# SPÖRT

#### Kenya move into **Intercon Cup** semifinals

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya advanced into semifinals of the Intercontinental Cup after the three-day match against Namibia was declared a draw at the Nairobi Aga Sports club on Sunday.

Namibia, with an overnight lead of 207, held the upperhand into the final day but the hosts fought back to bridge the gap thanks to an unbeaten 187 by opener

Kenya were 43 runs short of levelling the series when the Namibian captain Deon Kotze decided they had had enough and surrendered the victory to his oppo-

The draw put Kenya on top of the three-nation qualifying tournament which also involved Uganda

They finished with 45.5 points, with the Ugandans, who beat Namibia by five wickets in Windhoek, in second place with 41 points, while Namibia finished third on 33 points.

The Kenyans will now play Scotland in the ICC Continental Cup semifinals in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates in

#### Hog-g headlines

AFP, Harare

Vincent Hogg, former chief executive of the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, is to drop a bombshell into the International Cricket Council's investigation of racism within the sport here.

Hogg will inform the ICC's investigators, Indian solicitor-general Goolam Vahanvati and Justice Steven Majiedt, this week about several incidents involving black ZCU directors.

These were the main reasons he left the job two months ago after two and a half years, he told AFP.

The hearing had to be terminated by Goolam and Majiedt following a day of legal wrangling, when the players would not give evidence in front of three black ZCU directors and the directors said they would refuse to take part in proceedings unless they were allowed to be present

The ZCU board is made up of four blacks, four whites and four

Hogg said he would have given evidence if he had had the opportu-

nity.

Goolam and Majiedt said after terminating the hearings they were now forced to base their conclusions on written evidence only. Their findings will be presented to the ICC at a board meeting in Pakistan on

At one stage during the height of the player dispute, Hogg was angrily accused by a black director of colluding with groundsman Robin Brown to sabotage the pitch on which the replacement Zimbabwe team were playing Sri Lanka.

#### Chief selector's

informed that they would announce second day of the three-day match to be held in BKSP from October 14.

Bangabandhu National Stadium on October 19.

play at least one game before the Test because it is always good to

series. "We want to be absolute sure that they have fully recovered because we don't want them to



Pakistan's Sohail Abbas (L) tries to get in the way of Tushar Khanekar of India during the first hockey match of the four-game India-leg in New

### Abbas' feat in Pak win

Hockey

AFP, New Delhi

Penalty-corner specialist Sohail Abbas equalled the field hockey world record for international goals as he starred in Pakistan's 3-1 win over India in the fifth match of an eight-match series here on Monday.

Abbas scored off a penaltycorner in the first-half and converted a penalty stroke in the second to equal Dutch legend Paul Litjens' record of 267 goals as Pakistan took a 3-1 lead in the series.

Forward Kashif Jawad struck the other goal for the winners while Sandeep Michael shot in for India, who trailed 2-0 at half-time.

Michael's deflection off a hit-in from captain Dilip Tirkey early in the second session gave India hope but Abbas sealed the fate of the match by scoring off the 'stroke' a little later. The 'stroke' was awarded after

Tirkey was hit on the face while defending a penalty-corner and had to be stretchered off the ground.

Abbas was happy to equal the record but said he still had a long "I don't want to look at what I have achieved but would rather like to concentrate on what I have to do,"

said Abbas, who started the series at 261 goals. "I am still learning with each match," said Abbas, who finds

promise in this Indian team. "They are playing well and can be a really good side in the coming years. It was just that we made the most of our chances," said Abbas

about the new-look team. India did launch quite a few attacks in the second session but looked a disjointed lot in the first.

They conceded an early goal when centre-forward Jawad found the mark with a first-timer in the fifth minute after Dilawar Hussain cut past a couple of defenders and put

India struggled to create moves even as Pakistan increased the lead in the 28th minute when Abbas converted his team's third penaltycorner in the 28th minute.

Michael failed to latch on to a long pass from Hari Prasad on the left flank in the best chance that India had in the first session, in which they gained just one penaltycorner.

India's new-look team is without prominent players like Dhanrai Pillay, Gagan Ajit Singh and Prabhjot Singh but surprised many by winning 4-1 in the second match and drawing the last match of the Pakistan leg.

