

Destination

by amending NSC Act," said Rahman. FROM PAGE 13

While talking with the Star Sport on Monday, Asghar also did not rule out the option of amending the Act and going with the democratic

process. "I have formed a constitution amendment committee. Let's see what they recommend. If the recommendation is for the Board of Director formation, we might request the NSC to amend the Act."

Though both Rahman and Asghar appeared to be open for an amended, but many directors remained highly sceptic about their

"I don't believe that they would retain the Board of Directors. If they wanted to do so, they would have not gone to the Court at the first place," said Board Director and former national cricketer Tanjeeb Ahsan Saad.

India seek

The West Indies were thrashed 2-0 by Pakistan at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and 3-0 in Sri Lanka last year before losing the last Test against India.

TEAMS

INDIA (from): Saurav Ganguly (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sanjay Bangar, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Venkatsai Laxman, Parthiv Patel, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Shiv Das, Ashish Nehra Amit Mishra

WEST INDIES (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Chris Gavle. Wavell Hinds. Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Darren Ganga, Ryan Hinds. Ridley Jacobs. Mahendra Nagamootoo, Pedro Collins, Mervyn Dillon, Cameron Cuffy, Jermaine Lawson, Marlon Samuels, Gareth Breese, Darren Powell

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).

Gujarat goes

trained for event control were being brought in from Bombay, reinforcing 800 local police and commandos.

All cricket fans will go through metal detectors and screening machines and dogs will sniff for bombs, he said

"We will not be allowing anyone to carry water, lunch boxes, radios or anything else into the stadium," Amin said, meaning hungry spectators will have to go to concession stalls. Water will be free.

Amin noted the security success of a recent nine-day Hindu festival in

"More than 50,000 people came out to dance until midnight and it passed off peacefully, so why shouldn't we have cricket matches in the state?" he said.

India afraid

FROM PAGE 13 of controversy. We have had it, so have the others.

Pakistan's celebrations were almost marred by the dramatic resignation of cricket board chief. General Taugir Zia, earlier this week after Pakistan slumped to record lows of 59 and 53 to lose the second Test to Australia here inside two

Zia was, however, reinstated by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday, a move that brought immense relief to the cricketers here.

"Its a great relief that General Zia is back," manager Nasir said.

"He is a man of great honour and accepted responsibility for the defeat, deflecting criticism from the young team onto himself.

"It is now time for the boys to prove their worth on the field. We are going to fight in the final Test which starts on Saturday.

"It (the heavy defeat in the second Test) has happened once, it will not happen again."

CRYPTOQUIP

TPFMPH SQGOUU IXKUDLR DM CPLQ, SXIM JK FDIQ CQ

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H 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.



Music Hall in New York on October 15. The sisters came to attend the 2002 VH1/Voque Fashion Awards.

Schnyder sails

Tennis

REUTERS, Zurich

Patty Schnyder has overcome spirited Czech Denisa Chladkova 6-3, 6-2 to carry the home flag into the second round of the Swisscom

But after an impressive performance against the 23-year-old qualifier, Schnyder, 19th in the world, dismissed her chances of making it into the season-ending WTA Masters "I have tried to forget about quali-

fying for the Masters and I feel that takes a lot of pressure off my shoulders," said Schnyder, who now has only a slim chance of making it into the high-profile competition.

"I am just trying to have fun and enjoy myself in front of the home crowd. I like to play here and if I play well the crowd helps me a lot." Watched by Swiss favourite

Martina Hingis, who was forced to pull out of the tournament last week through injury, Schnyder made full use of her range and power to overcome Chladkova. She joins compatriot Marie

Gaiane Mikaelian in the second round, where she will play third seed Amelie Mauresmo, who made it through on a bye. Daniela Hantuchova, seventh

seed for the tournament, beat qualifier Janette Husarova earlier in the day in an all-Slovakian first-round tie. Hantuchova has already qualified for

"I feel tired physically," she said.
"But the goal for this year was to qualify for the Masters, which is quite sure now, and to reach the top 10, so I have done that.

"I am still going very well mentally, so I am riding on a good trip right now and I hope for it to continue.'

The 19-year-old reached the final of the grand prix in Filderstadt last

Sunday, where she was defeated in three sets by Belgian Kim Clijsters. But she displayed more of the skill and confidence that last week helped

her move to a WTA ranking of nine as she coped with the slow Zurich courts to cruise past Husarova 7-6, 6-1. Russian Anastasia Myskina also moved into the second round after a

6-4, 4-6, 6-2 battle with wildcard merican Lisa Raymond. Raymond's compatriot, qualifier Alexandra Stevenson, fared better when she cruised past Japanese Ai

Sugiyama 6-3, 6-4 to set up a meeting with fifth seed Jelena Dokic

DC Gold Cup soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Mymensingh earned a 4-3 win over Sherour in the tie-breaker in the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Gold Cup Football tournament at the local stadium yesterday. The match ended 1-1 after the

normal time. Milon scored for Mymensingh and

Anwarul for Sherpur.

