Cape Town Games

might be

staged in Sept

Town wins its bid to host the

2004 Olympics, the fickle

weather of the African coast

would require the Games to be

held in September and early

officer of the Cape Town bid

committee, said Friday the In-

ternational Olympic Commit-

tee had accepted those dates

due to expected weather con-

ditions at the end of the

Southern Hemisphere winter.

city of Atlanta, Georgia, begin

July 19 and end Aug 4. But July

is the wettest month of the

year in Cape Town, requiring

the Olympics to be held two

by the IOC were Sept 17 to Oct

government was expected to

decide later this month

whether to back the bid com-

mittee's proposal for Cape

It would be the first

Olympics held in Africa. Other contenders for the 2004

Games include Istanbul.

Turkey; Rome, Italy; Athens,

Greece; Buenos Aires, Ar-

gentina; Lille, France; Rio de

Janeiro, Brazil; San Juan,

Puerto Rico; Seville, Spain;

Stockholm, Sweden; and St

Ball said the government

could have to put up 86 mil-

lion rand (19.7 million dollars)

to build multipurpose sports

facilities and 250 million rand

(57.4 million dollars) to im-

tructure would be required

with or without the Olympic

Games. The winning of the bid

will accelerate these vital de-

Mandela's government.

elected two years ago in the

nation's first all-race election.

faces staggering development

needs in post-apartheid South

Africa. One of its concerns is

whether money spent on the

Olympics would help serve

long-term development needs

Buenos Aires

gears up for

2004 Games

BUENOS AIRES, May 4

Argentina on Friday began a

public relations drive to host

the 2004 Olympic Games.

promoting its relatively crime-

free capital Buenos Aires as the

"safe" option for the event, re-

safest cities in the world."

Francisco Mayorga, the

Argentine tourism secretary

and former racing driver who

is heading the capital's

Olympic bid, told a news con-

million people, still has a sur-

prisingly low level of street

crime for a metropolis of its

size. But it has suffered two

major anti-Jewish bomb at-

tacks in the past four years, in

which over 100 people were

killed. Police have still not

tracked down any of the

Buenos Aires, a city of 12

"It's one of the biggest.

ports Reuter.

ference.

in the Cape Town area.

velopments," he said.

"These facilities and infras-

Petersburg, Russia.

prove roads.

Town to host the Games.

Ball said the dates approved

President Nelson Mandela's

months later.

This year's Games in the US

Chris Ball, chief executive

October, reports AP.

CAPE TOWN, May 4: If Cape

Kluivert, the God-given gift

The first is his undoubted talent, and the second is a likely ruling by a Dutch court on May 14 that will impose a community service order on him — rather than a custodial sentence - if he is found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving following a car crash in Amsterdam last September.

A prosecuting lawyer said

The Ajax striker, valued at close to 20 million guilders (11.5 million dollars) will almost certainly use the chance to enthral a watching worldwide audience with his skills.

Kluivert, who is still only 19, scored the two crucial goals that saw the Dutch qualify for the finals when they beat the Republic of Ireland 2-0 in a play-off in Liverpool last December.

won the hearts of the Dutch nation, he has attracted scouts from many top European clubs. He grew up in north Amsterdam and joined Ajax's celebrated youth programme when he was seven.

tion against rivals Feyenord in August 1994, the teenager has losing side.

combines the power of a sprint athlete and the grace of a thoroughbred.

a maturity on the field that belies his youth and speaks volumes for Ajax's youth system which emphasises technique and tactical understanding that is the envy of clubs the world

One of the new generation of "thinking" footballers produced and nurtured by the Ajax youth programme, Kluivert is supremely self-confident rather than arrogant, although since the car crash his old

cheeriness has been replaced

by a greater reserve. The teenager captivated his nation when live television? caught his tearful reunion with his mother at Schiphol airport as the victorious Ajax returned from Vienna with the European Cup last May.

