

Arazi bites the dust

AFP, Amersfoort
Morocco's Hicham Arazi surrendered a first set advantage and crashed out of the 380,000-euro ATP tournament at the hands of Chile's Nicolas Massu here on Monday.

Arazi was beaten 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) by the seventh-seed. Ninth-seed Franco Squillari of Argentina also advanced to the second round by defeating Zeljko Krajan 6-3, 1-0 when the Croatian had to retire with a right shoulder injury.

In the next round Squillari faces Dutch wild card Dennis van Scheppingen who ousted Irakli Labadze 7-6 (7/3), 1-0 after the Georgian also fell victim to injury, retiring with a wrist injury.

Tim to take part in Yokohama meet

AFP, Tokyo
World 100-metre record holder Tim Montgomery will spearhead the field at the Yokohama athletics meet in September, the Japan Association of Athletics Federation (JAAF) said Tuesday.

Montgomery, who set the record of 9.78sec in Paris last September, has agreed to take part along with other US national champions, including Sydney Olympic gold medalist Allen Johnson.

Rana feels ruined

FROM PAGE 13
It would be virtually impossible for BHF to punish players in that funny way.

"Actually, there is nothing to do after the highest body's ruling. But we strongly feel that it will invite more trouble for them in the Premier League.

Meanwhile, the BHF has formed a three-member inquiry committee to find out how the designated umpire was changed the night before the final. Two international umpires -- Latifur Rahman and Aslam Belim -- were scheduled to conduct the Club Cup final. But it was Golam Kibria who eventually conducted the match with Aslam.

StanChart chess

FROM PAGE 13
In the ninth and last round games, Rahul Beat Hasib, Sagar beat Sandipan, Debanjan beat Shakim, Mimi beat Shirin, Liza beat Anu, Saif beat Sayed, Indronil beat Sumon. Sifat drew with Shiplu.

Later Governor of the Bangladesh Bank Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed distributed prizes as chief guest. David Fletcher, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank, was present as special guest.

Wanderers eat

FROM PAGE 13
Milon completed the rout four minutes from time.

Moulvibazar Wanderers, who made it to the Super Six stages in the last NFL, are an outside bet this year also. They have a number of efficient players hired from Dhaka and other districts.

TEAMS

MOULVIBAZAR WANDERERS: Md. Ali (Tutul), Gobinda Chandra, Tozaffaz Hossain Apu, Fakrul, Din Mohammad, Shamim (Rishi), Mithu, Milon, Jalal (Jony), Kabir and Saiful.

JAMALPUR JAGARANI: Ujjal, Selim, Chanchal, Nur Alam, Abu Taher (Payel), Shyamol (Jonyal), Moniruzzaman Babu, Pihu, Sohel (Tuku), Pintu and Nayan.

Referre: R Alam.

Man-of-the-Match: Jumratul Hossain Mithu (Moulvibazar Wanderers club).



PHOTO: STAR

A midfield action from yesterday's Dhaka Metropolis inter-school football competition match between Segunbagicha High School and Udoyan High School at the Dhaka University ground.

He's England's Gilchrist

Cricket

AFP, London

England cricket great Geoffrey Boycott has said Andrew Flintoff could be an even more effective one-day international player if he was promoted to open the innings from his current number five berth.

Boycott, in an article reviewing England's one-day home season for Tuesday's Daily Telegraph newspaper, wrote: "For me Andrew Flintoff has been a revelation and shown he is England's most valuable player.

"Personally, I feel we need to experiment to find his best batting position. He can do so much damage so quickly that I would like to see him tried as an opener.

"Adam Gilchrist of Australia moved from Test middle-order to one-day opener with amazing results.

"Like Gilchrist, Flintoff could soon put the bowling side on the defensive and wondering what the hell has hit them," former England opener said.

England, under new one-day captain Michael Vaughan, beat Pakistan 2-1 and, having lost their opening match against Zimbabwe, defeated South Africa by seven wickets in Saturday's triangular series final at Lord's.

These were early successes for a largely new-look side which England chiefs hope will form the nucleus of their 2007 World Cup team.

And Boycott added: "I think they played splendidly, fielded athletically and looked as if they were enjoying themselves."

Even more surprising than his generally wide-ranging endorsement of England's players was his praise for the selectors, whose decisions he has often criticised.



GEOFFREY BOYCOTT

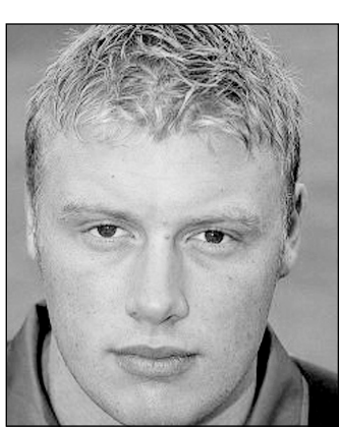
"Our selectors have done well and our team has done even better."

