# Alex likes Wimbledon later

REUTERS, Gstaad

Alex Corretja is supporting the idea of Wimbledon starting a week later to ease the pressure on top players.

Corretja, who beat fellow Spaniard David Sanchez 6-3 6-3 on Friday to clinch his place in the Swiss Open semi-finals, missed this year's Wimbledon because he believed there was insufficient time to prepare after playing at the French Open on clay.

The interval between the two events is only two weeks and that is why so many players, particularly Spanish clay court specialists, are no longer playing at both, said Corretja.

"It is too much for the players. There needs to be a bigger gap

between them to help the players. "I've talked to the guys from Wimbledon and they all said three weeks would be better."

Corretja, one of the tennis circuit's respected 'elder statesmen', has been on the professional tour for 11 years and accumulated more than \$9.4 million along with his 15 titles.

But Gstaad remains a favourite. "I've been coming for 10 or 11 vears and I know the place well, the hotel, the waiters and the reception staff. I feel at home here. I really do. It's a great event."

His popularity with the local Swiss has resulted in him participating in various promotional events over the years, including, this time round, taking a bath in cow's milk.

"I don't know how it's going to work out, but it sounds safe enough," said the Spaniard.

### Singapore make

FROM PAGE 13

the winless Oman for 66, Kuwait picked up the runs for the loss of only two wickets. Rakesh Sharma was the only

Omani batsman to put up any resistance, finishing on 24 not out. For Kuwait, Zakar Hussain fin-

ished with three for 27, and with the bat Waheed Iqbal scored an unbeaten 36.

In the semifinals on Friday, defending champions United Arab Emirates will play Hong Kong, and Malaysia will play the winner of Wednesday's match between Nepal and Kuwait.

The two sides which make Sunday's final also qualify for the Asia Cup which involves regional big guns India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The 10-nation ACC Trophy draws the non-Test playing nations from Asia and the Middle East.

### Sahara

FROMPAGE 13 comes days after India's stunning victory over England in London on Saturday in the final of a threenation contest.

Bose said Air Sahara's scheme of giving about a 50 per cent on tickets purchased online, begun earlier this year, was doing well and matched the price cuts carried out earlier this month by competitors, which needed no immediate response.

let and Indian Airlines slashed fares and launched in early July for travel on select routes between August and October in a bid to boost traffic.

Indian air travel tends to peak in the winter, between November and March, coinciding with the tourist

season.

Bose said the airline industry was still hurting from the loss of business after September 11 and the decline in tourist traffic due to a global economic downturn and tensions with nuclear rival Pakistan.

The airline, which is acquiring 14 more aircraft this year to triple its number of flights to reach twice the number of destinations, plans to more than double its market share by next year.

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32 Casino

34 Block

16 Ring

20 Bill's

21 Italy's

28 Deli



Winners of the Federation Cup Open Table Tennis tournament pose for photographs after the prize-giving ceremony at the National Sports Council yesterday.

# Tyson wants to fight

Boxing

AFP, New York

Mike Tyson is looking for a rematch against Lennox Lewis, but the reigning heavyweight champion is looking at retirement unless he can achieve a historic payday.

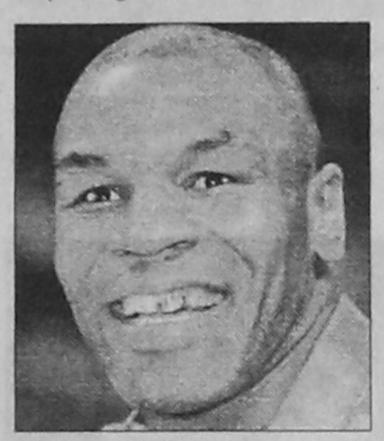
Britain's Lewis took home more than 30 million dollars for knocking out Tyson in the eighth round last

A rematch clause is in their contract but the champion doubts there is enough interest in a repeat perfor-"People don't want to see that

again because of the way I destroyed him," Lewis said. "People feel sorry for him."

Lewis said Tyson, whose 17 million dollars mostly went to paying off debts from prior deals, has asked for a rematch.

Under contract terms, each would be allowed one fight before they met again.



MIKE TYSON

But 36-year-old Lewis said he might retire rather than fight anyone else unless fight telecasters HBO and Showtime came up with a 30 million-dollar deal for Tyson-Lewis

II, a doubtful prospect. "If they don't pay 30 million dollars, I will retire," Lewis said.

