SPORT

statuesque as the watching former

But second time round Safin

"Thanks a lot to our president for

Olympic champion Yevgeny

stood firm, raised his game and

struck a ferocious serve past his

coming," said a relieved but

delighted Safin as he savoured a

Kafelnikov, having suffered the

heartbreak of losing finals in 1994

and 1995 in Moscow, was bidding to

send his country 2-0 clear in the

second match of the day against

Sebastien Grosiean, a star of last

tion nine times and are plaving their

third final in four seasons whereas

the Russians have never won the

The final is taking place amid

VIP guests included, from the

tight security with some 300 police

world of politics, French President

Jacques Chirac and his Prime

Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, as

well as Yeltsin, who watched intently

former premier Lionel Jospin has

pencilled in the Saturday doubles.

Raffarin has cleared some of his

schedule for the denouement on

sonal friend of Kafelnikov, was to

Henry, Robert Pires, Patrick Vieira

and Sylvain Wiltord of Arsenal had

two squads French singer Julien

Clerc sang the Marseillaise with

Russian baritone Vitaly Romanov

performing the Russian national

to out-do each other in the decibel

count - despite the 1.500 or so

visiting fans being outnumbered by

Both sets of fans then tried lustily

anthem Patriotiskaya Pesn.

watch the whole three days play.

also managed to secure invites.

Keen tennis fan Yeltsin, a per-

French football stars Thierry

At the official presentation of the

Chirac had made time for Friday's opening singles while

famous "salad bowl" trophy.

as the action unfolded.

on hand.

Sunday.

France have won the competi-

vear's French win over Australia.

crucial victory.

Russian president Boris Yeltsin

Greg's career in doubt

AFP, London

Greg Rusedski's tennis future was in doubt Thursday after the British number two split from coach Sven Groeneveld for the second time.

The London Evening Standard reported that the cause of this latest split was Rusedski's inability to name a comeback date from an operation on his feet.

Canadian-born Rusesdski. 29. has had operations on both feet in successive years and the former US Open finalist now seems set to miss Great Britain's Davis Cup tie away to Australia in February

The absence of the big-serving left-hander would leave Great Britain dependent on Tim Henman to pull off what would be an upset victory.

Henman, the British number one, has a fitness battle of his own following right shoulder surgery. However he remains optimistic

about being ready for both the tie and the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the Year, which finishes 10 days before the Davis Cup match begins.

Brett afraid

FROM PAGE 13 you're in a bit of a dilemma," Key said.

"You've got to make a choice of whether you're going to play the waiting game and look to leave (Glenn) McGrath which is what I sort of tried to do day or whether or not you're going to go after him and take some initiative

"You'd rather get out that way than hanging around and nicking one. As long as you're being positive then you're going well.

Lee also defended the English batsmen, saying they were dis-missed through good bowling rather than poor shot selection. There were a couple of loose

shots but I think that comes down to Australia's pressure," he said. "I think the way the guicks

bowled and the way (Shane) Warne bowled too builds pressure. "That's something we've been working on and we think that if we

can tie the batsmen down then we can force them into playing a loose shot and that's what happened today."

Lee puts

FROM PAGE 13 England went to lunch with a precarious 91 for three wickets, with the cave-in continuing in the second session

Only 23-year-old right-hander Robert Key, in his fourth Test, found an answer to the Australian attack. Exercising skilful shot selection,

he assembled a valuable 47 (five fours, one six) in just over two hours before falling to a cutting delivery from rarely-used medium-pacer Damien Martyn immediately before tea.

Key was bitterly disappointed he had been ousted by a part-time bowler.



Bangladesh players celebrate the fall of West Indies opener Wavell Hinds.

Akram in Test fold again

South African tour.

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Famed pacer Wasim Akram was included Friday in the Pakistan Test side selected for next month's tour of South Africa, but seasoned opener Saeed Anwar and wicketkeeper Moin Khan failed to gain places

Pakistan Cricket Board chief selector Waseem Bari announced a 17-man one-day and 16-man Test squad for the tour, during which Pakistan will play five oneday games and two Tests.

We have picked the best side to play a formidable South Africa and Wasim has been given a chance to perform in the Tests after considering conditions in South Africa," Bari told a press conference.

