

## Dementieva doubtful

REUTERS, Melbourne

Russia's Elena Dementieva remains doubtful for this week's Australian Open after succumbing to 'heat illness'.

Dementieva pulled out of the Sydney International on Friday after falling victim to the Australian summer when on-court temperatures soared towards 50 degrees Celsius (122.00F).

The French and US Open runner-up spent two days in bed trying to recover but was still unable to hit a ball by Sunday afternoon.

"This is the first day I've been able to get out of bed," she told Reuters.

"I feel like I'm getting better but I'm still not 100 per cent."

Dementieva, seeded sixth in Melbourne, is due to play Ukraine's Alyona Bondarenko in the first round on Tuesday but said she would not make a final decision on her fitness until Monday.

"It depends how I train tomorrow. I will decide then," she said.

Dementieva was not scheduled to practice on Sunday but went on one of the outside courts for an impromptu session with her coach Olga Morozova.

She spent about 40 minutes on the court, running and stretching, and throwing the medicine ball to her trainer.

## Tigers can

FROM PAGE 13

Day of the second and final Test between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka on Sunday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings 298 (Taibu 85 not out, Matsikenyeri 51, Enamul 7-95)

**BANGLADESH:** First innings (overnight 169-8)

Omar c Taibu b Hondo 34

Iqbal c Taibu b Hondo 28

Bashar b Hondo 10

Ashraf ul b b Hondo 5

Saleh c Masakadza b Cremer 24

Aftab c Matsikenyeri b Hondo 0

Mashud b Hondo 0

Rafique c Ebrahim b Masakadza 56

Mashrafe c Chigumbura b Panyangara 26

Baisya c Chigumbura b Cremer 13

Enamul not out 3

Extras: (lb-7, nb-5) 12

Total: (All out in 78.4 overs) 211

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-71, 3-84, 4-85, 5-103, 6-107, 7-132, 8-168, 9-203

**Bowler** O M R W

Panyangara 17 5 37 1

Mpofu 11 3 28 0

Hondo 22 7 59 6

Chigumbura 9 1 32 0

Cremer 12.4 1 32 2

Masakadza 7 1 16 1

**ZIMBABWE:** Second innings

Matsikenyeri lbw b Mashrafe 14

Rogers lbw b Mashrafe 20

Ebrahim lbw b Mashrafe 1

Masakadza c Saleh b Rafique 1

Taylor b Enamul 78

Taibu not out 81

Chigumbura c Mashud b Ashraf ul 0

Panyangara not out 2

Extras: (lb-2, nb-4) 6

Total: (For 6 wickets in 72 overs) 203

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-36, 3-37, 4-37, 5-187, 6-196

**Bowler** O M R W

Mashrafe 16 6 45 3

Baisya 10 2 32 0

Rafique 18 6 47 1

Enamul 22 4 67 1

Ashraf ul 6 2 10 1

**Hefty fine**

FROM PAGE 13

When his team were batting in difficult conditions earlier in the day.

Vaughan was called to a disciplinary hearing after play Saturday where the fine was imposed.

He breached a condition of the International Cricket Council code of conduct forbidding criticism of match officials.



MAN-OF-THE-MATCH: Australia opener Michael Clarke pulls Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar for four during their VB Series one-day international at Hobart yesterday.

## England in charge after Proteas take slim lead



AFP, Johannesburg

Marcus Trescothick hit a rapid half-century as England overcame the early loss of the prolific Andrew Strauss on the fourth day of the fourth Test against South Africa at the Wanderers Stadium Sunday.

England hurried to 131 for two off 29 overs by tea in their second innings, an overall lead of 123 with opener Trescothick on 69 not out off 96 balls.

South Africa were led in the field by vice-captain Nicky Boje after captain Graeme Smith suffered concussion when he was hit on the head by a ball during fielding practice before the day's play.

Boje earlier led a strong performance by the tail, hitting 48 as South Africa's last three wickets added 113 runs to enable the home side to take an eight-run first innings lead.

Matthew Hoggard, who took five for 144, dismissed Shaun Pollock with the second ball of the day and had Boje, on four, dropped off an inside edge by wicketkeeper Geraint Jones three balls later.

The miss proved costly as Boje shared in partnerships of 52 for the eighth wicket with Herschelle Gibbs

and 41 for the ninth with Makhaya Ntini.

Gibbs took his overnight score of 136 to 161 before he was caught by Hoggard at third man off a top-edged cut against James Anderson.

Strauss, who had scored 612 runs at an average of 102 in his previous seven innings in the series, slashed at Ntini's first ball in the second over of England's second innings and AB de Villiers held a sharp shoulder-high chance at third slip.

But Trescothick kept the score moving rapidly. He and Robert Key put on 49 for the second wicket before he was joined by captain Michael Vaughan in an unbeaten stand of 80 for the third wicket.

Smith was hit on the left cheek, near the temple, during fielding practice before play.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the fourth Test between South Africa and England at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Sunday.