The remaining matches of the Indian leg will be held in Chandigarh (October 6), Amritsar (October 8) and Hyderabad (October 10).

This is the seventh series between the two countries. Pakistan have won four series, India have won one, while one ended in a draw.

#### **BCB's new** online partner

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) signed a deal yesterday with the Global Online Services Limited to get free Internet service.

BCB chief executive Macky Dudhia announced during a press conference at a local hotel yesterday that the online company is now the official ISP of the Board.

The online company will provide internet facilities at BCB's Gulshan office, the Bangabandhu National Stadium, MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong and BKSP by Radio-link during the two-year contract.

Every national team player will also get dial-up connections during their away trips. Besides Dudhia, chairman of the

Global Online Services Limited Syed Farugue Ahmed and its chief operations officer Russell Ahmed

#### Clijsters' **future** in jeopardy

AFP, Hasselt

The future of former world number one Kim Clijsters looked in the balance Monday after she was ruled out of action until 2005 after aggravating a wrist injury in the Belgian Open here at the weekend.

Playing in her first competition after five months out after tearing her wrist tendons and undergoing surgery, Clijsters was forced to retire in Saturday's semifinals when trailing 4-6, 2-2 to Russian Elena

Initial reports suggested the injury was not as serious as the problem which interrupted her season, but tournament doctor Bruno Willems was pessimistic.

"This injury could mean the end of her career," Willems told Belgium's De Morgen newspaper on Monday. "I hope she comes back but I'm possimistic." back, but I'm pessimistic." Her website said that a scan had revealed a new injury in the left wrist,

close to the old injury, with a brace and inflammatory drugs being used to solve the problem. She is set to undergo more tests this week.

Clijsters said: "I hope I don't have to be operated on again."

"It's not yet clear what has happened," said her coach Marc Dehous. "Her tendon (which was repaired in surgery on June 12) might possibly be torn again."

"During the two previous matches Kim wasn't hundered by the injury at all, but she felt something was wrong while she returned a serve of Bovina. It might be that Kim won't be playing any more this year.'

Clijsters reached number one in August 2003 without winning a major title, having lost in the finals of four Grand Slams. She will marry Australian tennis star Lleyton Hewitt next February.

#### Hosts labour

FROM PAGE 13

while the same forward hit the sidebar just before the break.

The home fans were finally relieved in the 61st minute when man-of-the-match Moksed sealed the victory with another lucky goal. The Oman keeper let the ball go from a long range attempt by Jimmy thinking it will go out but the ball bounced off the post and fell in the path of Moksed whose lightning reflex allowed him to place it home before two nearby defenders could react.

"We missed a lot of chances, otherwise it could have been a 5-0 victory," said Bangladesh coach Qamar Ibrahim after the match.

"The result is not satisfying but think the team showed better understanding today than our previous matches. We still failed to utilise the nenalty corners due to the bumpy nature of the pitch," said the former Pakistan international said

"It's good to be in the final with a match in hand and I am looking forward to the final. Tomorrow's game will also be important because it will give me insights ahead of the final against a very experienced and matured Indian side," he added.

Today is a rest day in the 5-nation

### SL ready sans Murali Zimbabwe have managed just one

#### Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Sri Lankan cricket captain Marvan Atapattu said Monday he is learning to live without world record-holder Muttiah Muralitharan and his side would do its best in both the triseries and the Tests in Pakistan.

"Obviously it's difficult to be without Muralitharan," Atapattu told a press conference.

"He is a world-class bowler and him hut hav others have also rallied around and we have managed to put in good performances." Sri Lanka are featuring in a tri-

series one-day tournament alongside hosts Pakistan and Zimbabwe, followed by two Tests against They take on Pakistan in their first match in Karachi on

Wednesday before facing Zimbabwe in two back-to-back games at Rawalpindi on October 9 and 11. Off-spinner Muralitharan, who

holds the world record of 532 wickets in 91 Tests, is recovering from a shoulder operation and is likely to return early next year.

