

## Federer denies Paradorn

#### AFP, Bangkok

Roger Federer dashed the home-town victory dream of fourth seed Paradorn Śrichaphan 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 Saturday to blast into the final of the 550,000-dollar Thailand Open Saturday over Asia's tennis hero.

Federer, who has not lost a final in well over a year, stands a step away from a 10th trophy this season; he awaits a winner from another star-studded semifinal Andy Roddick versus Marat Safin.

Federer, the runaway success story of this year with three of the four Grand Slam titles to hand, won his 68th match of the season against just six losses.

The polite Thai crowd gave both players the respect they deserved --and Federer felt their warmth.

"I'm sorry I had to beat Paradorn in Thailand," said Federer, who has already secured this year's world number one ranking. "I know how much he wants to win here.

"But I'm very happy to win, we had some great points and rallies. We can thank the crowd for that."

#### Indo-Pak FROM PAGE 13

forces in international hockey but things are not as bad as has been projected," said Singh, one of four former Indian Olympians who were here as guests.

"Astro-turf and changing rules have destroyed the Asian hockey and now we lack quality players but playing each other will give our hockey the impetus," said Singh, a renowned center half of his days.

Another Indian Olympian Aslam Sher Khan said both the countries must fight to bring at least one big event back on natural grass which became obsolete since the introduction of artificial turf in mid-1970s.

"Besides playing each other we need to fight to bring at least the World Cup back on natural grass because artificial turf has given Europeans the edge," said Aslam.

Pakistan's Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans said both countries have contributed much at international level

"Pakistan and India have contributed so much at international level so they playing each other is good for world hockey but they also play against Europeans," said Oltmans. India's German Gerhard Rach

coach backed Oltmans "I don't subscribe to the view of

Asian hockey and European hockey, hockey is hockey but Pakistan playing India is more intense than normal matches." said Rach.

## Inzamam

FROM PAGE 13 Seamers Edward Rainsford and Tawanda Mupariwa are hoping for a recall, with Mluleki Nkala's place possibly under threat after conceding 47 from six overs in Multan.

Brabourne Stadium, his two wickets Taibu said his side must grab any in 21 overs costing 53 runs.

unity which comes the "We had our chances at Multan but we did not grab them and against a side like Pakistan you can't spurn any opportunity." said the Zimbabwe captain.



PHOTO: COURTESY

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (2nd from R) hands over the trophy to the Stamford University team after the hosts won the inter-private university football tournament title with a 3-2 tie-break win against Asian University at the Army Stadium yesterday.

cricket captain, who quit the sport

e-Insaf (Movement for Peace)

relationship with Hollywood actor

Imran, founder of the Tehreek-

## **Politics only on** Imran's mind

in 1992, told Hello!

prior to their marriage.

## Cricket

### AFP, London

party, remains close to the Goldsmith family -- so much so that Imran Khan, the former cricket star. his interview with Hello! took place says he is putting all his energy into at his former mother-in-law's manpolitics in his native Pakistan after sion in southwest London. . his divorce from British socialite He said his ex-wife's current

Jemima Goldsmith. "For the first time, my politics Hugh Grant was not a factor in their will become my priority," said divorce, and that she was free to Imran, 51, a member of Pakistan's renounce Islam after converting parliament, in an interview in the October 5 issue of Hello!, a popular

British celebrity gossip magazine. "I came into politics to bring about change," he added when asked if he'd be more effective if he allied himself with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's government, rather than opposed it.

"You can't join the status quo and bring about change." Imran and Goldsmith, 30,

daughter of the late British tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, divorced in June in a simple Islamic ceremony after nine years of marriage and a year and a half of separation. "We also had a registry office

marriage so a legal conclusion to that will follow," the former Pakistan fast bowler and national

FROM PAGE 13

## Afghans meet Myanmar today

#### SPORTS REPORTER

After a day's break, the Under-21 Challenge Cup invitational hockey tournament resumes today at the Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP)

Afghanistan, who were humiliated by the hosts 30-0 in their previous game, will take on Myanmar in the first match at 1:30pm while India meet Oman in the second match at 3:30pm.