**ENGLAND:** First innings 411 for 8 declared (Strauss 147, Key 83, Vaughan 82; Ntini 4-111, Steyn 2-75, Pollock 2-81)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First innings (overnight 306-6)

Smith lbw b Hoggard 29

Gibbs c Hoggard b Anderson 161

Rudolph c Giles b Hoggard 4

Kallis b Hoggard 33

Dippenaar c Trescothick b Flintoff 0

De Villiers c Giles b Hoggard 19

Boucher c Strauss b Anderson 64

Pollock lbw b Hoggard 0

Boje run out (Giles) 48

Ntini b Giles 26

Steyn not out 35

Extras: (b-9, lb-11, nb-9, w-6) 0

Total: (All out in 118.1 overs) 419

Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-75, 3-138, 4-149, 5-184, 6-304, 7-306, 8-358, 9-399

**Bowler** O M R W

Hoggard 34 2 144 5

Harmon 12.5 4 25 0

Anderson 28 3 117 2

Flintoff 30.1 8 77 1

Giles 8.1 0 25 1

Trescothick 5 1 11 0

**ENGLAND:** Second innings

Trescothick not out 69

Strauss c De Villiers b Ntini 0

Key c Kallis b Ntini 19

Vaughan not out 31

Extras: (lb-2, nb-4, w-6) 12

Total: (For 2 wickets in 29 overs) 131

Fall of wickets: 1-2-2-51

**Bowler** O M R W

Pollock 9 0 47 0

Ntini 7 0 31 2

Kallis 8 2 30 0

Steyn 4 0 20 0

Boje 1 0 1 0

## Safin's need for speed

AFP, Melbourne

Marathon-man Marat Safin will be a tennis player in a hurry when the Australian Open gets underway here Monday.

The fiery fourth seed is determined to avoid a repeat of last year when a series of draining five-setters left him exhausted by the time of the final.

Safin, who faces Serb qualifier Novak Djokovic on Monday, played a record-equaling 30 sets spanning over 21 hours last year before losing to Roger Federer in the match that mattered most.

The 24-year-old said Sunday he had learned his lesson and would seek to be more clinical in the early rounds of the Open.

"I know that if I want to maintain myself, to give myself a chance to win the tournament or just get a little bit closer to the final, I will have to make my first rounds as fast as possible," Safin said.

"If you want to do well, you have to keep it short."

Safin, who was once hailed as the future of tennis after thrashing Pete Sampras to win the 2000 US Open, has hauled himself back to the top of the sport after an injury-ravaged 2003.

Although he struggled to immediately build on his stronger-than-expected showing at last year's Australian, he finished the season on a high, reeling off tournament wins in Beijing, Madrid and Paris.

Safin, who has finished a runner-up twice before in Melbourne, said he was happy that the pre-tournament spotlight had focused largely on top seed Federer and Australian third seed Lleyton Hewitt.

"Time will show who's going to be in the final," Safin said.

"That's why I don't have any pressure. I put pressure on myself because I want to do well."

"But it's a different kind of pressure when people are talking all around, when people expect them to be in the final. It's even better for me."

Safin meanwhile paid tribute to the exploits of Russian players in the women's game, saying he had not expected to see them dominate last year, when they won three out of four Grand Slam titles.

## Butcher expects

FROM PAGE 13

International cricket," he told BCC radio on Sunday.

"I know I am going to be back in the pack. They are going to want to give Robert Key or whoever else a little bit of a run in the side and I have got to make sure I am ready and in top form for when the time comes."

Butcher also struggled with injury in 2004, missing the home series against West Indies with neck and thigh injuries.

## Richards fears

FROM PAGE 13

Between Western Australia and Victoria was played to a packed house, and the game between Australia A and Pakistan attracted much interest.

"The thing that amazes me is how rapid it is," Richards said. "If we're all cricket lovers, it means that we are winning in some capacity because it's an addition to the game that people appear to be embracing."

## Still Australia amble

FROM PAGE 13

For Matthew Hayden, who is being rested, and Adam Gilchrist who has a knee injury.

Pakistan began shakily before steadying.

The tourists, who have been tinkering with their batting line-up all summer, had wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal partnering Butt to open the innings.

That part of the experiment failed when veteran Glenn McGrath made an early breakthrough, enticing Kamran to play at an outswinging delivery which he edged to Clarke at second slip for five.

The tourists also moved their two most talented batsmen, Inzamam and Yousef Youhana to fifth and sixth in the order, dropping Shoaib Malik into fourth place.

Malik's solid 31 from 43 deliveries helped steady Pakistan after they had lost Kamran and then Mohammad Hafeez for a duck -- caught by Brad Hogg off Lee behind square leg -- to be on 30 for 2.

Inzamam then came in to steer the ship for Pakistan.