Akram, who opted out of Pakistan's Test series against Australia last month after saying he would concentrate on his one-day form, is currently playing in the side's one-day series in Zimbabwe. But earlier this month he changed his mind and announced his availability for tests in South

Africa Akram has taken 414 wickets in 104 Test matches, but has played only six Tests for Pakistan in the last two years due to injury. Anwar, who on Thursday was

Cricket

EUTERS. London

named in Pakistan's 30 probables

to Pakistan in Zimbabwe so we for next year's World Cup, was not named in either squad for the have continued with them.' Khan, a wicketkeeper and

former captain, was also ignored. "Anwar has been given the full opportunity to stage a comeback in "We have picked Latif in the

one-day side and it's up to the team management in South Africa whether they play him or Kamran Akmal," Bari said.

Latif on Wednesday announced his retirement from Test cricket but said he would continue to play in one-day matches. Pakistan, currently playing one-

dav series in Zimbabwe, will travel to South Africa next week

The first of the one-day games will be played at Durban on

PHOTO: STAR

Inzamamul Haq (vice captain), Taufiq Umar, Saleem Elahi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Abdul Razzaq, Wasim Akram, Kamran Akmal, Saqlan Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shahid Afridi, Faisal Igbal, Mohammad Zahid and Hasan Raza

ONE-DAY: Wagar Younis (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vicecaptain), Taufiq Umar, Saleem Elahi, Younis Khan, Yousuf Youhana, Rashid Latif, Abdul Razzaq, Wasim Akram, Kamran Akmal, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shahid Afridi, Faisal Igbal, Mohammad Zahid and Misbahul Hag.

tinue.

Smith out

FROM PAGE 13

FROM PAGE 13

removed.'

on sponsorship.

the tournament.

mostly non-white areas.

H Fernando

The party also said that the wood is a protected area which does not permit new construction and is "designed for walking in."

3

SRI LANKA: Sanath Jayasuriya,

Marvan Atapattu, Kumar

Sangakkara, Russel Arnold, Mahela

Jayawardene, Aravinda de Silva,

Chaminda Vaas, Upal Chandana,

Hasantha Fernando, Dilhara

101 'undesirables

like 50 new cricket ovals in poor and

interested in politics. Zimbabwe's

reporters wanting to join Speed's trip

cricket journalists during the World

Cup, an emphatic Bacher said: "No"

can be that these obstacles will be

But he added: "I am confident as I

Zimbabwe will not be the only fly

in the ointment. In September, the

ICC's Champions Trophy looked to

be in jeopardy after India said it

could be forced to field a second-

string team because of tough rules

Some of the world's top players -

many of whom like Sachin Tendulkar

and Sourav Ganguly command

highly lucrative personal endorse-

the ICC, in an attempt to protect

tournament sponsors from 'ambush

marketing' campaigns from rival

companies, demanded players

freeze their private sponsorships for

Following player protests around

the world -- Australia, England and

South Africa were among several

teams who delayed signing their

contracts -- the ICC pledged to take

their views into account in future

Bacher clearly expects some

last-minute haggling but thinks

sponsorship squabbles will be

sponsorship negotiations.

The deadlock had started when

ments -- threatened to pull out.

Asked if he would accept

points to tough times ahead.

Fernando, Pulasthi Gunaradne,

Umpires: I Howell and R Tiffin.

0 20 0

helping to create three goals in five minutes in the middle of the first half. Latzsch set up two goals, running six-minute goal blitz. ing through five defenders to pass

contrast with a 15-12 record in the competition - albeit a rather miserable 9-10 in singles play.

Safin draws first blood

But the temperamental 22-yearold from Moscow shrugged off the distraction of a partisan crowd - and Marat Safin drew first blood for second set lapse - to win through Russia on Friday in the Davis Cup in 3hr 08min against the man who final here Friday, beating Paul-Henri had beaten him in the Kremlin Cup Mathieu of France 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. final in their only previous meeting in Mathieu, just 20 and playing his

Moscow in early October. Safin came through on his second match point with his 19th ace after double-faulting on his first in first serving out for the match.

A double-handed backhand Former world number one Safin, down the line pulled Mathieu back to currently ranked three on the ATP 3-5. the ball speeding past a Safin computer, went into the encounter in looking at that moment every bit as



Russia's Marat Safin plays a forehand against Paul-Henri Mathieu of France at the Davis Cup final yesterday.

Germany rebound

added.

Goikoetxea

53rd minutes.

opponents.



AFP, Perth Germany bounced back from the

disappointment of defeat against Argentina to secure a comfortable 3-0 win over Scotland at the women's hockey World Cup here Friday.