Muralitharan has taken 68 wickets in 12 Tests against Pakistan. with 15 during their victory in a Test series here in 1995-96. He again led them to a series win with 26 wickets

Sri Lanka have shown they can win without Muralitharan, coach John Dyson said, adding that South African captain Graeme Smith knows this well.

"Ask Graeme Smith, he was surprised how we beat them in all five one-day games and in the last Test without Muralitharan recently,"

Dyson, who took over as Sri Lankan coach last year, said his other target is to see Sri Lanka perform well away from home.

Zimbabwe have shown improvement since we last played them in their country in April." he said. "We have played a lot of cricket in Sri Lanka so it's time to perform well

Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe gave Sri Lanka a scare when the two sides met in the ICC Champions Trophy in England last month. Sri Lanka won that hard-

'Zimbabweans are getting better and we have to be at our best but our main target is to play at our best and

twice, with the top two meeting in the

Pakistan have beaten Zimbabwe

"Pakistan are a formidable side and have good players so they are favourites and as outsiders

outside home and we have good competition here with Pakistan and

fought game by four wickets.

qualify for the final," said Atapattu. The three teams face each other

October 16 final.

in both their matches and are at the top of the table with 11 points while

#### **FROM PAGE 13** ending September 30.

Ticket sales "surpassed expectations" said the WICB, and television rights fees from the England tour added a healthy injection of

budgeted figure of 2 million.

## What if Waugh not here?

**FROM PAGE 13** 

Laxman made an extraordinary 281, 176 of them in boundaries, to Dravid's 180, Harbhajan Singh added six wickets to the seven he took in the first innings and India had won by a mind-boggling 171 runs to become only the third side to win a Test after following on.

Kolkata was followed by another was there" sort of match in Madras. Harbhaian taking another 15 wickets, and Waugh's troops, for many the greatest side ever assembled, returned home shellshocked. India have realistic hopes of repeating the feat against the world

champions this time. Waugh is not there, Glenn McGrath is slowing, Shane Warne ageing and Ricky Ponting cursing a broken thumb.

Warne, in any case, has never worried the fleet-footed Indians unduly. Four years ago he took 10 wickets at more than 50 runs apiece. Missing home and his baked beans, he had done no better when visiting in 1997-98.

dusty tracks. He may have averaged more

during the 2003-04 series, with two big double centuries, but his last offering scores of 0, 6, 0, 0 and 11. For most of the cricketing world

jaded by long years of Australian dominance, a second consecutive Indian home victory -- and perhaps another double century for Dravid after four in his last 15 matches would be applauded with gusto.

Waugh, however, would find solace in the opposite result.

"Some things are left for others to achieve. "And if they do win. I'll feel as have played my part in that success

anyway.

### **Decisive rivalries!**

AFP, Bangalore



Kev battles that could decide the Test series between India and Australia starting here on Wednesday:

#### HAYDEN **PATHAN**

Australia will look to the formidable Hayden for a good start, while India will seek early

wickets from the young left-arm seamer Pathan. The aggressive Havden returns to the land of his resurrection where in 2001, hoping to cement his place in the world-beating side, he became indispensable after scoring 549 runs in three Tests.

India will rely on Pathan to get Hayden early. The 19-year-old has made rapid strides in international cricket since his Test debut in Australia last season. Voted the emerging player of the year at the International Cricket Council's awards last month, Pathan is a key strike bowler with pace and subtle variations to unsettle the best in the world. He has a knack of providing early breaks.

MCGRATH V DRAVID

Rahul Dravid has been in such

years that he is feared more by rivals than even Sachin Tendulkar. With Tendulkar recovering from a tennis elbow injury, Dravid will be the mainstay of the Indian middle order. The "Wall", as Dravid is nicknamed for his sound technique at the crease, was voted both the player and the batsman of the year

at the Oscars for his consistency. Dravid's duel with premier Australian paceman Glenn McGrath will be keenly anticipated. McGrath is renowned for breaching the best of defences with his nagging line and length. The slow Indian pitches may not be to the Australian's liking. but his accuracy and consistency is expected to test the Indian batsmen, including Dravid. McGrath, 34, will be keen to prove that he is still a force to reckon with even in the

twilight of his career.