Yousef contributed 30 but was caught by Damien Martyn off Michael Kasprovicz with the score on 191 for 5. When Inzamam fell lbw to Kasprovicz just 13 runs later, it was left to Afridi to set the innings alight.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the VB Series one-day international between Australia and Pakistan at Hobart's Bellerive Oval on Sunday:

**PAKISTAN**

Butt c Lehmann b Hogg 61

Akmal c Clarke b McGrath 5

Hafeez c Hogg b Lee 0

Malik lbw b Symonds 31

Inzamam lbw b Kasprovicz 68

Youshan c Martyn b Kasprovicz 30

Razzaq c Clarke b McGrath 12

Afridi not out 56

Mahmood not out 3

Extras: (b-1, w-4, nb-1) 6

Total: (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 272

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-30, 3-83, 4-117, 5-191, 6-2-4, 7-251.

Did not bat: Akhtar, Naved

**Bowler** O M R W

McGrath 10 2 54 2

Lee 10 0 66 1

Kasprovicz 9 0 38 2

Symonds 9 0 55 1

Hogg 7 0 28 1

Lehmann 5 0 30 0

**AUSTRALIA**

Clarke c Naved b Hafeez 97

Katich b Azhar 38

Ponting c Akmal b Afridi 6

Martyn b Razzaq 11

Lehmann not out 49

Symonds b Razzaq 40

Haddin c Hafeez b Naved 30

Hogg not out 3

Extras: (lb-5, w-6, nb-8) 19

Total: (For 6 wickets in 43 overs) 253

Fall of wickets: 1-107, 2-118, 3-141, 4-184, 5-186, 6-243

Did not bat: Lee, McGrath, Kasprovicz

**Bowler** O M R W

Akhtar 8 0 54 0

Naved 8 0 60 1

Mahmood 6 0 33 1

Afridi 9 0 43 1

Hafeez 4 0 17 1

Result: Australia won by four wickets in D-L method.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Clarke.

Toss: Pakistan.

Next match: Pakistan v Windies, Jan 19.

## Federer fancies a rivalry

### Australian Open

REUTERS, Melbourne

Roger Federer won three of the four Grand Slams in 2004 and the world number one believes the chasing pack can lift him to even greater heights over the next couple of years.

The Swiss player, who goes into the Australian Open which starts on Monday as one of the hottest favourites in the tournament's 100-year history, has not lost to anyone inside the top 10 for more than a year.

Unlike the eras of John McEnroe

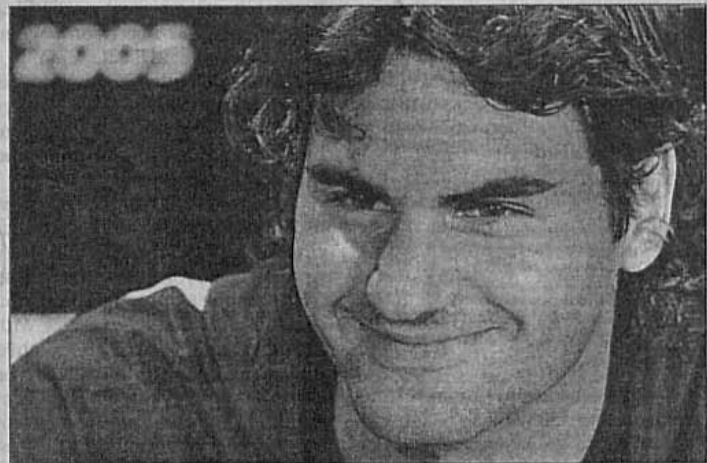
and Jimmy Connors, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, and Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, Federer is unrivalled at the top, with no one having been able to get the better of him on a regular basis.

With Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt and Marat Safin trying to bridge the gap, however, Federer says a rivalry with one or more of the others could help him to improve even more.

"I'm playing so well right now but maybe a rivalry could lift my game," he said.

"If I started to lose to the number two, three, four, it would definitely be interesting."

Last year, Federer beat Safin in



WHERE IT ALL STARTED: Defending champion and top-ranked Roger Federer of Switzerland smiles during a press conference at the Melbourne Park media centre a day before the Australian Open got underway.

## The leading ladies

### Australian Open

AFP, Melbourne

Who can stop the relentless advance of Russia's 'tsarinas' is the question as an injury-hit Australian Open women's singles gets underway here Monday.

Having never won a Grand Slam title before last season, Russian women now stand on the brink of holding all four major crowns at the same time, with a powerful Open contingent that includes five of the top 10 seeds.

A multi-pronged challenge will be led by Roland Garros winner Anastasia Myskina, teenage Wimbledon queen Maria Sharapova and US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Many believe it is 17-year-old Sharapova who is the best equipped to prevail during the Melbourne fortnight, possessing a powerful all-round game and a steely mentality that belie her tender years.

Yet the US-based number four seed refused to speculate on what the next fortnight and forthcoming season might hold in store.

"I can't predict the future, what is going to happen," Sharapova said.

"You know, I would never have predicted that I would have won Wimbledon last year, so why predict what's going to happen this year?" Sharapova, who opens against

lowly ranked Sesil Karantcheva of Bulgaria on Monday, said she believes any player in the top 10 had a chance.

"Women's tennis is very competitive at the moment," she said.

"Everyone in the top 10 are very good players, and you know when you play them you're going to have a tough game."