The Germans, unlucky to have but we were not fast enough, but we gone down to Argentina on Thursday, had too much class for a Scottish side looking for another upset following their shock defeat of New Zealand.

forwards," he added. In the earlier match, South Africa and Japan played a 1-1 draw.

some seven to one

World Open squash

Pak players denied visas "In the first half we played well

did better in the second half taking free hits faster," said Dutch coach Marc Lammers "Australia, Argentina and Spain are playing well so we have to win

The Spaniards then put the

Americans to the sword with a

devastating rush of scoring. Nuria

Camon, Silvia Munoz and Luci

Lopez netting in the 47th, 50th and

Kate Barber had scored a conso-

Spain coach Jack Holtman said

"We applied a lot of pressure on

lation goal in the 52nd minute, but

there was no way back for the

his side had been confident of

eventually breaking down their

USA in the first half and the team

was patient, waiting for the goals to

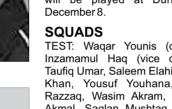
come," Holtman said. "We made a

lot of changes in the way we play

Americans in the Pool B.

against them to be assured of a iais,

TEST: Waqar Younis (captain),



Astle, 31, set a world record for the fastest double century in Test history, needing just 153 balls to reach the landmark against England at Christchurch in March.

confirmed Thursday.

He has scored over 3,000 Test runs and more than 5,000 in limited overs international cricket as well as being a handy useful medium pace bowler.

Astle signs for

New Zealand batsman Nathan

Astle will play county cricket for

Derbyshire during the next English

season, the Second Division side

Tennis

first ever Davis Cup match, was a

surprise call-up on Thursday after

French skipper Guy Forget elected

not to risk Arnaud Clement, suffer-

ing from wrist tendinitis.

AFP, Paris

Derbyshire

AFP, London

Astle is not expected to make his Derbyshire debut until June as New Zealand's tour of Sri Lanka finishes on May 31.

He joins Australian batsman Michael Di Venuto as one of Derbyshire's two permitted overseas players. Derbyshire captain and England

all-rounder Dominic Cork said of Astle: "As a quality international. Nathan will strengthen our existing squad to some tune - the thought of he and Michael Di Venuto batting together will give a lot of opposition bowlers a real headache.

Roland Garros extension plan protested

AFP, Paris

Plans to extend the legendary Roland Garros temple of French tennis came under fire Friday from environmentalists, furious that the blueprint could shave off a large part of the Bois de Boulogne wood in the west of the city.

Green Party deputies in the Paris city council said they were wholly opposed to the plans which they fear amount to the "privatisation of the Bois de Boulogne"

On Thursday, at the draw for the Davis Cup final which France are hosting against Russia across town at the indoor Bercy stadium, Paris Mayor Bertand Delanoe said he backed a major extension which will include the construction of a new 12,000 capacity stadium with a sliding roof.

Rain regularly interrupts the French Open at the claycourt venue in late May-early June and the roof would enable some play to con-

The Greens said in a statement they are horrified by the potential "amputation of 6.5 hectares of the Bois de Boulogne and vet the city hall has committed itself to adding 30 hectares of green areas to Paris by Match 2007.

Heike Latzsch demolished the Scotland's defence radged, weavinfield to Julia Boie to deflect into

Five more goals followed, including, four in seven minutes, to Miek van Geenhuizen, Fatima Moreira de Melo, Macha van der Vaart (playing

her 100th game for Netherlands) Aniek van Hees, and Ageeth

Boomgaardt. Netherlands will take heart from the form of their strikers and because Australia only managed a 2-1 win over Ireland.

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan's Squash Federation on Thursday slammed as "disrespectful" Belgium's refusal to issue visas to five of its squash players and an official who were to attend next week's World Open squash tournament there "It's disrespectful to Pakistan's In earlier Pool B matches, Spain contribution to the game of squash trounced the USA 4-1 thanks to a and we are dejected," Pakistan Squash Federation secretary, Wing After a scoreless first half. Spain Commander Sajid Waheed, told took the lead on 40 minutes through AFP. penalty corner by Erdoitza



"I'm going to be fitter and stron- defended underfire captain Nasser

Hussair

the side but he did not play in the trial games and would have to prove himself to get into the World Cup side." Bari said "Our openers Saleem Elahi and

Taufig Umer are giving good starts

Gough looks to SA series

The specialist bowlers had been going at me at 95mph -- and then someone comes on sending them down at 60mph, and you think: 'I will smash a few out of the park here'.

"That's where I slipped up. That's where Steve Waugh is fairly clever. I was a bit gutted. "Tres (Trescothick) turned round

to me in the rooms and said: 'Gillespie, McGrath, Lee, Warne -and then you get out to Martyn'."