"I was very confident out there. I

Moya, in need of ranking points

He was in real trouble in the first

to safeguard his place at the

Masters Cup, had plenty to lose in

set as he set Gonzalez on his way

by gifting the Chilean a break in

felt I had nothing to lose.

his clash with Gonzalez.

Safin shocked **Barmy Army** will be there

Tennis

REUTERS. Madrid

Russian number three seed Marat Safin slumped to a 7-6, 7-6 secondround defeat to Argentina's Agustin Calleri at the end of an eventful second day at the Madrid Masters on Tuesday.

Safin, still with work to do to qualify for the season-ending Masters Cup in Shanghai, lost the first set 8-6 on the decider but then

the Madrid Masters on October 15.

mounted a comeback in the second,

broke his racket in frustration at one

point in the second set, put a back-

"It's very disappointing."

Carlos Moya and Juan Carlos

Ferrero had also been in trouble in their second-round matches but the

force a second tie-break.

Spanish favourites survived in matches that were both timed at two hours 41 minutes.

Number eight seed Moya was given a real pounding by the powerful Chilean Fernando Gonzalez and had to save a match point before clinching a 2-6, 7-6, 7-6 victory. He was followed on court by

Ferrero, seeded fifth, who was pushed all the way by Finland's Jarkko Nieminen in a 6-3, 6-7, 7-5

There was no such centre-court escape for Gustavo Kuerten in a first-round match played earlier on

game four with an over-long twohanded backhand Moya improved in the second, missing a couple of break-point chances but going on to take the tiebreak with little trouble He took a 5-2 lead in the third as Gonzalez, going for his shots throughout, put an attempted forehand winner into the net.

The Chilean somehow recovered to force a tiebreak but he was now struggling for accuracy and Moya grabbed two early breaks to

set up his win. "It was one of the most exciting matches I've played," said Moya, who sank to his knees in joy and

relief after hitting the winning volley. Ferrero followed him out on court and was quickly on his way to what looked certain to be a much more

a set and 5-4 lead. Nieminen hit back to force a tie-

break, though, and even saved a match-point before taking it 8-6. Ferrero went a break down at 2-3

in the final set but Nieminen could not consolidate his advantage and the Spaniard grew in strength to clinch the win.

"I should have won in that second set," Ferrero said. "The third set was

hard but I never thought it was lost." While Moya and Ferrero both needed every ounce of their

strength and experience, Sebastien Grosjean was granted an easier passage through to the third round. The Frenchman was leading Xavier Malisse 5-1 on number one

court when the Belgian was forced to retire because of injury. In first-round games played on Tuesday, Jan-Michael Gambill set up an all-American clash with num-

ber two seed Andre Agassi thanks to a 7-6, 6-3 win over Andrei Pavel of Romania, while Nicolas Lapentti came back from 5-2 down in the first set to beat Michel Kratochvil 7-6, 6-

back home REUTERS, Melbourne

Gillespie will fly home to Australia this week in a bid to be fit for the Ashes series against England, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) announced on Wednesday. The 27-year-old fast bowler

broke down with a calf muscle injury during Australia's win against Pakistan in the first Test in Colombo, Sri Lanka on October 7. Gillespie remained with the

United Arab Emirates, for the second and third Tests of the threematch series The tall right-arm paceman

Australia leads the series 2-0 and the third Test starts on Saturday in Sharjah

England squad arrives in Perth, Western Australia later this week in preparation for the first Test against Australia in Brisbane starting on November 7. Gillespie's state side South

Australia will play a four-day match against New South Wales in Adelaide starting on October 25, which would be an ideal opportunity to prove his fitness for the first Test. 'The hope is Gillespie will be

released on Wednesday. Gillespie was due to arrive in Adelaide on Thursday, the ACB Tuesday.

Spaniard Carlos Moya jubilates after beating Chilean Fernando Gonzalez at

moving a break ahead at 3-0. The former world number one Calleri, however, refused to was hustled out 6-4, 6-4 by buckle and broke back with a stun-Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, ning backhand down the line to who pinned the Brazilian back with his fizzing serve and accurate He took that 7-5 as Safin, who aroundstrokes

surgery earlier in the season, was playing the event on a wildcard after hand long, bringing an end to the match in two hours seven minutes. reaching the final in Lyon last week, "I was playing well in the second but his comeback was stopped in its set and I think I could have won it in a tracks by a sharper Paradorn. third but my chance went," Safin

"Kuerten was a bit slow moving around court but that may have been because I was moving him around a lot," said Paradorn, who goes on to face British number one Tim Henman in the second round.