"This is the perfect opportunity. Retirement is definitely an option." Should Lewis decide to return to the ring, he must face mandatory

challenger Chris Byrd or lose his International Boxing Federation title - Tyson was the World Boxing Council's mandatory challenger. Reunifying the heavyweight crown by going for the World Boxing

Association title is a doubtful pros-Promoter Don King wrestled the title from Lewis in a 2000 court

dispute but the WBA title has been

lightly regarded since. Unbeaten Canadian Kirk Johnson will challenge American champion John Ruiz for the WBA crown on July 27 in Las Vegas.

The winner is likely to face former champion Evander Holyfield, who last month beat Hasim Rahman to become the top WBA contender.

# Fed Cup TT Mahbub, Saleha new champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Mahabub won the men's singles title of the Federation Cup Open table tennis tournament while Saleha clinched the women's title at the NSC Wooden-floor Gymnasium vesterday.

Mahabub defeated veteran Rachi in the final by 21-11, 21-13, 21-13. Saleha won the exciting fivesetter women's final against Rumi by 21-17, 19-21, 19-21, 21-13, 21-19. The boys singles title went to Poragh of Narail.

### Lifebuoy soccer

BSS, Dhaka

The Independent and Bhorer Kagoj yesterday moved into the final of the Lifebuoy-Community football tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The final of the six-a-side tournament will be played today at 10 am. Independent trounced Banglabazar Patrika 3-0 in the first semifinal while Bhorer Kagoj defeated Ajker Kagoj 2-1.

## **Boldon misses** C'wealth Games

REUTERS, Irvine

Olympic silver medalist and Commonwealth Games 100 metres champion Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago has ended his season and will not compete at next week's Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England.

"I am not in the kind of shape that I would like to be in at this point of the year, " Boldon, who has performed poorly in the past few months, said in a statement from his club today.

The 28-year-old said he and coach John Smith believed he had used too little time to prepare for the season and it would be best to take a short break and begin preparing for

Boldon plans to race both indoors and out next year with his main goal being the Paris World Outdoor Championships.



# System bows to pressure!

# Cricket

REUTERS, Cape Town

Ticket sales for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa were marred by technological failure in the face of hefty demand on the first day of official sales.

Of the 222,000 tickets available to Wanderers Stadium package. the public in the first phase of sales just 90,000 were sold as customers at the 12 host venues faced long queues, the official website crashed under the weight of demand and there were problems at the call

The tickets on sale on Monday were bundled into packages either for all games at one venue (Stadium Package) or for all matches played by one team in the pool stage (Follow the Team Package).

Both the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, which will host the final on March 23, and Kingsmead in Durban sold out their allocations despite the difficulties, tournament organisers said in a statement.

World Cup organising committee executive director Dr Ali Bacher apologised to the South African fans -- particularly those at Wanderers which saw the heaviest demand -for having to struggle in vain to buy

tickets at the stadiums.

In an effort to calm angry cricketlovers outside the Wanderers, Bacher told them: "We will come back to you people... You will see World Cup cricket at the Wanderers.'

taken the details of hundreds of disappointed fans so that if any tickets come back into the system they can offer be offered a

Bacher said in the organisers' statement fans nation-wide were also able to buy Wanderers packages at other venues. "We have always said that we want people from around the country to get a chance to attend the ICC Cricket World Cup final should they so desire."

The World Cup takes place from February 9 to March 23, with matches also scheduled to be played in Zimbabwe and Kenya. Many of the fans had spent much

of the weekend waiting for the ticket booths to open. Some set up tents outside the Wanderers, lighting fires to ward off the winter cold. "I'm so upset. We queued from

two o'clock," said a 32-year-old called Julia. "It's the one chance for loe Public to support World Cup cricket at home, but then the organisers go and sell the tickets to people from out of town."

Queues that had formed up to 48 hours beforehand outside the

Wanderers Stadium and at Newlands in Cape Town had still not moved by 1000 local time (0800 GMT) -- an hour after tickets were supposed to go on sale.

Organisers expected it would The organising committee has take six minutes to process each transaction but complex security requirements to prevent scalping meant it took three times as long.

"We arrived at 0600 (local time) with hundreds of other people and the atmosphere was great but it soon became rowdy and not very pleasant, as people became angry and frustrated," said Cape Town businessman Warren Boyce. "I started off queuing with my

mother but there were thousands of people standing around going nowhere so they changed the rules and announced that one person could buy for another as well as themselves which let some people There were regular updates

about what was happening and they tried to cheer us up by saying that it was much slower in Jo'burg and Durban," Boyce added.