Lee picked up his third victim when he snapped up the out-of-form Craig White (two), who edged to Martyn at third slip.

McGrath accounted for Vaughan and veteran Alec Stewart (seven), while Gillespie picked up Silverwood (10) and Harmison (six).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on opening day of the third Ashes Test between Australia and England at the WACA Ground on Friday: **ENGLAND:** First innings Trescothick c Gilchrist b Lee 34 Vaughan c Gilchrist b McGrath 34 Butcher run out Hussain c Gilchrist b Lee Kev b Martvn

Stewart c Gilchrist b McGrath White c Martyn b Lee Tudor c Martyn b Warne Dawson not out Silverwood c Hayden b Gillespie 10

Harmison b Gillespie Extras: (lb-2, nb-7) Total: (All out in 64.2 overs) 185 Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-69, 3-83, 4-101, 5-111, 6-121, 7-135, 8-156, 9-173 Μ 0 R Bowler 17 McGrath 5 30 17.2 8 43 Gillespie

78 20 Lee 1 0 32 Warne 9 0 Martvn 1 AUSTRALIA: First innings Langer run out Hayden c Tudor b Harmison

Ponting not out Martvn not out Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-8)

Total: (For 2 wkts in 23 overs) 126 Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-85

To bat: Steve Waugh, Darren Lehmann. Adam Gilchrist. Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath Μ w Bowler 0 R Silverwood 0 29 0 4 0 51 Tudor 8 0 Harmison 8 2 26 1 White 3 1 14 0 Umpires: Steve Bucknor and Rudi

Koertzen

the claims.

England fast bowler Darren Gough is hoping to be fit for next year's series against South Africa after being told he does not need further

surgery on his injured knee. The 32-year-old, who has not played a test match for more than a vear, has been told by an American surgeon that he needs to rest the injury instead of undergoing another operation

"Once you've had an operation vou need to come back twice as strong as before and previously I've never given myself a chance to get fully fit," Gough told Sky Sports on Thursday.

"I perhans came back earlier than I should have because of all the pressure of having to get back on the field but I'm not going to do that this time round." There were fears that the injury

could end Gough's career after he underwent three failed operations, but the Yorkshire player dismissed

ger than before." he said Gough, who last played a test in

August 2001, has taken 228 wickets beaten in the first two tests and

pundits are predicting a 5-0 Australian whitewash after Hussain's side struggled badly in Brisbane and Adelaide

"I think Nasser is an excellent captain. He would do anything to get me back on the field," Gough said. "He's the best captain I've plaver

after failing to prove his fitness, also

England were comprehensively

under. There's no one in the team who is as good as Nasser and he won't quit because he's a great captain.

"We've got to take positive out of the first two matches and I believe the team are doing that

"We are mentally tough but its just they are more confident at the moment because they are winning. "They are playing better cricket safe for players.

then anyone's played before He has also played 111 one-day "I think Australia will be favourite internationals, including the the

to win the next one by a long shot but we might have a chance at the next one in Melbourne.

The third test starts on Friday in Perth.

Blind Pak diplomats

against each other since then

team is primed for a win.

international blind cricket, scoring it

in just 19 balls against South Africa

but otherwise the players have

borrowed money to make ends

in 56 tests.

and Sri Lanka.

defeated.

Razzad.

in the last cup.

taking five wickets.

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

0

19

19

30

43

20

14

Pakistan's national blind cricket

team is heading to India on w Saturday where they will vie for a World Cup title and make the first step towards repairing severed 3 cricket ties with their nuclear neighbours.

The 16-member side is heading to Madras, where the second World Cup for the Blind, a six-nation tournament of one-day matches, is scheduled from December 3 to 14. "We are eyeing the World Cup title and with our positive attitude hope to play our part in the revival of

cricket between Pakistan and India." Agha Shaukat Ali, chairman of Pakistan's Blind Cricketers' Association, told AFP India cut cricketing links with

Pakistan more than two years ago over the disputed state of Kashmir, where New Delhi accuses Islamabad of sponsoring an Islamic insurgency. Both countries are due to play in the World Cup 2003 in South Africa, meet during the tour

the first International Cricket "We are going on the trip using Council event to pitch the arch-rivals loaned money because we never received a reply to our requests for The first World Cup in South funding from the president of Africa, 1998, saw Pakistan's blind Pakistan (Pervez Musharraf) or the team romp into the final to play Punjab (provincial) governor," he against the home side only to be said

The selection process for the This time around, led by aggresside was as riddled with controversy sive allrounder Abdur Razzaq, the as any national cricket team.

