

# Capriati prepares to spoil party

 **Tennis**  
**REUTERS, Berlin**

Little suggests Jennifer Capriati should be listed among the favourites for next week's French Open but the resilient American has a record for fighting against the

## Ban on Shoaib

**FROM PAGE 13**  
"Shoaib is his own worst enemy and this is his last chance to revive his career," said Zia.

Akhtar responded to criticism in style as he bowled with fire in all the four matches here, grabbing seven wickets.

Pakistani manager Haroon Rashid said his team would feel Akhtar's absence in the final, but would definitely try to put in an impressive performance.

"Disappointment is natural," Rashid said after the verdict.

"As far as the final is concerned, we've come here with 15 players and will enter the field with a positive frame of mind. It was a fair hearing and we accept the match-referee's decision."

# One and only Ronaldo

**FROM PAGE 13**  
Williams who presented her with the Laureus Statuette.

Speed climber Dean Potter won the Laureus World Alternative Sportsperson of the year award.

There was also an American flavour to a fourth award as Chinese basketball star Yao Ming was voted Laureus World Newcomer of the Year for his outstanding performance in his first season with Houston Rockets.

Australia's Michael Milton, who lost a leg as a child because of bone cancer, was named Laureus World Alternative Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability.

There were two special awards. Hollywood film legend Arnold Schwarzenegger won the Laureus

Sport for Good Award for his work for the Inner City Games. And Laureus World Sports Academy member Gary Player received the Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his magnificent golfing career.

Ronaldo's award came after the disappointment of the 1998 World Cup final defeat against France in Paris and a series of long-term career-threatening injuries. He scored the two goals for Brazil which won the World Cup final in Yokohama last summer against Germany.

He said: "I always thought I would make it back. I never thought to leave it. I love this game. I was working the whole day because this is my game, my passion and every day I was thinking to come back, come back, come back. That's why all the time I was thinking. Now I'm back."

"When we qualified for the

odds.

While the Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, and the Belgian pair of Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne have kept up a constant pace, the former world number one has struggled this year.

The defence of her Australian Open title in January ended with her first match and she took time off later that month to have eye surgery to remove sunspots.

But when the clay-court season came around the American proved she could still do damage, reaching the semifinals of the German Open -- her first tournament of the year on the slow surface.

It took a spirited performance from Clijsters to stop her making the final and the 27-year-old Capriati again lived up to her reputation as a ferocious competitor, surviving four match points before bowing out.

"I'm going to take a positive note from this," she said after an exciting re-match of the 2001 French Open final in which she beat Clijsters 1-6, 6-4, 12-10 after the longest third set in a women's final in the history of the event.

"Kim played great but I definitely could have won."

Capriati has fond memories of the German Open, where she

reached the semi-finals as a bubbly 15-year-old in 1991.

Her promising career was later derailed when she lost interest in the sport and dabbled in drugs.

She was staging a remarkable comeback which eventually took her to the number one spot when she reached the Berlin final in 2001 -- a few weeks before winning the French Open.

Now she has dropped out of the world top five, to seventh, but her pedigree suggests she should not be ruled out for the showcase Paris tournament.

"I'm a fighter," Capriati said in Berlin. "Others give up but I don't. I just dig deeper."

## 'I will not return'

**FROM PAGE 13**  
on its last tour of India in 1999, urged both sides, victims of the 17-month stand-off between the rival neighbours, to shun the politics and restore full sporting ties.

"For the sake of billions of fans in both countries we should revive cricketing ties," he said.

Wasim is set to play for English county club Hampshire until September.

## Magura cricket

**OUR CORRESPONDENT**

Faruk Smriti Sangsad recorded a 76-run victory over Udayan Sporting Club in the last match of the second round in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

Faruk Smriti won the toss and were all out for 170 in 35.3 overs. Udayan managed only 94 runs in 24.3 overs.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**FARUK SMRITI SANGSAD:** 170 all out in 35.3 overs (Haradhan 26, Sabuj 18, Mohid 11; Sumon 5/10, Tapu 2/33, Masud 1/13).