## Kamran kept

Pakistan have called up wicketkee-per

Kamran Akmal as a backup for Moin

Khan for the second match of a triangular

one-day series against Zimbabwe on

"Moin is down with severe 'flu and he

might miss the match tomorrow. Kamran

has been called as a backup to replace

him if required," Pakistan manager

Haroon Rasheed told Reuters on

Μ

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21

AUSTRALIA: Second innings

Clarke c Indulkar b Powar

Extras: (b-3, lb-6, nb-2)

Fall of wicket: 1-142

Result: Match drawn

champion won 6-0, 6-2

Total: (For 1 wkt in 54 overs)

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62 18

4

Of their children, aged seven as and five, Imran said he and

Goldsmith agreed that they would Moin's standby be raised as Muslims, but added: "I hope they will be bi-cultural." Imran's political rivals had **REUTERS**, Peshawar

sought to exploit his marriage to Goldsmith -- whose father was part-Jewish -- to attack him, but he said he believed the Pakistani people as a whole still "love Jemima"

"It was the political mafia trying to get at me that made her life difficult," he said. "Maybe one day she will come back to Pakistan, but now it not the time. Perhaps in a vear.'

Akmal, 23, has played six Tests and 12 one-day internationals. The series also features Sri Lanka.

## Stamford private varsity soccer champs

#### SPORTS REPORTER

Stamford University lifted the firstever Stamford Inter-Private University Football tournament title beating Asian University 3-2 in the tiebreaker at the Army Stadium vesterday

In front of a colourful crowd, both universities failed to break the deadlock in normal so the game went into a shootout.

Ruhul Azad, Atiqur Rahman and Ramiz Jahan converted their spotkicks for Stamford while Manjoor Ahmed and Moon Kayes were successful for the losers.

Stamford's Atiqur Rahman was later adjudged man-of-the-match while his teammate Saifullah Arafat collected the player of the tournament prize. Masud Khan Johnny of Asian

University scored highest eight goals while Northern University was adjudged the most disciplined team to receive the "fair play trophy".

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman distributed the prizes.

#### TV row on CRICINFO, undated

The confusion over the telecast rights for the India-Australia Test series shows no signs of ending.

Just a day after the Board of games in the Premier League, Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced that Sony Entertainthough, is no disgrace and Liverpool won 1-0 at Stamford Bridge last ment Television would telecast the series live, Zee Telefilms moved the season Supreme Court and asked it to stop their travels and have developed a this from happening, reported habit of conceding headed goals, a

NDTV. To complicate matters further, fact that will have been noted by the Prasar Bharati, the national broadlikes of Didier Drogba and John caster, stated that it would go to Terry in the Chelsea side. court as well to challenge the decision.

"Prasar Bharati had bid higher than Sony in the initial bids invited by the BCCI for telecast rights," KS Sarma, the chief executive of Prasar Bharati, told Press Trust of India.

"However, the BCCI favoured Sony. We will challenge the issue in Supreme Court."

Prasar Bharati's bid amount was 704 crore rupees (around 153 million dollars), compared to Sony's 600 crore rupees (130 million

Sharapova storms into final

dollars).

AFP, Seoul Russia's Maria Sharapova, women's singles winner at Wimbledon this year, routed Anne Kremer of Luxembourg Saturday to advance to the final of the Korea

Open WTA tournament here.

Thursday.

