

## Melbourne to host Davis Cup semifinal

REUTERS, Melbourne

Melbourne will host the Davis Cup semi-final between Australia and Switzerland, Tennis Australia said on Wednesday.

The tie will be played from September 19-21 at Melbourne Park's Rod Laver Arena, the same centre court used at the Australian Open, on a Rebound Ace surface. The winners will play Argentina or Spain in the final.

The Australians, whose team includes Wimbledon champion Lleyton Hewitt and former U.S. Open finalist Mark Philippoussis, are strong favourites to win the tie.

Australia lost the 2000 Davis Cup final to France the last time they played at Melbourne Park, but non-playing captain John Fitzgerald says the players are looking forward to returning.

"All of the players love competing in Melbourne where they receive such great crowd support," Fitzgerald said.

## No French Open for Ivanisevic

AFP, Paris

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic has pulled out of the French Open here later this month because of a foot injury, the French tennis federation said.

The 2001 Wimbledon men's singles champion, who needed surgery after cutting his left heel on a shell on a Miami beach in March, played his first Roland Garros, the world's only clay-court grand slam event, in 1989.

He is a three-time quarter-finalist - in 1990, 1992 and 1994 - but will be absent for the third consecutive time at this year's championships from May 26 to June 8 to the south west of Paris.

He will be replaced in the draw by Switzerland's Davis Cup captain Marc Rosset.

## National cricket

FROM PAGE 13

Jhenidah, Meherpur, Kushtia, Magura, Jessore and Satkhira.

Sylhet Division

Venue: Sylhet

Teams: Sylhet, Habiganj and Moulvibazar.

Chittagong Division

Venue: Comilla

Teams: Chittagong, Rangamati, Chandpur, Khagrachari and Feni.

Venue: Chandpur

Teams: Comilla, Lakshmipur, Noakhali and B Baria.

Barisal Division

Venue: Patuakhali

Teams: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna and Pirozpur.

Dhaka Division

Venue: Faridpur

Teams: Mymensingh, Manikganj, Rajbari, Gazipur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Narayanganj and Shariatpur.

Venue: Mymensingh

Teams:

Dhaka, Sherpur, Narshingdi, Netrokona, Faridpur, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Tangail.

Services

Venue: Dhaka

Teams: Rajshahi University, Bangladesh Railway, Bangladesh Police, Jahangirnagar University and BUET.

## Media mauls

FROM PAGE 13

Sydney's Daily Telegraph columnist Mike Gibson criticised match referee Mike Proctor for not taking stronger action against McGrath when he began waving his finger at umpire David Shepherd.

Under the headline "Aussies are out of control", Gibson wrote: "Instead of making McGrath aware that his behaviour was unacceptable and would not be tolerated, he allowed the umpire to be humiliated by a player who had lost control.

"The lily-livered reaction of those in charge has made a laughing stock of the game."

# Sarwan, McGrath befriend



AFP, Sydney

Australian paceman Glenn McGrath and West Indies vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan have apologised to each other over their ugly confrontation in the fourth cricket Test in Antigua.

Sarwan said on Wednesday he and McGrath had cleared the air over the mid-pitch altercation on Monday which had concerned the Australian Cricket Board enough to issue a statement.

Sarwan, whose century helped steer the West Indies to a record-breaking three-wicket win in the 'dead' final match of the four-Test series on Tuesday, would not reveal what was said between the two players in the clash which caused McGrath to fly into such a finger-pointing rage that umpire David Shepherd had to step in.

But Sarwan was confident they remained on friendly terms.

"Actually both of us have apologised to each other and it's good to know that both of us did that in the good context of the game and what took place in the series and this game," Sarwan told an Australian radio station on Wednesday.

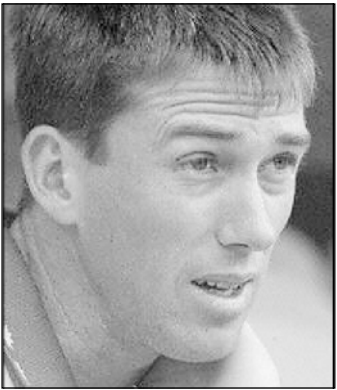
"It's good to know that we have apologised to each other and appreciate each other's friend-

ship."

Asked about the Australian team's reputation as a world leader in sledging, Sarwan said the West Indies team had no grievance with Steve Waugh's team.

"I'm not sure about that, who's the leader of that (sledging), but obviously players have things to say on the field and it's up to the individual or a team if you want to take it personal but, really and truly, we don't have a problem with each other.

"You just need to accept certain things that people say on the field and if you put it in the past, that's fine, but if you take it personal well, then I think you might find yourself in a bit of trouble."



GLENN McGRATH



RAMNARESH SARWAN

# Australia back atop Hewitt advances



AFP, St. John's

Australia's 3-1 series victory against the West Indies restored Steve Waugh's team to the top of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test Championship table.

Australia's series win in the Caribbean took its points tally to 21 from 13 series, taking its average up to 1.62 points which is just 0.01 points higher than the average of previous leader South Africa.