However Boycott fans worried that their 62-year-old hero, who has crafted an image of himself as the ultimate plain-speaking Yorkshireman, had gone 'soft', would have been reassured by his comments about England one-day opener Vikram Solanki.

"He gets out cheaply too often, playing extravagant shots that are not on," insisted Boycott, widely regarded as the best defensive batsman of his generation.

This was Boycott's first major article since he revealed last month that he was optimistic about winning his battle against throat cancer.

In March, Boycott produced arguably an even greater surprise than praising England's selectors when he married long-term partner Rachel Swinglehurst, the mother of his 14-year-old daughter Emma.



ANDREW FLINTOFF

Boycott, who had a reputation as a selfish batsman, played 108 times for England.

After he was sacked by Yorkshire in 1986, Boycott found renewed fame as a television commentator, becoming an especially popular figure in Asia.

In September he was first diagnosed with cancer, his illness curtailing his broadcasting work.

A Lankan overnight

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's new cricket coach John Dyson made his loyalty to the side clear when he set the players the challenge of taking on top-ranked Australia, his former team, on Monday.

Dyson said he hoped he could lift the team to "knock the Australians off their perch" as the best side in international cricket. He said he would be happy to see Sri Lanka beat Australia and believed it was possible given the "depth and skill" of local players.

"I would be very happy for Sri Lanka to beat Australia," Dyson told reporters when he arrived here on a brief visit before formally taking up his new job from September.

Australia are due to play a Test series in Sri Lanka next March.

Dyson, 49, said he welcomed his first stint at coaching at the top level of the sport, after a career as a player with the Australian Test side and coaching at the state level in New South Wales.

"The first team to really extend Australia would do world cricket a favour," the 49-year-old told a news conference.

"Australia are going to fight to maintain their position at the top. It's everybody else's challenge and job to knock them off their perch. That's the challenge that faces these guys."

Dyson declined to give financial details of his 18-month contract with the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka, but said he was "pleased and excited" with his new job.

He takes up his post on

September 1, following a tumultuous period for Sri Lankan cricket since former coach Dav Whatmore and physiotherapist Alex Kontouri were let go after the Sharjah Cup.

Dyson said Sri Lanka's biggest strength was "the aggressive style of cricket that they're perceived to play," but said the team needed to work on the consistency of its performance.

Sri Lanka's Test and one-day sides have had a mixed record over the past year.

The one-day side won a June series in the West Indies, redeeming itself after failing to qualify for the finals in a triangular series on home soil against New Zealand and Pakistan.

The Test side has seen a string of losses, most recently against the West Indies and New Zealand.

Dyson, who has a degree in physical education, said one of his first priorities would be to develop individualised training schedules for the players.

"I think it's important at this level that players do receive individual attention on most aspects of their game," he said.

The former right-hand batsman will face his first challenge when England tour the island in November.

Langer pays

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magnificent ahead of the venue's Test debut.

"The wicket looks nice and flat," he said. "I've played at a lot worse Test stadiums. It's going to be a great place to play."

"It reminds me a fair bit of Allan Border Oval [sic] in Queensland actually Darwin reminds me a lot of Brisbane."

Langer hoped the wicket would not prove as lively as the Brisbane track on the Test's first day.

"I think in Brisbane there's a lot more grass on the wicket," he said.

"Generally, the first day of a Shield [Pura Cup] game or Test match is quite lively, but this one out here looks to be a lot drier."

"It's maybe as flat as Brisbane, but certainly a lot drier than most Brisbane wickets on the first day."

Popp's party over

AFP, Stuttgart

Surprise Wimbledon quarterfinalist Alexander Popp suffered a 6-3, 6-2 defeat against Argentine outsider Gaston Etis in the first round of the 765,000-euro ATP tournament here on Monday.

Half-English Popp, who had to continually deflect questions from the British media at Wimbledon about any desire to change nationality, is back in the game after nearly two years of injuries.

But the 2.01-metre giant was unable to follow up on his recent form at an event where the top German is third-seeded Australian Open finalist Rainer Schuettler.

The 26-year-old Popp was disappointed with his showing.

"I didn't feel very solid on court," said the world Number 99.

He added that the switch from grass to clay was not his problem on the day.

"If you are playing as badly as I did, it doesn't matter what surface you are on - you can lose to anyone."

A pair of unheralded compatriots took up the slack in 30 degrees celsius heat to advance into the second round at the expense of French opponents.

Wildcard Maximilian Abel beat Anthony Dupuis 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) while Tomas Behrend put out Julien Boutter 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

With all 16 seeds, headed by Spain's Carlos Moya, receiving byes, household names were in short supply on opening day.

All three of the Spaniards in action got through, setting the pace for eight more of their compatriots who have yet to play.