Kluivert, overcome with emotion, later danced a bovish jig holding aloft the trophy be-fore over 250,000 adoring fans in the Dutch capital city's cen-

With Ajax's single goal against AC Milan in Vienna last May, Kluivert became the youngest player to score in a European Cup final, bringing back Europe's premier club

He also cemented his growing reputation as a burgeoning talent and his name has inevitably been linked with some of Italy's top clubs, although his agent is reported

trophy to the Netherlands

after almost a quarter of a cen-

World Cup, citing the logistical problems involved, reports Reuter. Speaking by telephone from FIFA headquarters in Zurich, spokesman Andreas as saying that Kluivert would Herren said another barrier prefer a move to England but not for a while. was that the organisation's rules did not provide for more His Ajax contract runs out in the summer of 1997. than one host for the World's

Kluivert made his international debut in the qualifying rounds and has already bagged three goals in six games for his country. His Ajax tally stands at

appearances.

44 goals in 79 league and cup Both countries formally submitted separate bids for the competition late last year. FIFA is to decide between them on June 1. European soccer federation (UEFA) members on the FIFA executive committee last month recommended joint hosting by the two countries. Earlier on Friday an aide to South Korean Prime Minister

major soccer competition.

FIFA bursts

the bubble

Moya brings Muster down

majority of FIFA members."

MUNICH, Germany, May 4 Spanish teenager Carlos Moya brought an abrupt end to Thomas Muster's remarkable winning streak on clay with a straight sets victory over the French Open champion in the Munich Open semifinals today. reports Reuter.

The 19-year-old Moya played some brilliant shots to defeat Muster 6-3, 6-3 and end the Austrian's 38-match run of victories on his favourite

The two players had played three times on clay in the last weeks in Estoril, Barcelona and Monte Carlo. Muster had won all the encounters but was unable to battle back against the youngster today.

Muster last lost on clay in August last year when he was beaten by Spain's Alberto Costa in the final of the Kitzbuehel tournament

After both players enjoyed a service break, the Austrian top seed lost control against Moya when the teenager broke again to lead 5-3 in the first set before serving out for the set.

Moya broke again in the first game of the second set and Muster was unable to force his way back into the match. finally going down after hitting a forehand wide of the court.

Chang in semis

ATLANTA. May 4: Two-time defending champion Michael Chang moved closer to a title at the AT and T Challenge tennis tournament by holding off unseeded Brazilian Fornando Meligeni on Friday to advance to the semifinals, reports

The top-seeded Chang roared back from a 1-5 second-set deficit on the Atlanta clay to beat Meligeni 6-1, 7-5.

Moroccan Karim Alami ranked 78th but seeded sixth in a field bereft of top level players aside from Chang reached his first career semi final earlier Friday.

Alami earned a meeting with the fourth-ranked Chang by upsetting third-seeded Ar gentine Javier Frana 2-6, 7-6,

Reneberg narrowly averted upset when he came back from a break down in the third set to beat fellow American Bryan Shelton 7-6 (11-9), 3-6, 7-5. "It was one of those

Second seed Richey

matches when you look back you have no idea how you won it," said Reneberg.

"I thought he outplayed me in the second and third set and I was just lucky to win but I didn't deserve to win," admitted the second seed, who will face Nicklas Kulti in the semis after the Swede took a pair of tie-breaks from American Vince Spadea 7-0 and 7-3.

Chang wasted no time in jumping out to a 5-0 lead in the first set against the 82ndranked Meligeni. But the momentum switched dramatically in the second set when the Brazilian capitalised on several loose errors by Chang.

baller-of-the-year in England, might be in the squad, but probably only if he agrees to accept he will not be in the starting line-up, something he is not guaranteed to do.

Jacquet's team is a tightly knit unit based on a well-organised defence, a high wokrate in midfield and the match-winning qualities of the

new tandem. dering on foolhardiness, gave

hit seven goals in five matches last autumn, struck up an instinctive understanding with Zidane and was the lynchipin

Djorkaeff, now 28, matured slowly with Monaco before blossoming into one of the finest players on the continent, enjoying a role between midfielder and striker, always at the centre of the action and

If giving the number 10 jersey to Djorkaeff was a Jacquet Ginola but there is a growing belief that Cantona -- and to a lesser degree Ginola -- should be included in Jacquet's

been expected and it has come from an increasingly vociferous press even though many ob-

servers feel that the exiles, for

all their skills, do not fit in the

Cantona, just voted foot-

can legitimately dream of riteam. European champions in 1984 and World Cup semifinal ists in 1982 and 1986.

with goalkeeper Bernard Lama among the best in Europe and central defenders Marcel Desailly and Alain Roche forming an enviable pairing. Full backs Jocelyn Angloma and Eric De Meco add weight to the attack with their overlapping runs

pulls defenders out of position for the benefit of Djorkaeff and Zodane.

on all cylinders, it can be spectacular as well as ruthlessly efficient. But it is the tandem which will determine whether it can win the title.