The 28-year-old was not in

London to receive her award, but

Kuerten, who underwent hip

PHOTO: AFP

Radcliffe honoured

Athletics

REUTERS, London

Runner Paula Radcliffe has been named one of Britain's women-ofthe-year -- a day after she produced one of the greatest athletics feats of all time to smash the women's world marathon record.

Radcliffe was honoured at a lunch on Monday at London's Sayov Hotel in recognition of her consistent success throughout the year. She ran a sensational London marathon in April, clocking the

second fastest time ever, and then won the Commonwealth 5.000 metres title in Manchester and the European 10.000 metres in Munich this summer.

On Sunday she crowned her achievements by winning the Chicago marathon in a remarkable two hours, 17 minutes and 18 seconds, chopping one minute and 29 seconds off the previous world



PAULA RADCLIFFE

which has been held every year since 1955.

Some 40 women from all walks of life were asked to nominate their women of the year, and the same 40 then voted on the nominations put

sent a message of thanks from International, was among other Chicago to organisers of the event, women honoured Khan became the first woman. the first Asian and the first Muslim to head the London-based human rights group when she took over as secretary-general in August 2001. Within a month of her appoint-

Irene Khan, head of Amnesty

attacks of September 11 on New York and Washington Amnesty has highlighted alleged abuses of human rights in Afghanistan and the Middle East over the past year as well as in the United States and its allied coun-

ment she had to deal with the

human rights issues sparked by the

Bangladeshi-born Khan worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 21 years before taking over as head of Amnesty.

She won the award for the woman who has done most to help raise awareness of the rest of the world.



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer ACROSS 1 Hangout for Andy Capp 4 Ohio nine 8 Distort 12 Dos **Passos** trilogy 13 Shavingcream 14 Mahjongg

15 Choker, 17 Everything else 18 Potter's fixture 19 Enjoys music 20 Not

in a good 22 Bomb 24 Laugh-aminute type 25 Ankle bangle 29 Fuss 30 News stand 31 Eggs

34 Smooth 50 Homely 11 Prohibitalking 51 Dog's tion foes 35 Autodog 16 Scot's maker wear DOWN Ransom 19 Athlete Fli --20 Highland "Lowest 36 Becomes form of hillside 21 Verdi tiresome humor 37 Portion of орега a long 3 Secret 22 Pond poem access creatures 4 Long-Zealand distance bird auto race 25 Tie 41 Neighbor-5 Joie de hood vivre

23 Young 26 Kid's treat 42 Ascot 27 Satan's specialty compan accessory 46 Roster 28 Filing aids ion? 30 Narc's Banner's stand alter ego 8 Bar 33 Spin Capital of 34 Stare contents 10 Otherwise 36 Fussing 49 Partner Solution time: 23 mins. trifles

39 Fit

42 Moo -

pork

44 401(k)

37 Tranquil C D I M P M D K C J I C O T Q .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I WANTED TO CORRESPOND WITH A FISH, I SUPPOSE I COULD solo 40 X out DROP IT A LINE.

United States, is seen as a sequel to ex-world champion Garry Kasparov's 1997 losing encounter with supercomputer Deep Blue in Kramnik, who ended Kasparov's 12-year reign as world champion in November 2000, is playing Deep

The eight-game contest, post-

poned last year in the wake of the

September 11 terror attacks in the

Fritz in Manama, the capital of the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain. He stands to win one million dollars from King Hamad if he beats the machine and 700,000 dollars it

The matches are broadcast on the www.brainsinbahrain.com website. Here are the moves of the game:

White: Deep Fritz

Black: Vladimir Kramnik 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 b6 4. g3 Ba6 5. b3 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Be7 . Bg2 c6 8. Bc3 d5 9. Ne5 Nfd7 10. Nxd7 Nxd7 11. Nd2 O-O 12. O-O Rc8 13. a4 Bf6 14. e4 c5 15.exd5 cxd4 16. Bb4 Re8 17. Ne4 exd5 18. Nd6 dxc4 19. Nxf7 Kxf7 20. Bd5+ Kg6 21.Qg4+ Bg5 22. Be4+ Rxe4 23. Qxe4+ Kh6 24. h4 Bf6 25. Bd2+ g5 26. hxg5+ Bxg5 27.Qh4+ Kg6 28. Qe4+ Kg7 29. Bxg5 Qxg5 30. Rfe1 cxb3 31.