**UDAYAN SPORTING CLUB:** 94 all out in 24.3 overs (Babul 16, Imran 9, Sajal 5; Rony 3/20, Tuhin 3/31, Mezbah 2/18).

**Result : Faruk Smriti Sangsad won by 76 runs.**

**Man-of-the-match: Sumon of Udayan Sporting Club.**

## Take Zim

**FROM PAGE 13**  
Hussain said: "We played some exceptional Test cricket, except against Australia and some of the series have only been three or two matches long.

"We're not the side we used to be. The side has changed incredibly in the last year or so, so we've got to kick on again."

Hussain, who was in charge when England boycotted their World Cup match in Zimbabwe appeared unconcerned by the prospect of demonstrations by protesters opposed to Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe.

"People have a right to protest," Hussain insisted.



Picture showing Eiffel Tower by night. Paris has officially confirmed its bid to host the Summer Olympic Games in 2012.

# Fine-tuned Federer

 **Tennis**  
**REUTERS, London**

With the tag 'the new Pete Sampras' hanging round his neck, Roger Federer might be expected to begin his collection of Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon.

Ever since finishing 1998 as number one junior in the world, the exciting young Swiss has attracted comparisons with the American winner of a record 14 grand slam crowns.

But while the verdant lawns of the All England Club suit the stylish Swiss well -- he ended seven-time champion Sampras' 31-match winning streak there in 2001 -- Federer is primed to vault his versatility on a very different stage.

A red-hot start to the year has vaulted Federer into a French Open seeding of fifth and a place as one of the favourites for the second grand slam of the season, which starts on Monday.

Victory on the clay of Munich in April was his third title of the year but his first on clay, following wins in Marseille and Dubai.

Importantly though, it boosted his sometimes fragile confidence on a surface better suited to more patient players.

"Clay is not my favourite surface and I'm surprised to be playing so

well after just a few weeks of training," Federer said after winning the 355,000 dollars event without losing a set.

"I never expected this, it's amazing," he said. "If you don't lose a set it's a pretty good tournament. I've won three titles this year already and it's only halfway through the season.

"To play so well on clay gives me confidence for this season. I know I can win tournaments on clay and that winning Hamburg (in 2002) wasn't a coincidence."

That victory in Hamburg last year at the Masters Series event prompted tipsters to rate the youngster a good outside bet for the French title 12 months ago.

He had just thrashed the mighty Marat Safin 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 in his first Masters Series final at the Rothenbaum club and looked in great form.

Eight days later though, he was on his way home from the French capital, the victim of a surprisingly inspired performance by Morocco's Hicham Arazi and the heavy going on a rain-sodden court.

This year, however, his progress has been more measured than meteoric. A week after bagging the Munich title he marched into the final of the Rome Masters with victories over clay-court specialists Tommy Robredo and Juan Carlos Ferrero only to lose in the final to

another Spaniard, Felix Mantilla.

"Never again," muttered the Swiss after allowing Mantilla to win 14 out of 17 break points to clinch the match.

Switzerland will hope he has learnt a harsh lesson that could prove decisive in Paris.

Certainly in Davis Cup action Federer has proved himself a most resilient character -- unbeaten this year as the Swiss look forward to a semifinal against Australia in September.

The Australian captain John Fitzgerald is certainly a fan. "Federer...I would say he's the best player that we will have come up against in my three years," he said. "He's either ranked three or four at the moment but I think he's much better than that."

"He's a great player and I think he's a player who, when he wins his first major, he'll win three or four, maybe five.

"And he has a game which can win on every surface, which is unusual. There are not many guys around that you could say could win at any major -- any of the four -- but he's one of them."

Federer's easy action and ability to hit virtually any shot on every surface make him an outstanding talent.

He now must prove he has the grit to win a Grand Slam event.

# Lord's Test for novices

**FROM PAGE 13**  
team and still England beat them by an innings and 209 runs in the first Test at Lord's.

All have since quit the international stage with Flower and pace-man Henry Olonga the latest departures following their black arm band protest against Zimbabwe president Robert Mugabe at the World Cup.