Alberto Martin ousted Ramon Delgado of Paraguay 7-6 (7/1), 6-3 while Feliciano Lopez beat Brazilian Ricardo Mello 6-1, 6-4.

Barcelona qualifier Marc Lopez put aside his laboured loss in last week's first round in Gstaad by Wimbledon champion Roger Federer to earn a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Italian Potto Starace.

Don't panic

FROM PAGE 13

Pretorius, Monde Zondeki and Charl Willoughby will get an opportunity to impress in the match against Somerset, starting on Tuesday," says Henry.

"Our bowlers should also be more disciplined, and we can take a leaf out of the book of the England attack in this respect. It requires quite a big adjustment to bowl in English conditions.

"The bowlers had the upper hand throughout the series. The only batting-friendly surface was in the first match against England at the Oval."

Henry says he has nevertheless been impressed with seamers Andre Nel and Charl Langeveldt. "Nel showed that he can bowl at pace, and Pretorius and Zondeki could also join Makhaya Ntini in the fast-bowling department in the coming Test series."

The drubbing received by the South Africans in the one-day final at Lord's on Saturday will give England the psychological edge in the series, and Henry says the South Africans' batting technique should receive attention. For instance, he says Herschelle Gibbs' run-drought is the result of a technical flaw and not a loss of form.

"If he makes one or two adjustments for conditions in England, where the ball swings a lot, he should sort out his problems," says Henry.

In an attempt to get among the runs again, the South African opener has asked to play in the match against Somerset after having agreed initially to present a coaching clinic with Ntini on the Isle of Man. Langeveldt will now stand in for Gibbs.

Schools soccer

FROM PAGE 13

to beat Millat High 4-1 and Segunbagicha High beat Udayan High 2-1.

At the East End Club ground, National High School crashed Shahid Abu Taleb High 5-0 and Mirpur Siddhanta High blanked Islami Adarsha High 4-0.

Ill Wasim

FROM PAGE 13

Wasim was only hired by Hampshire after Australia leg-spinner Shane Warne, due to captain the team this season, received a 12-month drugs ban from first-class cricket in February.

He played in five of Hampshire's eight championship matches this season, taking 20 wickets at an average of 25.15.

Pakistan cricket chiefs had been planning a special farewell match for Wasim, a one-day international at home to South Africa in October, although his appearance could now be in doubt.

Wasim's departure from the Rose Bowl came as Hampshire quick Ed Giddins announced his retirement from first-class cricket because of persistent injury problems.

Giddins, 32 on Sunday, made four England Test appearances between 1999-2000 and also played for Sussex, Warwickshire and Surrey.

But he lost over a year of his career when in August 1996 he received an 18-month ban for drug abuse.

Kournikova at US Open?

Tennis

REUTERS, Oakland

Anna Kournikova will not be back playing regularly on the WTA Tour before the middle of August and may miss the US Open because of a persistent back problem, her agent told Reuters on Monday.

The 22-year-old Russian player has informed organisers of WTA events scheduled for the next two weeks at Palo Alto and San Diego that she will not be taking up wild cards, her agent Phil Depiccio said.

"She won't play the Canadian Open in Toronto (starting on August 11) but, if she's feeling better, may ask for a wild card into New Haven, which starts the week before the US Open," he added.

The US Open begins on August 25.

Kournikova has a chronic sprain of the lumbar spine, a condition which is inoperable.

"Anna is unable to play a consistent tour schedule with her back the way it is now and unless there is a marked improvement, her schedule will remain uncertain," said Depiccio.

Kournikova is planning to get back on court this week, playing doubles and mixed doubles at a 'World Team Tennis' exhibition event in Pennsylvania.

"After this week, she'll know a lot better how she feels," Depiccio said.

"But even if she feels better, she's not in good enough shape to play regular tour events yet."

Since injuring her back at the Australian Open in January,

Kournikova has only played a handful of tournaments and last competed at a challenger tour event in Charlottesville in mid-May.

The Russian attempted to play

a grass court tournament in England ahead of Wimbledon but aggravated her back injury in practice and was advised to take four-to-six weeks off.



ANNA KOURNIKOVA

Federer will inspire him

Tennis

AFP, Melbourne

The presence of Wimbledon champion Roger Federer would inspire former world number one Lleyton Hewitt to reproduce his best tennis in September's Davis Cup semifinal here, Australian captain John Fitzgerald said on Monday.

Defending champion Hewitt had a wretched Wimbledon late last month when he was knocked out in the first round by giant Croatian qualifier Ivo Karlovic and in the process lost his world number one ranking to Andre Agassi.

Fitzgerald spoke up for Hewitt, who became only the second man's champion in the 126 years of Wimbledon to lose in the first round.

The non-playing captain said the Davis Cup tie against a Switzerland team featuring Federer would bring out the best in Hewitt.