The 17-year-old tennis siren 2 needed only 23 minutes to take the first set 6-0 and another 24 minutes to take the second 6-2. 0 Sharapova combined explosive 0 serves with razor-sharp strokes, sharp. displaving dazzling speed and 108 power. 52 She took advantage of her 183-29 centimetre (six-feet) height and her power to hammer in five aces during 11 the match 207

**Reds face Chelsea test** "It is worrving that our away performances are so different from the games at Anfield and we have to work

**PREVIEW:** Premiership

Football

Liverpool will discover how realistic

their title ambitions are when they

travel to buoyant Chelsea on

Jose Mourinho has yet to taste

defeat in nine games at the

Stamford Bridge helm and his team

appears rapidly to have acquired

their manager's occasionally

On Wednesday even a fan from

his former club Porto spitting in his

face did not faze Mourinho and he

has brushed off the charge that his

"What for me is absolutely amaz-

"That's the reason why over nine

Liverpool, in contrast, are without

their two best players from recent

years -- striker Michael Owen to

Real Madrid and midfielder Steven

Gerrard to injury -- and have made a

patchy start under Spanish coach

Tuesday's 1-0 Champions

Ten points from their opening six

Benitez's side have struggled on

League defeat by Greek side

Olympiakos Piraeus was their fourth

ing is the way my big players play as

a unit, play for the team, play for a

matches nobody has beat us."

result," Mourinho said.

Rafael Benitez.

loss in seven matches.

side are boring with equal disdain.

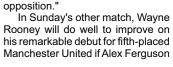
breathtaking self-assurance.

REUTERS, London

Sunday

hard to change that," Benitez said. But insisted his overhaul of Liverpool should not be judged for

another two or three months. Benitez said he was finding it hard to make changes at the club due to international breaks and expected his team to find form once next week's round of World Cup qualifiers is over.



have the players needed to turn th

and Gerrard

club around after the loss of Owen

the ideas, " he said, adding: "The

only thing is other teams can be

more aggressive and you have to

know what to do depending on the

"We know what to do. We have



JOSE MOURINHO

selects him for his league debut

against Middlesbrough at Old

performance against Turkey's

Fener-bahce in the Champions

League was an indication of

United's firepower with Alan Smith.

Ruud van Nistelrooy and Louis

Saha also vying for places in attack.

McClaren, though, will have been

heartened by United's poor defen-

sive organisation against the Turks.

Middlesbrough manager Steve

The 18-year-old's dazzling

"It is difficult because we have a lot of international games now." "If you have six weeks without all the international games and you train all the week perhaps you can see more

RAFAEL BENITEZ

things. "But if you need to start every 15 days preparing the marking or movement once again it's more difficult.

"We know this is the situation and perhaps in two or three months we will see better things. Benitez believes last week's 3-0

win over Norwich proves Liverpool

# **Owen's place in peril?**

"It's not like I have favourites."

Eriksson said: "It's not good for him,

it's not good for me, or for England if

he plays too little football at the

Summing up Owen's plight,

under Eriksson.

have no doubts.

moment.

#### REUTERS, London

England coach Sven-Goran Erik-sson says striker Michael Owen must prove in DEUTSCHLAND training next week that he deserves to face Wales in a World Cup quali-

fier -- or risk losing his place. Faced with stiff competition at Real Madrid from Raul, Ronaldo and Fernando Morientes, Owen has mainly been limited to cameo appearances since leaving Liverpool in August.

"Of course, I've been thinking about Michael Owen's situation because he's been sitting on the bench a lot now," Eriksson told reporters on Friday.

"But I won't decide what to do until the practice sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and

"As a manager you should try to his first England start in last month's be loyal to the players...but at some 2-1 qualifying win in Poland.

Trafford

point, if I have a player sitting on the Asked if the Spurs striker had a bench in the squad who is better chance of playing against Wales, Eriksson said: "Of course." than someone who normally plays, I

Concern over Owen's fitness reflects an unwritten rule that sidelined players lack sharpness on their return to action.

serious contender since scoring on

Eriksson, whose team face Azerbaijan in another World Cup qualifier in Baku on October 13, has selection headaches elsewhere ir the team

With Rio Ferdinand back from suspension and Sol Campbell back having returned after injury, Eriksson's 2002 World Cup central defensive pairing is available to take over from John Terry and Ledley

King. "These are extremely good Eriksson said left back Wavne Bridge is a doubt, while midfielders mstring) and Stev

Gerrard (foot) are injured, forcing a

for the central midfield role along-

side Frank Lampard, while Joe Cole

was one for the left side, said

Eriksson, who names his squad on

The England coach also faces a

Nicky Butt would be a candidate

re-shuffle in the middle.

