yesterday.

VOLGOGRAND.

Russia, June 12

(Reuter): To his

rivals he's the

extra-terrestrial.

the man who has

taken the butterfly stroke into

human submarine, a phe-

nomenon who swims more

than half the length of a 50-

year-old son of a tractor factory

worker, smashing the world

100 and 200 metres records is

any time," he said, relaxing

during training at his home-

town club on the banks of the

the Russian Air Force, was de-

nied the world short-course

100 and 200 butterfly marks

in February this year because

no dope tests were carried out

If the records had been al-

lowed Pankratov would have

after Michael Gross, to hold all

Outwardly he remains un

Coach Viktor Avdivenko.

Costa bites

dust

June 12: Spain's Alberto Costa

crashed out of the ATP

500,000-dollar ATP event here

on Tuesday, losing to unher-

alded Moroccan Hicham Arazi

6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-7 (7/9), re-

failed to press home his advan-

tage after easily wrapping up

the first set as he went the

same way as top seed Arnaud

Boetsch, beaten in the opening

round 24 hours earlier by fel-

low Frenchman Stephane

Eltingh was playing his first

Fifth-seeded Jan Siemerink

game for three months follow

ing a serious knee injury

picked up in a Davis Cup clash

ousted Germany's French Open

quarter-finalist Bernd Kar-

bacher in straight sets, but

another Dutch player. Paul

Haahuis, needed three sets to

beat US qualifier Kenny

Thorne, ranked 355 in the

world. Haarhuis, ranked 24th,

eventually came through 6 2

Hosts go under

crash course

at an English hotel have un-

dergone a crash course in

French language and cuisine to

help them to be perfect hosts

to France's Euro '96 squad, re-

maids and receptionists were

all given special French

lessons by teacher John Bayley,

them understand the special-

isties of French attitudes to

took place at the old-fashioned

George Swallow Hotel in re-

mote Chollerford, North-East

England, where the French

party arrived for their stay

with their own supplies of

meat, mineral water and olive

some sample meals and we did

a lot of testing to make sure

they all felt at home," said

Bayley, who set up a special

12 week course in advance of

"The staff practised with

The progressive thinking

food and drink

65 15 the French squad's visit.

179 48

150 94

138.24

119.06

119.04

115.86

114.35

112.96

101 56

100.0₽

79 12

77 43

67.61

oil.

Waiters, waitresses, bar-

NEWCASTLE, June 12: Staff

The second-seeded Costa

ports AFP

world.

opponent

with Russia

ROSMALEN. Netherlands.

worried. "In France, that

wasn't my best," he shrugged.

become only the second man,

four marks simultaneously.

It's not my problem."

at the Paris meeting

Pankratov, a lieutenapt in

"I can repeat the records

But Denis Pankratov, 21-

metre pool under water.

To the spectators he's a

uncharted waters.

no big deal.



ATLANTA, June 12: Olympic 200metre gold medalist Michael Marsh is battling a thyroid condition

that causes cramps as he prepares for a showdown with world champion Michael Johnson in the US Olympic trials, which begin here on Friday, reports Reuter. "A lot of time the chemical

balance of my body isn't right. and I get cramps," Marsh said in a telephone interview from Houston on Tuesday.

"It is getting better, and I don't think it's going to keep me off the team or anything." the Santa Monica Track Club sprinter said. "It's just something I have to keep a hold on."

Marsh, hoping to make the US team in the 100 and 200 metres, already has been affected by the condition once during a race in the Olympic Stadium.

The California-born speedster was ahead of world champion Johnson through the turn of the Atlanta Grand Prix 200 metres on May 18 when he felt his right leg

"It was a very slight cramp, but it gave me pause between 80 and 100 meters, coming off the turn, and I wasn't able to concentrate on running," said

Johnson went on to claim the race in 19.83 seconds, the

Aussies warm up well

KUALA LUMPOUR, June 12: Australia's hockey team thrashed the Malaysian team 5-2 today, after blasting in three goals to nil even before halftime, in a friendly run-up match to the Atlanta Olympics. reports AFP.

Australia produced precise passes and on-target shots while Malaysia played largely ineptly. Bernama news agency reported.

Malaysian national coach Volker Knapp said his players needed more international exposure before the Olympics, and described Malaysia's defence as shaky.