Arrangements are being made for the ICC Test Championship mace to be transferred from South Africa to Australia.

ICC president Malcolm Gray,

himself an Australian, is due to present the trophy to the Australian Cricket Board later this month.

Australia will be the last side to head the ICC Test Championship under the present system as a new method of calculation will be introduced from June 1.

The new system, agreed by the ICC board at its Johannesburg meeting during the World Cup in South Africa on March 22, rewards teams for their performances in every Test match played as opposed to looking solely at series results.

An announcement regarding the new standings and the precise method of calculation will be made towards the end of May, the ICC said Tuesday.



AFP, Hamburg

Australia's top seed Lleyton Hewitt moved into the second round of the 2.45-million-euro Hamburg ATP event here on Tuesday but it was no easy matter against a wildcard opponent.

The reigning Wimbledon champion beat Germany's Markus Hantschk 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in two hours and 23 minutes and looked decidedly rusty having been away from competitive tennis for nearly a month.

Hewitt won the match on his fourth match point and now meets Frenchman Arnaud Clement.

Switzerland's Roger Federer, last week's finalist in Rome, easily beat Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-3, 6-3 in his first round match.

The 21-year-old, beaten by

## Hooper filling

FROM PAGE 13

finished on Tuesday in a 3-1 series win for the tourists, after being sacked as captain in favour of Brian Lara.

One of the most gifted strokeplayers of his generation, Hooper's Test record of 3,762 runs in 102 matches at 36.46 including 13 hundreds does not do full justice to his ability.

However his under-rated off-spin has seen him take 114 Test wickets.

## Kenyans want

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on their way to becoming the first non-Test nation to reach the World Cup Super Six and semi-finals, earned 530,000 dollars prize money.

When the World Cup ended in South Africa seven weeks ago, the amount was equivalent to 40.6 million shillings but with the gains the Kenyan currency is making against the US dollar, the amount is now 35.9 million shillings.

"We already pay taxes on our earnings from KCA and I think we did a good job for the nation which the government should appreciate and give us a tax waiver," Tikolo said.

## Szabo dragged into drugs controversy

AFP, Paris

Olympic and world middle-distance running champion Gabriela Szabo has been dragged into a possible drugs scandal, according to the l'Equipe sports daily.

French customs confirmed the paper's report that they had seized drugs in a car belonging to he Romanian, 1,500m world and 5,000m Olympic champion, and were checking whether they were banned performance-enhancers.

Szabo, 27, was not in the car when it was stopped by the customs near the Italian border.

She was making her own way from her South African winter training base to the altitude resort of Font Romeu in the French Pyrenees.

Among the drugs seized were progesteron, used for hormonal replacement therapy, and Actovegin, a food supplement made from veal's blood.

The International Olympic Committee's medical commission president Patrick Schamasch told l'Equipe that Actovegin was no longer considered as an endurance-enhancer although it was still officially on the prohibited list.



PHOTO: INTERNET

American Serena Williams in action against Klara Koukalova of the Czech Republic at the Rome Masters Series on Tuesday.

# Serena moves on



AFP, Rome

World number one and defending champion Serena Williams clinched a place in the third round of the Rome Masters here on Tuesday after beating Czech Klara Koukalova 6-4, 6-3 at the Foro Italico.

Given a first round bye, Williams performed way below her best but still had too much for her fellow 21 year-old, ranked 72nd in the world.

Williams, holder of all four of the Grand Slam titles - Australian, French, Wimbledon and US - will now meet France's Natalie Dechy, who defeated South African 14th seed Amanda Coetzer in three sets.

The third second round match of the day saw Emilie Loit beat sixth seed American Chanda Rubin 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

Loit will meet the winner of Wednesday's match between fifth seed Jennifer Capriati and Colombian Fabiola Zuluaga.

Looking distinctly out of sorts, Williams started poorly and allowed Koukalova to break her in the seventh game of the opening set to go 4-3 up.

But Williams responded well with her massive serve digging her

out of trouble, breaking Koukalova twice to edge the first set.

Williams improved in the second set as the Czech ran out of steam to complete a sluggish victory in 65 minutes.

"I started slowly and she played very well," Serena admitted. "I hope I play better than that on Thursday."

Serena said she was very happy to be back in Italy after receiving such a warm reception when she beat compatriot Jennifer Capriati.

"I love it here, I love the people and the weather is always fantastic during the tournament," she added. "I hope I can go far this year too."

American Monica Seles advanced to the second round after defeating feisty Swiss 17-year-old Myriam Casanova.

Winner of four Grand Slams, 29-year-old Seles rallied after losing the first set and eventually triumphed 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

A champion here in 1990 and 2000 and a former world number one, Seles will now face Russian Nadia Petrova in the second round.

"It's a great feeling to be back here and see my fans," said Seles, who was just 19 when she was stabbed in the back in Hamburg by a fanatical fan of her then-rival Steffi Graf.

"Myriam is a young, up-and-

coming player and she hits the ball so hard, it was a really hard fought match."

Broken in the opening game, Seles had quick chances to even the scores but she spurned two break points in an error-strewn fourth game.