Sunday

0 1.2

Clarke

Hauritz

Katich

Hodae

Bowler

Agarkar

Kulkarn

Powar

Mane

Indulka

Salvi

Langer retired

Hodge not out

Katich not out

Sunday

Saturday

"At number three we have a few	Bowler	
options. Clarke had an opportunity	McGrath	2
to open and he looked settled. He	Lee	
put forward a strong case."	Watson	

Langer ton in drawn tie Australia's batting options. "At number

### TEAMS

PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq (captain), Shahid Afridi, Yasir Hameed, Bazid Khan, Salman Butt, Shoaib Malik. Yousuf Youhana Younis Khan, Moin Khan, Misbahul Haq, Abdul Razzaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Navedul Hassan, Rao Iftikhar

ZIMBABWE (from): Tatenda Taibu (captain), Brendon Taylor, Vusimuzi Sibanda, Dion Ebrahim, Mark Vermeulen, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Alestar Maregwede, Mluleki Nkala, Elton Chigumbura, Edward Rainsford, Tawanda Mupariwa, Prosper Utseya, Douglas Hondo, Tinashe Panyangara, Graeme Alexandar Cremer.

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52 Notion

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colle-

13 Work unit 49 Top-

'I had a good workout in the heat and am ready for the Tests," said McGrath, who claimed 17 wickets in three Tests the last time Australia played here in 2001. "I had a pretty okay tour three

Lee struggled to make an impres-

sion on the slow pitch at the

vears ago even though we lost. Hopefully I can help Australia win the series this time. Mumbai, who started the final day at 150-4, slipped to 176-7 before a rearguard action saw the home team add 79 runs for the last three wickets. Aiit Agarkar, picked in India's 15 man squad for the first Test, enhanced his claims with a defiant 37 before he holed out in the deep off Michael Clarke.

Langer hit 12 boundaries and two sixes while Clarke struck eight fours in Australia's second innings. Captain Adam Gilchrist was happy with his team's build-up.

'It's great preparation," he said. "Having Justin is a big boost for us. It was a bright innings. He said Clarke had increased

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard on the last day of the three-day match between Australia and India's Ranji Trophy champions Mumbai at the Brabourne Stadium on Saturday: AUSTRALIA: First innings 302 for 7 declared (Hayden 67, Martyn 71 retired, Gilchrist 42 not out) MUMBAI: First innings (overnight 150-4) Mane c sub (White) b McGrath Jaffar Ibw b McGrath Indulkar Ibw b Hauritz Mazumdar Ibw b McGrath Kambli Ibw b Watson

Bahutule c Gilchrist b Lee Samant c Gilchrist b Lee Kulkarni not out Salvi b McGrath Extras: (b-4, lb-4, nb-14) Total: (All out in 92.2 overs)

- 3 48 13 52 26 Powar c Hauritz b Watson 4 Agarkar c McGrath b Clarke 37 20 15 22

255 Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-64, 3-80, 4-150, 5-152, 6-156, 7-176, 8-213, 9-

"I think I easily won the semifinal because of my good condition" Sharapova said. "Kremer couldn't keep up with me today."

Sharapova said she expects to win Sunday's final, where she will face Poland's Marta Domachowska, who defeated Abigail Spears of the United States 7-6, 6-1.

thing. You can see straight away how they are -- if they are down, if they are on good form and if they are

> Friksson is expected to choose two strikers from three hopefuls to face Wales in Saturday's Group Six gualifier in Manchester.