'I'It is never too late to play international friendlies." Knapp said.

fastest time in the world this year, with Marsh second in

"Since then I haven't had any problems, and I'm not going to say I would have beaten Michael Johnson," Marsh said, "But if I can get through a race healthy. I think I can run a lot

better." Doctors have told Marsh that the "hypo-thyroid" condition is a common problem caused most often by severe physical stress.

"We always step up our training in the Olympic year. but this year is the hardest I've worked in my entire life," said Marsh. "My body is under tremendous demand.

"The thyroid gland attempts to reach that demand, but it just hasn't been doing it."

Marsh is attempting to cor-rect the problem by taking thyroid supplements daily and his blood is being tested weekly to ensure that his hormone levels are at an optimum stage for running, which he has done well this year with

time is of 9.95 seconds in the 100 metres and 19.88 in the



MIKE MARSH

Muster muddles through



12: World number two Thomas Muster finally solved the riddle of English grass by cla-

wing out his first-ever victory on the surface in England at the London grass-court championships on Tuesday, reports

The muscular Austrian claycourt expert subdued tough Frenchman Guillamue Raoux 6-7 (5-7), 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) to break through on the grass where his previous record in this country consisted of four first-round

defeats at Wimbledon. His only previous grasscourt success was in the Davis Cup in South Africa this year when he had a win and a loss. His overall record on the surface is now two victories and

five defeats. "I'm not very experienced on grass and everything I do is thinking. Nothing comes by instinct and it is quite hard work

for me," he said "But I enjoyed the whole match even if I didn't look too good in the beginning.

The win put top seed Muster into the third round where he joined second seed Boris Becker, 6-4, 6-2 victory over South African Chris Hanggard earlier in the day.

Becker made a successful return to competition to record - in stark contrast to Muster - his 99th victory on grass, which is undoubtedly his favourite surface.

The German showed no effects of the injury which forced him out of the French

Open last month. Muster, who has a 34-2 record on clay this year including his fourth-round loss to Michael Stich in the French Open, looked headed for defeat when he trailed by a set and 4-2 not helped by needing treatment for a nose bleed in the first set.

But Raoux tired and gave Muster some easy points and the Austrian battled back to break his French rival twice as he squared the match.

No more WC co-hosting

ZURICH, June 12: The decision to award the 2002 World Cup finals jointly to Japan and South Korea should not be seen as a precedent for more co-hosting, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in a newspaper reports Reuter.

Blatter said the aim of FIFA, world's soccer governing body. was that only one country per, continent should put its name forward in future to organise the World Cup.

The final set went with serve but Muster was looking stronger as they played into the gloom.

Raoux wanted the match halted at 4-4 but his request was refused and the set went

Muster scored an immediate mini-break in the tie-break with a superb lob, lost the next point on his own serve then reeled off five straight points

to get within one of victory. Raoux saved the first match point but Muster sewed it up with a pass to record a notable

victory. "It's not the speed of the court, it's the low bounce that makes it difficult," said Muster, whose strength is his

"I think it is better for me to play from the back but I can serve and volley too. It was fun because I had no expectations."

Muster will play another grass-court event in Halle, Germany, next week before Wimbledon starts on June 24.

The Centre Court at Wim bledon will forever rank as Becker's number one surface for his three titles there back in the 1980s. But the Centre Court at Queen's Club has also seen him claim three London grass-court titles and that is where he made his return.

The 28-year-old Australian Open champion needed just under an hour to beat Haggard. who gave him a run for his money until he overhit two forehands from near the net which both went out to hand the German a service break in the seventh game.

From then on it was one way traffic.

It was Becker's first match since he sustained an injury to his right thigh during the World Team Cup in Duessel dorf last month.

Becker said he was pleased at his recovery. He had two weeks of treatment in Munich. then started to hit again 10 "I came to London last week

and I have had a lot of good grass-court practice. At this stage I can say everything is perfect," he said



THOMAS MUSTER

Games' security beefed up

WASHINGTON, June 12: The US government is assembling a massive security force to protect the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta from domestic and foreign attacks, an FBI official said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

"Expertise in intelligence gathering, terrorist threats. chemical and biological warfare, will all be required if we are to provide for the public safety at the Summer Olympics," Robert Blitzer, the FBI's domestic terrorism counter-terrorism planning section chief told the senate judiciary committee.