If not, Jacquet may well be the one told to get on his bike as the French look to their ultimate objective of finding a team to win the World Cup on home soil in 1998.



China's first-ever gold medalist, Xu Haifeng (C) gets his torch lit during the Atlanta Olympic torch relay in San Francisco, California on May 3. - AFP/UNB photo

Onus on 'golden oldies'



BUCHAREST, May 4 (Reuter): Romania's "golden generation" of world class players are

desperate to prove themselves as more than European Championship alsorans and show their 1994 World Cup quarter-final place was no fluke.

Many of the veterans from USA 94, now in their mid-thirties, will have their last big chance to represent Romania at Euro 96. They are determined to go out as heroes.

Team manager Anghel Iordanescu admits that some of his team are getting long in the tooth, but he says they have the quality to come back and surprise younger teams. "Romania must rise anew

from its own ashes so that the golden generation do not miss their last chance of glory in England," he said, referring to players like Gheorghe Hagi, llie Dumitrescu and Mirius La-

But the team is under a shadow because of lordanescu's row with Romanian soccer authorities over his allegations of widespread matchrigging at home. Although he has withdrawn

his resignation, his absence from a friendly against Yugoslavia in April sapped morale, perhaps contributing to the 1-0 loss

"It was not normal for the Romanians to be playing without lordanescu present," said defender lonut Lupescu, who plays for German club Bayer Leverkusen.

it was only the fifth defeat in 30 matches for Romania played under lordanescu's leadership since he was named as national trainer in July 1993

Players from domestic clubs are also worried at the impact

of lordanescu's anti-rigging campaign which confronts many of the most powerful figures in the big Romanian clubs.

lordanescu, himself a general in the Romanian army, has accused the heads of the big state clubs of "becoming rich on the back of the footballers" efforts on the pitch. The Romanian soccer fed-

eration has agreed to investigate lordanescu's claims that the domestic championship is being rigged, partly because President Ion Iliescu intervened to persuade lordanescu to stay on.

But the squabble has clouded preparations for Euro

"It was not necessary for us to have such a row just two months before the European Championship finals in England," Steaua Bucharest's defender Daniel Prodan said.

"It's disturbing for us as we prepare for this summer's finals," he added.

lordanescu, whose contract negotiations coincided with the dispute and has agreed to stay on until July 1998, says he is now single-minded about steering his team through the Championship. "I have now only one prior-

ity - to prepare the opening game against France who last year beat us in the qualifying match in Bucharest," he said. "It's not only for our pride that we need to beat the French but also for our future at the finals," lordanescu

Romania face France, Bulgaria and Spain in Group B and play their matches in Newcastle and Leeds.

"Romania have to play in the strongest group in England," lordanescu said, adding he was unsure whether that was the best, or the worst thing for his

"If we'll finish top of the group it means that we will probably be strong enough to reach the semifinals at least."

lordanescu's resignation and the subsequent fall-out from that is not the only potential barrier to Romania doing well.

The players, whose game has traditionally been based on swift counter-attacks as they proved when they beat Colombia and Argentina in the World Cup two years ago, are older and slower.

Playmaker Gheorghe Hagi is no longer quite the magician he was during those finals, and has had only an average season at Barcelona.

"It would be a huge handicap for Romania to play with a Hagi out-of-form," said Gavrila Balint. Romania's deputy trainer, "because an all-power ful Hagi is half our team."

The nucleus of Romania has been lost with the retirement of sweeper Miodrag Belodedici. His replacement Anton Dobos of Steaua Bucharest, has a tough act to follow

Florin Raducioiu, who is now at Espanyol in Spain. scored three goals in the United States, but has been suffering with injuries, and last played for Romania almost a

vear ago. And another World Cup regular. Ilie Dumitrescu, was also out of action for more than seven months, during which time he lost his British work permit before he was autho-

rised to move across London from Tottenham to West Ham. There is no doubt that Romania's players can all be match-winners on their day.

Mayorga described the 1992 and 1994 attacks as isolated events "in a country without social or racial con-The tough part for them will flicts". Buenos Aires, making its be proving it in a major competition again.

bombers.

fifth bid for the Games to follow this summer's Olympics in Atlanta and Sydney's Games in 2000, is counting on its image as a sports-loving country with an outstanding reputation for soccer, tennis and polo.