Of those that remain only Grant Flower has a Test hundred to his name while captain and fast bowler Heath Streak is the only player in the party to have taken more than 50 wickets at this level.

They at least have some experience of the seam-bowling friendly conditions prevalent at Lord's in May which are likely to be unfamiliar to most of their team-mates.

However Zimbabwe's on-field

worries could yet be eclipsed by anti-Mugabe protesters. One group warned they would not be held responsible for "any chaos and mayhem" that ensued after their request for a spot to conduct their protest inside the ground was turned down on Tuesday.

Zimbabwe's off-spinning all-rounder Douglas Marillier has more reason than most to hope the game passes off uninterrupted.

Back in 1994 Marillier, then 16, was involved in a car crash that left him with two broken legs and fears that he might never walk again let alone play cricket.

"We've had a lot of comments coming at us about how a strong a side we are," Marillier said Tuesday. "But if I drop 20 catches, make two golden ducks and get nought for 150, as long as I play at

Lord's it doesn't really bother me."

The second Test in Durham is due to start on June 5.

### SQUADS

**ENGLAND (from):** Nasser Hussain (captain), James Anderson, Mark Butcher, Ashley Giles, Stephen Harmison, Matthew Hoggard, Robert Key, James Kirtley, Anthony McGrath, Alec Stewart, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan.

**ZIMBABWE:** Mark Vermeulen, Dion Ebrahim, Stuart Carlisle, Grant Flower, Tatenda Taibu, Sean Ervine, Heath Streak (captain), Andy Blignaut, Travis Friend, Raymond Price, Douglas Hondo.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "— milk?"

4 Belfry denizens

8 Fill to the max

12 King lead-in

13 Greatly

14 Enswathe

15 Put the kibosh on

16 "SNL" alumna

17 Impolite look

18 Belling it all

21 Last (Abbr.)

22 Flop

23 Report-card datum

26 Visibility hindrance

27 Moon-shiner's item

30 Pinnacle

31 Jerry's pursuer

32 Aesopian also-ran

33 Festive

34 Plague

DOWN

1 Bunch of cronies

2 Hedge-podge

3 Hirsch sitcom

4 Trinket

5 Up in the air

6 Corrida contender

7 "American Idol" goal

8 Duel tool

9 Jason's ship

10 Daytime TV format

11 Type of reaction

19 Artist's model

53 Chartres churn

20 Wiretap

23 Choke

24 Nipper's boss

25 Former first daughter

26 Crafty one

27 — alai

28 Coffee shop

29 "Holy cow!"

31 Whirlwind

32 Try a case

34 Sales pitch?

35 Tics

36 Cul corners

37 Reelin'-guished

38 Military hoose-gow

39 — -lat-tat

40 Change for a five

41 Scurried along

42 The O'Hara estate

43 Physical

44 Actress Moore

Solution time: 23 mins.

ARM	TAP	BEAKS
UET	HRE	TWOJA
GOLD	AMPERSAND	
HAG	WOULD	
AXES	RPM	SOLO
AMINO	SHADOW	UNDUPE
WINDOW	END	
ADAM	HEIN	SIZ
CASS	TENTH	SIR
ANION	OR	UPS
PINTS	WED	EYE

CRYPTOQUIP

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
18			19				20				
			21			22					
23	24	25		26				27	28	29	
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33				34			35				
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38	39	40				41			42	43	44
45				46					47		
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

CITWMH KHTDEU TFH  
MEEQ KYTWM. KYIUI HUI  
QIJTWTKIDZ H DEK EJ  
JUTWMI CIWIJTKF  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ARRANGED ALL THE DOLLS IN QUITE A LONG LINE, SO I GUESS I HAD A BARBIE QUEUE.  
Today's Cryptoquip clue: W equals N  
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.

# Paris bids for 2012 Games

**REUTERS, Paris**

Paris has officially confirmed its bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympics, 22 months after losing out on the 2008 Games to Beijing.

New York, Madrid, Havana, Leipzig and London have entered the 2012 race. Moscow should officially join them on Friday and a Brazilian bid is also expected from Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo.