More than 16,000 athletes and officials are expected at the Atlanta Games, which will be held at 36 venues, there will be nine Olympic villages and 38 training sites. Blitzer

About 2,500 federal law enforcement officials will watch for the athletes' security, including 900 from the FBI, and 11.000 military personnel. Blitzer said.

"Defense personnel will help secure the perimeter of the venues while ensuring that packages, vehicles and individuals are properly screened prior to entering any Olympic site," he said. "Furthermore, the mere presence of military personnel acts as a deterrent to terrorists and others who might want to disrupt the

Blitzer said FBI emergency response and hostage rescue teams would be set up along with teams to deal with bomb and chemical weapons threats.

Hashimoto offers cold-shoulder

TOKYO, June 12: Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Wednesday brushed aside the idea of allowing North Korea to join Japan and South Korea in hosting the 2002 football World Cup. reports AFP.

"Look who's talking. I believe we ought not to make sport a plaything of politics. Hashimoto told reporters at his official residence.

On Tuesday, Social Democratic Party chief Tomiichi Murayama, Hashimoto's predecessor in the coalition government, told reporters that he would seek popular support to make North Korea a third host in the World Cup.

FIFA, soccer's world governing body, awarded the 2002 World Cup to Japan and South Korea last month after their rival bids jeopardised their deli cate relations. Animosity be tween the two countries dates back to colonial Japanese rule of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945. Hashimoto said, "If FIFA de-

cides, we will act it out. But what FIFA decided was the joint hosting by Japan and South Korea

The idea of letting North Korea join in hosting the World Cup has been floated by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and Chung Mong-Jung, head of the South Korean Football Association, in the name of reconciliation between the divided north and

But FIFA secretary general Sepp Blatter said, "co-hosting is between two national associations. If a third becomes involved we must stop the process immediately and start from scratch."

KAAA bows to athletes

NAIROBI, June 12: The Kanyan national championships and the final trials for the Olympics were melded into the one event on Tuesday by the Kenya Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA), following pressure by athletes, reports

A delegation led by world champions Moses Kiptanui and Paul Targat, argued that athletes would be over-extended should they run national championships between June 22 and 23, then go onto compete in the final trials a week

After listing to their argument we found it was not fair for them to run in the national championships, may be for three heats, and then meet fresh people who have just been training for the trials. said KAAA secretary David Okeyo.

The final selection will now be held between June 27-29 at the Nairobi international sports centre here and the first two athletes to cross the finish line will be automatically included in the tea to represent the country in the Olympics.

The association is to nominate the third qualifier depending on past performances

WTA rankings

FLORIDA. June 12. (AFP). Latest WTA tennis rankings issued on Monday

326.85 (pts) | who concentrated on helping Steffi Graf (GER) Monica Seles (USA) (by agreement) 2 Arantxa Sanchez (SPA) 3 Conchita Martinez (SPA) 206 18

4. Iva Majoli (CRO) 5 Anke Huber (GER) 6 Jana Novotna (CZE) 7. Chanda Rubin (USA)

8 Lindsay Davenport (USA) Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) Magdalena Maleeva (BUL) 11 Gabriela Sabatini (ARG) 12 Brenda Schultz (NED) 13 Kimiko Date (JPN)

14 Mary Pierce (FRA) 15 Amanda Coetzer 16 Barbara Paulus (AUT) 17 Irina Spirlea (ROM) R Martina Hingis (SWI) 19 Julie Halard (FRA)

20 Karina Habsudova (SVK)

Avdivenko fears the incident may have been a deliberate attempt to demoralise Pankratov revenues.

Pankratov pool's prodigy

though, is still fuming.

than half a second off Pablo Moralies' nine-year-old world record to win last year's European Championships 100 butterfly in 52.32 second, is too superstitious to predict Olympic gold in Atlanta next month. But his quite confidence that he can further reduce his world records is shared by Avdivenko.

ness or injury can stop Pankratov winning Olympic titles and setting world records in the process. Pankratov is quick to return the compliment; attributing his success to his trainer

achieved what I have anywhere the former Soviet Union and the pool in which Pankratov trains could use a lick of paint and some new titles.

sportsmen. Avdivenko refuses

to bemoan the loss of state funding since communism collapsed five years ago. "Things have actually got much better for us in the last

five years," he said, adding that the club had commercial sponsors and a contract with the air force. Avdiyenko, who coached