"It is a country that loves sports and a city that has a sporting vocation." Mayorga said, outlining plans to centre the Games in nine square

miles right at the heart of Buenos Aires. The city already has a wide range of centrally-located sports centres on a broad band of reclaimed land on the River Plate, including soccer clubs Boca and River Plate - site of

the 1978 World Cup - a horse track, polo fields and plenty of tennis centres and indoor exhibition centres. Only baseball, badminton and rowing would be held out-

side the city centre, said Col Antonio Rodriguez, president of the Argentine Olympic Committee. Argentina, whose bid is

cherished by sports-fan President Carlos Menem, also holds up its performance as host of the 1995 Pan American Games and its Olympic tradition going back more than a century to 1894, when it was one of 12 founder members of the first International Olympic Committee.

Spaniards stay on course

HAMBURG, May 4: Spaniards Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario moved towards a showdown in the final of the Hamburg Open women's clay-court tourna ment with crushing semifinal

win over French fourth seed Mary Pierce while top seed Sanchez-Vicario had few problems in a 6-2, 6-0 victory over, France's Julie Halard-Decugis.

start to finish, breaking and Barcelona will oversee Pierce's opening two service games to build a commanding early lead with her strong baseline game. The big-hitting

Gully's last battle lost Tom and the pair also reached



ois, May 4: Former tennis player Tim Gullikson. who coached Pete Sampras to the

number one ranking in the world, died of brain cancer on Friday. He was 44, reports Gullikson, who enjoyed

most of his tennis success playing doubles with his identical twin brother. Tom, had been fighting the disease for more than a year Today I lost a dear friend

and coach," said Sampras, from his home in Tampa,

Carter remains Games' rival! ATLANTA. May 4: Former

US President Jimmy Carter has turned down his Olympic

Carter, selected as one of the runners in the nationwide Olympic torch relay, notified the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games a few weeks ago that he would not participate, committee spokeswoman Alexis Davis said Friday

Davis said she did not know why Carter declined to make the run. A spokeswoman for Carter did not return a telephone call.

Carter was among 5,500 "community heroes" chosen as torch bearers after a nationwide search for people who exemplify the spirit of the Olympics. A total of 10,000 people will carry torches in the relay from Los Angeles to Atlanta that began April 27. Carter had been scheduled

to run in Georgia. Carter's selection was noteworthy because he once was ostracized by the Olympic movement for leading a boycott of the US team at the 1980 Moscow Games. Carter urged the boycott in protest of the Soviet Union's invasion of

Afghanistan.

Florida, in a statement issued by the ATP Tour. But we all lost a special person.

"My prayers are with his wife Rosemary and his two children. Erik and Megan. The universally well-liked

Gullikson made his last coaching appearance with Sampras at the 1995 Australian Open, which he left abruptly to return home after falling ill. He was subsequently diagnosed with brain cancer. Sampras continued to battle

playing a memorable quarterfi nal match with Jim Courier-a match that saw Sampras weep openly on the court during the fifth set when a fan called out for him to win it for Gullikson. Despite his personal ordeal Gullikson continued to counsel

through the draw to the final

Sampras via telephone throughout the year Gullikson, affectionately knows as "Gully," was last seen

publicly at Sampras's side

when he unofficially coached

Sampras during a dead rubber

match at the Davis Cup semifinals between the United States and Sweden last September. Tim made the trip to Las Vegas and provided a huge emotional lift to Sampras and brother Tom, the US Davis Cup

ence at courtside Under Gullikson's tutelage Sampras blossomed into a multiple Wimbledon and US Open winner and finished atop the ATP Tour rankings for three consecutive years.

captain, merely by his pres-

As a singles player. Gullik son's finest hour came at Wimbledon in 1979 when he upset John McEnroe in the round of 16 and went on to reach the quarterfinals, his best singles result in a Grand Slam tournament

titles, but became a very popular figure on the international tennis circuit in the 1970s as the right handed half of the Gullikson twins doubles team. Gullikson won 10 of his 16 doubles titles with brother the finals at Wimbledon in

Tim Gullikson retired from the pro circuit in 1986 and made a successful transition to coaching, working with Martina Navratilova, Mary Joe-Fernandez. Aaron Krickstein and Barbara Potter before teaming with Sampras in January 1992.