It has been a dire time for 22-year-old Hewitt, who also changed his coach and become embroiled in a legal battle with men's tennis governing body, the ATP.

Federer's form makes him an opponent for the Australians to fear for the September 19-21 tie on Rebound Ace hardcourt at Melbourne Park.

Fitzgerald rates the world number three potentially as one of the game's greats.

"Now that he's broken through for his first grand slam he'll be very hard to stop from here," he said.

Tyson's shrink files suit

Boxing

AFP, Los Angeles

Embattled former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson's psychiatrist has sued him for allegedly failing to pay 29,000 dollars in therapy bills, court documents showed Monday.

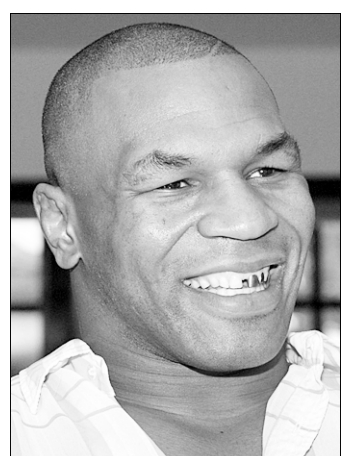
Analyst Mitchell Gibson alleges that Tyson failed to stump up for his costly forays into the controversial boxer's mind, according to a filing in a court in the Los Angeles area town of Santa Monica.

The "Celebrity Justice" television show said the fighter, famous for biting off part of Evander Holyfield's ear and for his many brushes with the law, began seeing Gibson following his release from a three-month jail stint for assault in 2000.

Gibson claims that he treated Tyson for a fee of 8,000 dollars a month and asked charged him an extra 6,000 for emergency cross-country visits.

The psychiatrist, who is based in

Tempe in the western state of Arizona, entered Tyson's life at one



MIKE TYSON

of its many low-points.

While in therapy, Tyson brawled with Lennox Lewis, threw glass ornaments at reporters in Havana, and was sued for divorce by his wife, Celebrity Justice.

The total amount owed by the

boxer, who has served jail time for rape and assault over the years, came to 29,360 dollars.

Gibson claims that he was instrumental in getting the boxer back in the ring after Tyson was stripped of his boxing license for a year following his attack on Holyfield during their championship rematch in 1997.

Gibson appeared before a Washington DC boxing commission that was considering whether to return Tyson's boxing license.

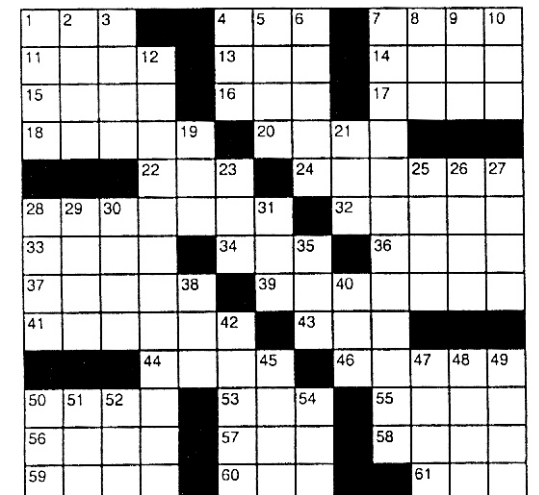
"Mr Tyson, due in large part to the efforts of Dr Gibson and the testimony provided by Dr Gibson to the professional boxing authorities, was able to reacquire his license," the suit said, according to Celebrity Justice.

Gibson claims he spent months trying to collect the debt from the boxer and was forced to file suit after Tyson's representative refused to return his calls.

Tyson's once-glorious career in the ring has been tarnished by his personal behavior which has ensured that he has never been far from the headlines.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Dragster 43 Floral collar 44 Alliance 45 Pursuing height 7 Multiple-birth member 11 Actor LaSalle 13 Scratch 14 Cold War faction member 15 Waiter's handout 16 Blackbird 17 Simple 18 Pop, very formally 20 "I sow, so ..." 22 A billion years 24 Wise counselor 28 Pipe type 32 "Roots" figure 33 "Clueless" interjection 34 Petrol 36 "When I was ..." 37 Boat 39 Inns



CRYPTOQUIP Y B U Y I O . B Q W J W Z Z G V E L U Q Y H T W G J B W Z Z E L T T Q G A B A B G H E W A E A P I G V L Y A Y A O G G P A Y L Y . Saturday's Cryptoquip: NAME OF A BRAND-NEW LOW-CALORIE BEER PRODUCED ENTIRELY FROM POTATOES: "SPUD LITE". Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L. 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.



PHOTO: STAR The namaz-e-janaza of Delwar Hossain Dilu, a member of the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF), was held at the Bangabandhu National Hockey Stadium yesterday. Dilu died following a heart attack on Monday night during an executive meeting of the BHF.