Evgeny Sadovyi to three Olympic titles in Barcelona four years ago, has supervised Pankratov since he was just seven years old. "Our technology of training is completely different from

that used elsewhere," he said,

hefting a bulky volume on ap-

plied physics and leafing through detailed print-outs of training performances. "It's all a question of hydrodynamics." The coach rejects suggestions that Pankratov's long glides beneath the state of

the water deprive the sport of its spectacle. For the audience it is very effective and beautiful," he said. "People come to see

Pankratov's swimming. After Atlanta, Pankratov will prepare for the January 1998 World Championships in Perth. Australia. And what about the money?

"I try not to think about it.

Sheldon on July 13

to take the WBC title.

October.

Meanwhile, Tyson has al-

ready lined up his next fight

against former undisputed

champion Evander Holyfield in

to Lewis leads to McCall, who

beat Lewis in September 1994

Tyson, but he just does not

want me right now." Lewis

said. "I don't believe he's

scared to meet me, it's just the

situation. The route we are

going is to McCall. What other

"The McCall fight has to be

It seems the only road open

"I'd rather fight Mike

Musical welcome to the world ATLANTA, June 12: Two

- AFP/UNB photo

songwriters for Michael Jackson and Gladys Knight have created a musical Olympic welcome for the opening ceremony of the Summer Games, organisers said on Monday, reports Reuter Jimmy "Jam" Harris and

Terry Lewis, both multiple Grammy Award winners, say their composition. titled "Atlanta's welcome to the world", is intended to convey the youthful spirit and energy of the Olympic host city. "It is rich with American

dance and youthful expression," said Don Mischer, who is producing the opening ceremony for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) "From steppers to hip hop to cheerleaders to contemporary movement, the Atlanta welcome is the kind of the million that, with the high-spirited music created by Jam and Lewis, immediately makes you feel good."

The pair, billed by ACOG as the most prolific writers in the recording industry," are responsible for five hits by Janet Jackson including "nasty" and "what have you done for me lately? they also scripted Michael Jackson's "scream" and "history" and received an Oscar nomination for the song "again" from the

movie "Poetic Justice. Their songs have been performed by Luther Vandross, Solo, Lionel Richie, Boyz II Men. The Human League, Patti Lebelle, Mint Condition, New Edition, Robert Palmer and Herb Alpert

They believe they owe their success as songwriters to Atlanta. They belonged to Prince's band, The Time, until they visited the city in February 1983. When a rare snowstorm hit during their stay, they missed a concert and Prince fired them.

"If it had not been for that storm in Atlanta, we would probably still be in that band. Now we have the opportunity to give something back to a great city that really changed our lives. It is truly an honour to be aboard," Jam said

ATP's top 20 PARIS, June 12: (AFP). Leading ATP

men's tennis world rankings issued Monday: 1. Pete Sampras (USA)

3731 Thomas Muster (Aut) 3. Andre Agassi (USA) 4. Boris Becker (Ger) 5. Yevgeni Kafelnikov (Rus) 3179 3162 6. Michael Chang (USA) 2930 7. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro) 2373 8. Jim Courier (USA) 2222 9. Thomas Enqvist (Swe) 2184 Marcelo Rios (Chl) 2004 Michael Stich (Ger) 12. Wayne Ferreira 1795 13. Marc Rosset (Swi) 14. Richard Krajicek (Ned) Arnaud Boetsch (Fra) 16. Cedric Pioline (Fra) 1439 17. Alberto Costa (Spa) 18. Todd Martin (USA) 19. Malivai Washington (USA) 1333 20. Carlos Moya (Spa)

Punter's bold gamble

LONDON, June 12, A gambler stands to win one million pounds starling (i.5 million) if Spain meet Italy in the Euro 96 final on June 30, bookmakers Ladbrokes said on Monday, reports Reuter.

The punter placed 50,000 pounds (76,690) dollars at odds of 20-1 in a London betting shop on the two nations reaching the final. Ladbrokes said this was the

biggest bet it had taken so far on Euro '96. Meanwhile, a Scotsman has

placed 1.000 pounds (1.534 dollars) on his country to win the championship at 80-1. Scotland played to a goalless draw yesterday against the Netherlands, who are 11-2 third favourite to win the competition behind Germany and Italy.