The funeral will be held Tuesday in Wheaton, a suburb of Chicago, the family said.

IOC, Barcelona to Sarajevo's rescue

BARCELONA, May 4: The

agreed Friday to unify efforts to rebuild Sarajevo's Olympic stadium, reports AP. IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch and Barcelona Mayor Pasqual Maragall agreed to raise the 15 million dollars

needed to rebuild Sarajevo's

Zetra Olympic Stadium, site of

the 1984 Winter Olympics

International Olympic Commit-

tee and the city of Barcelona

closing ceremony. According to the agreement signed in IOC headquarters in Lausanne. Switzerland. Barcelona is responsible for securing 5 million dollars through European Union assistance and other sponsors.

The IOC had previously pledged 10 million dollars to rebuild the main covered stadium of Sarajevo. "I am committed to helping

Sarajevo because Europe is at risk in that city, a place cultures meet," Maragall said. "If Europe doesn't work in Sarajevo, it won't work anywhere." In all, he won four singles Representatives from IOC

> project development Barcelona has been partiespating in a programme to reconstruct Sarajevo since the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

victories today, reports Reuter. Martinez cruised to a 6-1

Second seed Martinez. dominated her match from

Spaniard never looked back.

May 4 (Reuter): Two entirely unrelated matters could help turn Patrick Kluivert into one of the outstanding

stars of the European Championships next month.

during a hearing on Wednesday that he would not oppose a community service order, effectively signalling that Kluivert would spend no time behind bars and be free to play in

the tournament.

A prodigious talent who has

Pressed into first-team ac-

been virtually ever-present since and played 40 league games before he was on the Strong and agile, Kluivert

Gifted in both feet and lethal in the air, he has shown

Of French freak & flair

PARIS. May 4: It

may be ironic

that the nation

which invented

the Tour de

France tends to

prefer the tandem when it comes to soccer, reports Reuter. French national team success has always been founded on a dynamic duo - Kopa-

Fontaine in the 1950s, Platini-Giresse in the 1980s, then Papin-Cantona. The latest double act, to be foisted on to a world stage at June's European Championship in England, will be billed as the Djorkaeff-Zidane show and early signs

are that it could be just as appealing as its predecessors. Trainer Aims Jacquet's decision to break up the team built around Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona and opt instead to place Youri Djorkaeff and newly-crowned French footballer-of-the-year Zinedine Zidane at the hub has paid off

so far.

His team has gone 20 matches without defeat, beating the French record, since he took charge more than two years ago, is on a run of six successive wins and claimed the best defensive record in the qualifiers with two goals conceded in 10 outings.

Jacquet's logic was simple.

Papin and Cantona were great but their team flopped at the 1992 European Championship and fizzled out in the 1994 World Cup qualifiers. The trainer, who stepped in after stunning home deleats to Israel and Bulgaria blocked the

route to the US finals, felt he

had to dump them and rein-

vent the more successful mid-

field combination of Michael

Platini and Alain Giresse in-

choice for the Giresse role. The young Bordeaux players of North African origin caresses the ball as if it were a pet kitten, possesses a seemingly

splitting passes and has a keen eye for goal. Finding a new Platini was no easier than discovering another Edith Piaf, a second Charles de Gaulle or a reincarnation of Paul Cezanne but

He came up, hesitantly at first, with Djorkaeff and nobody is ridiculing his choice

The Paris St Germain player

often finishing it off too. masterstrike, so too was axing Cantona, Papin and David

thinking. With Cantona and Ginola performing so brilliantly in England, criticism might have

shivers in the best of defences.

Zidane was an obvious endless supply of defence-

Jacquet, showing bravery bor-

of France's qualification for the

PATRICK KLUIVERT ... explosive genius, can send

Jacquet mould.

As it is, France and Jacquet are riding on the crest of a wave of self-confidence and valling the Plantini-Giresse

The team has a solid look

In midfield, Didier Deschamps. Vincent Guerin and Christian Karembeu will chase all day like overworked retrievers and, in attack, the seifless Patriece Loko tirelessly

When the machine is firing



Heiko Hinz (L) of Germany lands a right jab on the jaw of Hector Vincent Charon of Cuba during the Atlanta Boxing Classic in Atlanta on May 3. Charon won the bout. - AFP/UNB photo