"We are claiming the honour of staging the 2012 Olympic Games," the Mayor of the French capital, Bertrand Delanoë, told a media conference on Wednesday.

"We are here to win," Delanoë added, surrounded by many top French athletes, including the Sports Minister and former fencing champion Jean-Francois Lamour and Olympic champions Jean Galfione, Colette Besson, David Douillet and Marie-Claire Restoux.

"I am proud to carry this bid, with you," said Lamour.

Galfione, pole vault gold medalist at Atlanta in 1996, said: "It is a child's dream to go to the Games. I hope an enormous amount of French people will be given the opportunity to live this emotion."

Other high profile French athletes sent messages of support, including triple Olympic champion Marie-Jose Perec.

"My heart and soul are with

you," she said.

Real Madrid midfielder Zinedine Zidane, a central figure in the France team that won soccer's World Cup as hosts in 1998, was confident the bid would succeed.

"Because victory is based on time and experience, I am sure that Paris's bid, which we supported in Moscow for the 2008 Games, will make the difference this time," he said in his message.

Cities have until July 15 to declare their bids. The winner will be announced by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in July 2005.

Philippe Baudillon will be in charge of the bid committee, as he was for the 1992 Games, when Barcelona was preferred to Paris.

Delanoë insisted the French bid would be dedicated to "sport, the athletes, the audience and mostly to sporting values".

"We want the Games to be a symbol of the civilisation, at the service of peace and at the service of life," he said.

"To sum up the spirit of the bid, I would say it would be 'profession-alism and simplicity'."

"We needed this challenge to keep our place on the international stage," said Henri Srandour, president of the French Olympic Committee.

# Sorenstam to make golf history

 **Golf**  
**REUTERS, London**

Annika Sorenstam will find out just what it is like to be Tiger Woods on Thursday when sport's latest edition of the "battle of the sexes" gets underway in Fort Worth, Texas.

As the world's leading female golfer the Swede is used to being in the spotlight.

The woman that won 13 tournaments worldwide last year can expect the same level of media frenzy reserved for the game's most high-profile player, Woods, when she tees off at the Colonial Country Club.

Sorenstam will become the first woman in 58 years to play in a PGA event, and her participation has transcended more than just the sport of golf.

While the 32-year-old says her decision to accept the invitation has nothing to do with striking a blow for feminism, it has once again opened the debate of women competing against men on a level playing field, or fairway in this instance.

Figures from both inside and outside the game have held court on an issue that is already guaranteed to generate more interest than the actual tournament itself.

The views range from the openly hostile -- twice major champion Vijay Singh said Sorenstam had no place in the men's tour event while Nick Price branded her presence as "reeking of publicity".

Sorenstam has found an ally in Woods though while her LPGA peers, including Britain's Laura Davies and South Korea's Pak Se Ri, have offered unstinting support.

Sorenstam, herself, has repeatedly said she does not want to become involved in a "battle of the sexes".

The last high-profile sports-women to take on the challenge ended with egg on their faces, Venus and Serena Williams being famously and unceremoniously beaten by German doubles player

Karsten Braasch during the 1998 Australian Open.

The match took place after the Americans, who had yet to win a grand slam title between them at the time, had boasted they could beat a top 200-ranked male player.

Braasch, ranked 203 and aged 30 at the time, immediately took the sisters up on their offer.

A heavy smoker in the twilight of his career, Braasch hardly broke sweat as he destroyed Serena 6-1, before ripping apart Venus 6-2



ANNIKA SORENSTAM

immediately afterwards.

Sorenstam, very wisely, has made no such boasts.

"I'm curious to see how good my game is," she said.

"Now I'm here...I personally feel like I've got nothing to lose. Nobody expects anything from me. I expect to play well."

"I believe under normal conditions on this course I can shoot level par and wherever that would place me, I have no idea."

Such is the attention generated in her Tour debut that more than 600 members of the media packed a news conference on Tuesday after the Swede had hit just three shots before heavy rain curtailed her practice round.

"I'm doing this to test myself, and I didn't think everybody else wanted to test me at the same time," she said of the hype surrounding her.