Germany's impressive 2.0 victory over the Czech Republic on Sunday saw their odds tumble to 11 4 from 7-2. while Italy, yet to play, are 5-1 to win the competition.

and is seeking compensation from the French swimming authorities for lost sponsorship "We would not like to think

Two stamps containing real gold were issued by the Olympia Foundation with the authorisation of International Olympic

Committee (IOC) being displayed by the Wu Ching-Kuo, the Taiwanese representative of IOC in Taiwan

it is some sort of sabotage," he Pankratov, who sliced more

Avdiyenko believes only ill-

"It's unlikely I could have

Unlike many other Russian

Lewis offers last chance to Tyson

LONDON, June 12: Mike aside and let Tyson fight for Tyson has one more chance to the WBA title against Bruce change his mind and fight Britain's Lennox Lewis.

If he doesn't, Lewis's promoter Panos Eliades promises Tyson will be stripped of his WBC belt, and Lewis will go on to fight Oliver McCall for the WBC heavyweight title, reports "Tyson will be asked to give

up the WBC belt on July 13,

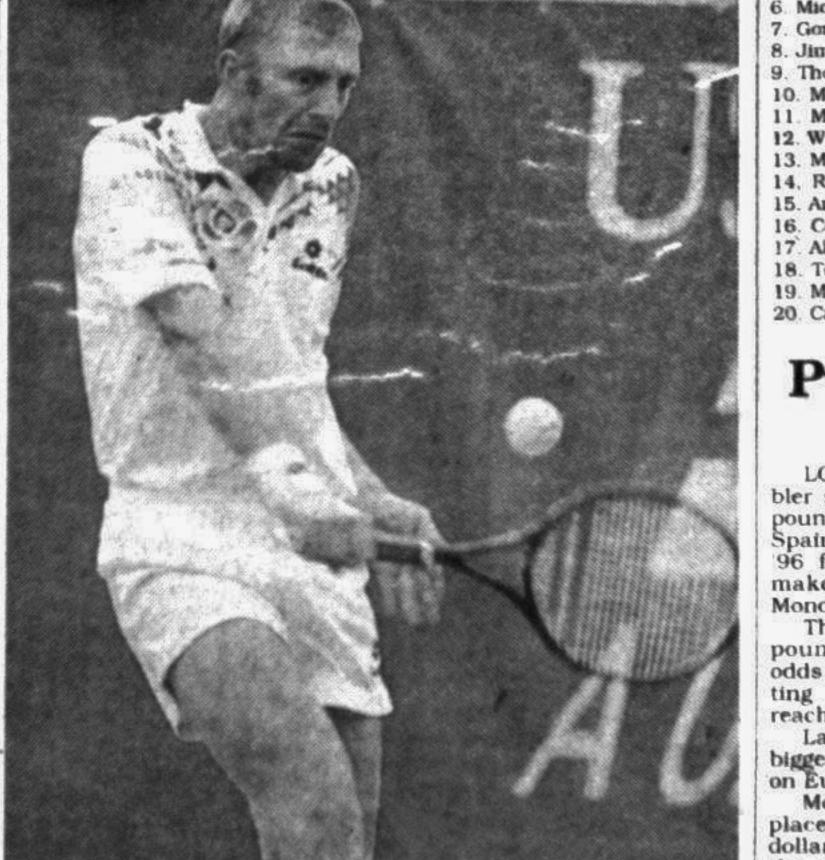
said Eliades. "But we will give In another shock, fourth him one last chance to fight seed Byron Black of Zimbabwe Lennox. He has to put up or lost to Sjeng Schalven of the shut up. Netherlands, ranked 57 in the

Third seed Richard Krajicek edged through to the second round after defeating in London. fellow Dutchman Jacco Eltingh 7-6 (7/5). 7-6 (14/12), only winning on his tenth match point against his 85th-ranked

lenger for the WBC title and was in line to be Tyson's next opponent. But he was paid 4 million dollars by Tyson's promoter Don King to step

Eliades said negotiations were underway for Lewis to fight No 2 contender Oliver McCall in September, probably Lewis is the No 1 chal-

route do I have? sorted out, people will want to see it. There is still some unfinished business between us. I'd like to set the record straight, but the important thing is getting the title back.



BORIS BECKER