Glenn bowls

Fritz draws level

FROM PAGE 13 very hard on those things in the

Chess

in their sixth game.

Deep Fritz, billed as the most pow-

erful chess computer, beat world

champion Vladimir Kramnik of

Russia Tuesday to draw level in a million-dollar challenge here with

just two games to go, organizers

entirely outclassed by the "beauti-

ful" play of his mechanical opponent

result is not positive, but the game was a pleasure," the world cham-

pion told a post-game press confer-

moves. I do not think that I made

any real mistakes. I did the right

thing from a human point of view. I

enjoyed the game, it was so beauti-

felt vindicated by the result but had

never doubted the strength of the

off after the first three games," said

challenge Kramnik. We have

always had confidence in our cre-

programme they had created.

team member Frans Morsch.

The Deen Fritz team said they

Some people wrote Deep Fritz

"But we have learned by the first

Kramnik conceded he had been

"I am not so depressed -- the

"There were some beautiful

With just three weeks to go until the first Test, Flintoff is aiming to make his comeback against Queensland on November 2 but he is conscious of the dangers of

pushing too hard. "As a lad I used to dream about playing in an Ashes series and the World Cup. We have both of them in

the space of a few months," he said. "If I rush back, it could put me out of the Ashes or even the World Cup. So I don't intend on taking any risks. If necessary, I'll aim to be fit for the second Test in Adelaide on

November 22." Hussain will be hoping that Flintoff can recover in time to be part of the first Test as fitness doubts remain over the side's leading fast bowler Darren Gough and pace prospect Simon Jones.

Johnson puts SA in control

AFP. Adelaide

Nxd5 34. axb6 axb6 0-1.

An unbroken 241-run second wicket stand between Ben Johnson and Greg Blewett put South Australia in control in their Sheffield Shield cricket match against Victoria at

Adelaide Oval on Wednesday.

At stumps on the second day South Australia were 268 for one with Johnson unbeaten on 143 and Blewett not out 96. SA held an overall lead of 264

runs with nine second innings wickets in hand and two days remaining to press for an outright win. Victoria gained first innings points when they pushed their 94 for

seven at the start of the day to overtake SA's first innings of 149 with

Border whacks FROM PAGE 13

"If I was him, I'd be keeping my mouth shut. "I know it's not totally down to him, but I think you've got to be careful making stupid statements

hammering. Border, 47, who retired at age 38 himself, defended the Waughs as "icons" of Australia cricket. Steve Waugh has played 150

when your side has just copped a

Tests, six short of Border's world record "We seem to chip away at them and seem to want them out of the

"Those guys will work out the right time to finish up. "I hate to see this chipping away at them -- we should be rejoicing

how good this Australian side is and

not constantly having a go at the two

side." Border said of the twins, who

made two runs between them in the

Waugh boys in particular. Steve Waugh, who captained Australia to victory in the 1999 World Cup final against Pakistan, has been dropped from the one-day side this year but remains Test captain, while Mark has also been dumped from the limited overs

Australia are ranked number one

in Test cricket and Steve Waugh has

captained Australia to 28 wins from

39 matches.

Organisers of the Barmy Army, following England to Australia, are estimating 8,000 fans will back Nasser Hussain's team in January's fifth and final Ashes Test in Sydney.

AFP, Sydney

Paul Burnham, who was there when the Barmy Army began in 1994/95 and now helps coordinate the movement, says it's the dream that England will one day win back the Ashes that drives English cricket supporters to make the long and expensive trip to Australia.

"The loyal fans dare not miss a

trip Down Under in case the one

time they stay at home is when England finally win the Ashes on Australian soil," Burnham said here on Wednesday. "People are going on their second or third Ashes tour with the Barmy Army because, although

they know we are massive under-

dogs, they want to be there just in case it is the one where we win. "England will win in our lifetime and once you've been once and sat through five days of cricket and spent all that money, you want to be

there for the good times." Mike Gatting's 1986-87 tourists last won the Ashes in Australia.

Burnham will spend more than 11,000 dollars (6,000 US) on his trip, but most fans will travel over for the two back-to-back legs of the tour. Adelaide-Perth and Melbourne-Sydney.

"It is a great way to get away for the winter and particularly after the Olympics people saw what a beautiful place Australia is, so people genuinely want to go over there," he

Jason going

Australia fast bowler Jason

squad for treatment as Steve Waugh's team moved to Sharjah,

opens the attack for Australia with Glenn McGrath and boasts a Test record of 126 wickets from 34 matches at an average of 26.36.

Captain Nasser Hussain's

available for selection for the first (Test)," the ACB said in a statement