With 27 goals in 63 England appearances. Owen has been a first choice striker since bursting on to the scene at the 1998 World Cup and has been made vice-captain



MICHAEL OWEN

"Of course, it's tough for him, he's never been used to sitting on the bench, not for England or for Liverpool.'

choice in goal with David James One place up front looks desdropped for the win over Poland, tined for Wayne Rooney. Jermain and ably replaced by Paul Defoe, in sparkling form for Robinson, after a costly blunder in Tottenham Hotspur, has also been a the 2-2 draw with Austria

## WORLD FOOTBALL BRIEFS

WENGER BRUSHES

Arsene Wenger on Friday

attempted to play down a furious bust-up between Arsenal skipper

Patrick Vieira and right-back Lauren

after the English side's 1-1

Champions League draw with

Norwegian side Rosenborg in

the scuffle, which led to police being

called and Vieira, 28, and

Cameroon international Lauren, 27,

being ordered to sit as far apart as

incident had been blown out of all

proportion but Wenger confirmed

Friday that there had been what he

not be taking any disciplinary action

against the two players and claimed

that their argument was a sign that

his players cared passionately about

Refusing to elaborate further,

family do you come and say it? No.

You have to respect what is happen-

Manchester United have refused to

against England until Tuesday, 24

hours after they are due to begin

dressing room disharmony.

nside the team.

AFP. London

MU RISK CLUB V

COUNTRY ROW

But the Frenchman said he would

termed a "minor disagreement."

Arsenal had initially claimed the

possible on the team coach.

Players and staff tried to contain

ASIDE BUST-UP

AFP, London

Trondheim.

#### AFP. London

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson believes Wayne Rooney could swoop the FIFA World Player of the Year award at the age of just 18.

The Swede is part of the panel which will draw up a list of 30 candidates to be published next week and he is convinced that the 18-vear-old Manchester United striker could be a threat to favourites Thierry Henry and Ronaldinho.

"I have had to select a list of 30 players and I should be very surprised if Wayne Rooney is not on that list," said the Swede.

"At Euro 2004, he was one of the best players, if not the best. Is he a genuine candidate? I think so. But suddenly when you talk in those terms, the competition is very high."

## OLD TRAFFORD

part company with central defender Wes Brown after he rejected a new

out of contract next summer and his demands for a substantial increase in salary were rejected by the club.

and he's turned it down. It's his decision," United boss Sir Alex Ferguson to The Guardian newspa-

England international Brown stayed at Old Trafford but that "if he wants release Ryan Giggs for the build-up to Wales's World Cup qualifier If the situation remains unchanged. transfer window.

their preparations.

The winger had been expected to arrive in Cardiff on Monday but United have exercised their right not to release the player until four days before an international, meaning he will not now join up with his teammates until late on Tuesday.

Wales play England at Old Trafford on Saturday October 9 in a match that could be decisive for their chances of qualifying for Germany 2006.

A United spokesman said the club was simply acting to ensure Giggs was properly rested after the Premiership match against Middlesbrough on Sunday and manager Sir Alex Ferguson justified the decision by saying: "We are doing nothing that is not exactly what the rule states."

## Kadeer moves to Gloucs

#### their performances rather than AFP, London

England A batsman Kadeer Ali has Wenger added: "If I ask what was left his English county Worcesgoing on in a disagreement in your tershire for neighbouring Gloucestershire in a bid to secure regular first XI cricket and boost his chances ing inside the team and keep it of promotion to the full Test side.

The 21-year-old, a cousin of England bowler Kabir Ali, turned down the offer of a new two-year contract at Worcester, where he was displaced from the side by Stephen Moore.

Gloucestershire player-coach Mark Allevne said he expected great things from the youngster. "He has great talent and I intend to create an environment in which he can exploit fully his talent." he said

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AD	46	Felix Unger- esque	Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals P 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													

С S С AΤ D

another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophy give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Russian star Maria Sharapova reaches for a return in her semifinal against Anne

Kremer of Luxembourg in the Korean Open in Seoul yesterday. The Wimbledon

contract.

PHOTO: AFF

to look elsewhere that's up to him." Brown would be free to seek a change of club during the winter

WES SET TO LEAVE AFP, London Manchester United are prepared to

The much-injured 24-year-old is

"We've made the boy an offer

Ferguson said he would prefer if