The country's most celebrated "We have prepared to the best blind batsman Masood Jan was left our abilities and hope that traditional out after being expelled from the rivals India and Pakistan meet in the team on charges of conduct code final at Chennai (Madras)," said violation earlier this year.

Jan hit a monumental 262 against South Africa during the Razzag holds the record for making the fastest half-century in previous World Cup.

"We had to take that strict action to prove no one is above the rules,' PBCA chairman Ali said

The all-rounder also shone last Blind cricket is played using a vear in the only blind international ball filled with beads, which is Test match ever played at this level. bowled underarm, and of the starting 11 players, four must be totally The Pakistan Cricket Board blind, three must have 20 to 25 (PCB) provided the national blind percent vision and four must have side with funding for their airfares, 45 to 60 percent vision.

resolved. "I'm confident Sachin will be here, the best players will come here." he said.

goal then driving in a penalty corner. Latzsch helped with the third goal, gaining a free hit outside the circle, allowing Fanny Rinne to drive a free hit into the circle for Nadine Ernsting-Krienke to deflect into

Germany coach Peter Lemmen was far from happy with his side's display however.

"We had a safe win in an unsafe One sticking point could still be game in which we played very Zimbabwe, where ICC head badly," a grumpy Lemmen said. "We Malcom Speed is currently leading a had difficulty executing easy techniteam to check that venues will be cal skills like stopping the ball," he said. Although the ICC insists it is not

In other matches Friday, Ireland ran out of luck when they were thumped 6-0 by the Netherlands.

decision to refuse entry to two British Miintie Donners started the rout on 13 minutes, taking a tap to the left from the battery and driving in along the carpet past Angela Platt, Zimbabwe's right to refuse entry to Ireland's goalkeeper.

> CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

caliber

gizmo

client.

13 Chant

14 Elk

15 Clark

16 Prior

Kent's

paper

nights 17 Arizona

city

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curve

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29 Notion

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12 J.P.'s

40 Refinery 5 Least 25 "Barney 1 Of Mensa Miller residue corpulent 42 Football 6 Tries the cast 6 Gas thief's filler membe tea 44 Canyon 7 "Family 26 Legal right sound Feud' to use 46 Met teammate another's melody maybe property 50 Less 8 Sch. org. 28 Strongly civilized 9 Melon regretted 30 Historic 52 Gypsy variety 54 Mrs. Priar 10 Individuals period 55 Winter 11 Trawler 31 Pompous weasel equip 56 Honor ment 33 "I" strain 57 Starts a 12 Ram's 34 Tikkanen card game ma'am of hockey 18 "Non-39 Bathy DOWN sensel sphere 20 Informally 21 Stick 1 Czech or pionee Pole William figure? 2 Look blue 23 Sartorial 41 Greek 24 Columbus 3 Unoriginal woe letter 4 On a pen- 24 In need of 42 Rue the 27 Stewart's sion (Abbr.) repair run Solution time: 27 mins. 43 Incenses Wonderful 45 Pull Life" wife an allniahter 32 "It's mine 47 Bar attach 35 Magician ment 48 B & Bs 36 Reveille's 49 Nav cancele 51 Payable 53 Tramcar contents

He said that after "shabby" treatment over the past month embassy staff on Wednesday told the team they would not be cleared for travel to Belgium, where the 160,000-dollar World Open begins in Antwerp next Wednesday.

"We are disappointed over our treatment and refusal of visas, which have almost killed our chances of representing the country at the World Open," he said, adding that they would appeal the decision following embassy procedures on Friday

"We have conveved our disappointment to the World Squash Federation (WSF) and Players Squash Association (PSA)," he said.

The Belgian embassy was and it made the team more powerful because we applied the pressure unable to provide an immediate from the midfield rather than in the comment

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
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14			+	\mathbf{T}			15		+		+	\top
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35			-		36	1				37	1	1
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50			51				52	53				\uparrow
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56		-	+		-		57		1		+	

CRYPTOQUIP

RZ MHY	QSPT	кркѕт					
NOHIFRVJ	HV P	QRVEM					
ЕРМ, МНҮ	ОЕ МН	Y JSI					
PTTSAISE ZHT TYAIORVJ? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A DAM HAS BEEN VERY WELL-CONSTRUCTED, I IMAGINE YOU'VE GOT A SOUND BARRIER. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T							

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



DARREN GOUGH

2002 triangular series against India

with England for the five-test Ashes

series but was ruled out of the tour

Gough, who flew out to Australia