MARTYN V HARBHAJAN Martyn will be the lynchpin of Australia's middle-order in the first two Tests in the absence of the injured Ricky Ponting. And Australia will be praying that Martyn has a better outing than Ponting, who managed just 17 runs in five innings on the last tour in 2001 -- dismissed each time by wily Harbhajan.

The off-spinner made the difference in India's 2-1 success in that series with a staggering 32 wickets

in three matches. Harbhaian is back again to torment the Aussies after being out of action for six months due to finger surgery. He bowled well in the one-day tournaments earlier this season and plans to test the tourists with what he considers a secret "magic" ball

#### WARNE V ALL THE INDIAN BATSMEN

The nimble-footed Indian batsmer have proved a nemesis for the champion leg-spinner, who has managed just 20 wickets in six Tests on Indian soil. Warne, six wickets away from surpassing Muttiah Muralitharan's world record of 532. is the key to Australia's success in the series. He is back to his best after serving a 12-month ban for

Warne runs into what he himself considers the best players of spin bowling in the world. He needs to keep the Indian batsmen in check, especially Venkatsai Laxman, who has scored four of his seven Test centuries against the Australians Laxman's 281 in the second Test at Calcutta three years ago was crucial in setting up a stunning victory for the hosts. Warne also has the swashbuckling Virender Sehwag and captain Sourav Ganguly to reckon with



Oman's Bait Shamiah (No 15) is under pressure from Bangladesh's Moshiur Rahman (L) during their Challenge Cup under-21 hockey invitational tournament match at the Maulana Bhasani National Stadium vesterday

# The first Test will start at the

"It would be better if they even have a knock out their in the middle instead of net practice." he said.

#### "We want to see the boys' performance in the match before announcing the team for the first

He also showed his interest to allow the national cricketers to play in the Twenty20 Corporate Cricket League, which commences on

The chief selector said there is hardly any chance to see four injured bowlers in action during the

#### break down again." CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS** 27 First 2 Actress 14 Monetary 1 Sleep name of McClurg resource phenom 26-3 Rhesus 15 Conclu-Across monkey sion short 28 Memorize 4 Swiss 19 "Yo!" 4 Stashed 30 Shrive cheese 20 Stratum 7 Malt features 21 Fair tennis shop 5 Open-22 Offensive order ing 23 "Star 8 "Sinker tively remarks Trek: 36 Water 10 Unemo-6 Pair's TNG' tional lieu-11 Does 37 Take 7 Comtenant some five motion 24 Esteemtailoring

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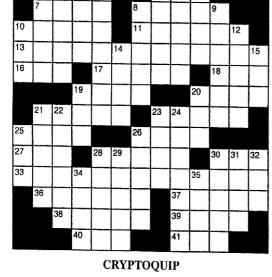
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ZLSB CGQ IOGJ X RANKS

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> JXA ZNJBSII Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MOVIE ABOUT SOME VERY FLIMSY PATIO FURNITURE COULD BE NAMED "THE PAPER CHAISE." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals S

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

Prasar Bharti chief executive officer KS Sarma told the paper. The newly-elected BCCI president announced on Thursday that the board would go ahead with live telecasts of the matches despite a

After the tri-series, Sri Lanka play

Pakistan in two Tests. at Faisalabad

from October 20 and in Karachi from

Aussie Tests

FROM PAGE 13

continuing Supreme Court battle. Live coverage is required only for third umpire decisions. Prasar Bharti would explain to the court why it is the appropriate candidate for telecasting the

matches in the current situation, the Times said The court is hearing arguments on a petition filed by Zee Telefilms against the board's decision to cancel telecast rights which the network insists were awarded to it

for the next four years. A ruling has yet to be issued and the hearings have been adjourned until Tuesday, the eve of the first Australia Test.

Trouble erupted after the Indian board cancelled TV rights worth 308 million dollars amid a legal battle between Zee and rival ESPN-Star

### WICB reveals

It expects the profit to be approximately 2.8 million dollars, up from a

> Ponting, one of the world's premier batsmen and who may recover from his injury for the second half of the series, also has something to prove on India's slow,

> than 100 against them on home turf visit to India was less conclusive Each time he fell to Harbhajan.

"I had some good success against India but I think you can't win everything and you can't achieve everything you want to do," he said.