Growing in confidence, Casanova's two-handed backhand proved her most effective weapon as she went on to take the first set 6-4 in 36 minutes.

With Seles' first serve percentage remaining above 70 per cent in the second, Seles stormed back to draw level, as Casanova wilted in the blazing afternoon sun.

Casanova broke in the fourth game of the decider to go 3-1 up in the third, and although her vicious serve gave her experienced opponent problems, a string of unforced errors undid all her good work and allowed the American to advance.

In the day's other first round matches, Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva hit 40 winners on her way to a 6-4, 6-4 first round victory over local favourite Silvia Farina Elia, while Greek Eleni Danilidou, winner of one ATP Tour title, edged American Samantha Reeves 6-2, 6-4.

Left-handed Spaniard and keen golfer Magui Serna booked her second round ticket by ousting Russian Elena Likhovtseva 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Tempestuous	56 "Consarn it all!"	20 Bible peddler
1 United nations	37 — out a living	22 Hellenic	24 "Swoll!"
5 Wall Street	38 Spanish preposition	1 Exorted money from	25 Dance shoe
9 Ralther's employer	39 Mad king of literature	2 Ohio city	3 Attach-ment
12 Wheeles of fortune?	42 — dogree	3 Leave	26 Sub-machine gun
13 Take a gander (at)	43 Sushl-bar lion	4 "Night and Day" composer	27 Beer cank
15 Old-time actor	48 "— had it!"	5 Public squares	29 Timetable abbr.
16 Twisted	49 Amos or Spelling	6 Waterloo is there	30 "Home Improvement" name
17 "7 Faces of Dr. —"	50 Verve	8 Firmament	31 Nevada town
18 Appointment	51 Mal de —	9 Honeycomb chamber	35 Fame
19 Use a ray gun	52 Author Wister	10 Boyfriend	36 Famous riddler
20 Cave-man's weapon	54 Expert	11 Unkempt one	39 Favor one leg
21 Woods' org.	55 Pure black		40 Incas-santly
23 Lennon's lady		Solution time: 28 mins.	41 Houston hockey player
25 One-on-one coaches			43 Deuce topper
28 Tell			45 Radius' neighbor
32 Blue hue			46 Worm, maybe
33 Tax month			47 Aardvark fodder
34 "The Birthday Party" playwright			49 Excessively

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## CRYPTOQUIP

T C C I O T B N A J N W B F C I S M O  
J C T E S T O G E C M S Y  
V H B Y L O L O G N H B O Y K O W T O

B K S M U A O - V S M F O F

Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'M TAKING MY KITTY TO THE LOCAL VET. SHE'S GOING TO HAVE HER YEARLY CAT SCAN.

Today's Cryptquip clue: T equals R

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.

# Cricketers' lonely wives

INTERNET, London

Cricket and family life have never been easy bedfellows. A relationship which was at odds long before women were given the vote appears to have reached a crisis of late.

Within the game, there has been a spate of well-publicised marital break-ups; outside it, the world is adapting to new rules of engagement between the sexes. The leading players are finding that cricket is making greater demands on them than ever before and so are their wives.

Even though a successful Test career is now shorter than it used to be, at six to ten years, wives and girlfriends are no longer tolerating their lot as cricket widows and virtual single parents.

The problems appear both generational and cultural, with majority of divorces occurring in England, though a quick check reveals that nowhere is immune.

India, to pick a country with different social mores, has its marital casualties: before he was ever accused of match-fixing, Mohammed Azharuddin caused a

scandal by walking out of arranged marriage and settling down with a Bollywood actress.

Javagal Srinath's marriage broke up and Saurav Ganguly's touched breaking point when he was photographed at a temple with another film star. Other cricketers caught in full glare of Indian celebrity have been tempted, though many feel it is a honey-trap used by underworld figures hoping to blackmail players into fixing matches.

The absenteeism is felt far more in England, where little more than a few weeks separate hectic six-month home season and the moment wives wave their husbands off on tour in October.

Once a relationship becomes strained, cricket rarely seems able to offer a compromise. Recently, Darren Gough, Graham Thorpe, Mark Butcher and Dominic Cork have all seen their marriages break up while on England duty.

Others are doing the sums, and players who spent last winter with both Test and one-day sides in Australia and World Cup in South Africa did not see their beds for 140 nights. Missing kids growing up is a regret many cricketers cite as

downside of their job, but it is one that most do little about.

These days, there are still limits, but are less strict. Providing a player is abroad for more than 60 days, England and Wales Cricket Board allow 30 days' family provision for players who are in both Test and one-day sides and 16 for those in one or the other.

Some, like Imran Khan, David Gower and Mike Atherton, wait until their careers are all but over before starting a family, but they are unusual. Darren Gough, who moved out of family home last year, said he felt playing cricket for England was becoming a single man's game.

Given that international programme has doubled in last decade, he may be right, but it would be sad if the game's player-power were further compromised. The hike in matches has come at the behest of TV, which bankrolls modern game.

Until that is addressed, something ICC has yet to do despite pleas of senior Test captains like Nasser Hussain and Steve Waugh, cricket's biggest battle will be on home front.