Internet customers also suffered. Twenty per cent of tickets were available online but heavy worldwide demand crashed the system. leading to a flood of enquiries to the ticketing call centre that promptly collapsed under the strain.

# Malaysia, in 1998 when boxer

A child waves an American flag as Lance Armstrong speeds past during the 9th stage of the Tour de France on July

"In the past (on his way to win-

Thanks to the time trial, where

Ukrainian Serhiy Honchar, third

Britain's David Millar, who had

possession of the white jersey for the

1:23 behind his team-mate.

through, a number of riders

# Igor keeps yellow jersey

AFP, Lorient

Race leader Igor Gonzalez de ning) I've had a good feeling but it Galdeano retained the Tour de just wasn't there today. For the last France yellow jersey here on fivekilometres I was suffering." Monday as three-time winner Lance individual talents can shine Armstrong only partially closed his gap on the Spanish rider.

US Postal leader Armstrong, who improved their ranking in the overall started eighth from last in accor- standings. dance with his overall position, failed to beat the day's best time of in the time-trial at 18secs, moves up 1hr 02min 18sec set by Colombian 15 places to fourth overall just Santiago Botero of the Spanish behind Spaniard Joseba Beloki of Kelme team on a sun-drenched the ONCE team, who is in third at 52km course from Lanester to here. It is 29-year-old Botero's second

Tour stage win, and his first in a been sitting 20th overall, reclaimed time-trial. Armstrong came second at

11secs to partially close the 34- jumped to seventh place overall at second gap which existed between 2:11 behind the Spanish race leader. him and ONCE rider Gonzalez de Galdeano prior to the stage.

Gonzalez de Galdeano, who finished on the white jersey - given to the best fourth in the time-trial at just 19secs rider aged 25 or under - he had worn behind Botero, still sits top with for a day after the prologue. Armstrong second at 26secs adrift prior to Tuesday's rest day.

Armstrong, 30, said it wasn't his Botero, a noted climber who also worst day in the saddle, but admitted he struggled in the final he came fourth, at only four seckilolmetres. "I didn't have a great day, but it prologue at the start of the Tour.

"feeling positive" throughout the time-trial at the world champion-

Millar, of the French Cofidis team, clocked the day's seventh best In the overall standings, time at 50 secs adrift of Botero to pull

As the battle for the yellow jersey continues, the day belonged to showed he can cut it on the flat when onds, behind Armstrong on the wasn't too bad either," said The amiable Colombian, who

Armstrong, who admitted to not also took a bronze medal in the

ships last year, pulled off a brilliant performance to hand the American his first defeat in two years on a course described as "very difficult".

"I was very motivated for the

time-trial, and when I heard that I was first at the first checkpoint, it just motivated me even more," said Botero, who moves up to fifth place "I had some doubts before the race, and with the headwind I wasn't

too sure. But I think Lance will be disappointed - although it will add a bit of excitement to the race." The day's first impressive time

came courtesy of Laszlo Bodrogi, a Hungarian who has spent almost his Tour's best young rider as he entire career in France.

The Mapei rider nailed down a menacing 1hr 02min 43sec to jump to first place but with almost 100 riders to go he seemed sure of being

However Bodrogi's mark lasted almost the whole afternoon as rider after rider failed to beat him. The first to do so was Honchar, of the Fassa Bartolo team, and when he did it was only by seven seconds.

Botero in the overall standings, Fassa Bartolo could now adjust their race tactics to provide support for Honchar when the race restarts on Wednesday.

With Honchar only 1:35 behind

# Nalbandian crashes

AFP, Umag

The opening day of the 400,000dollar Umag ATP tournament turned out to be a nightmare for the organisers as top seed David Nalbandian of Argentina lost in the first round here on Monday.

Wimbledon finalist Nalbandian was easily defeated by little known Spaniard David Ferrer 6-4, 6-3. Ferrer won the first set in 56

minutes after twice breaking Nalbandian's serve. After the first set, a physiotherapist helped Nalbandian with a right knee problem which he has had

Wimbledon earlier this month. In the second set, Nalbandian had one chance for a break, but

since reaching the final at

squanderedit. "I found it very difficult to play after Wimbledon, because it is far more warmer here, with a lot of humidity in the air," Nalbandian said. "I was bad, but the other David was excellent," he said.

In the second match of the opening day, Croatian Mario Radic, playing for the first time in an ATP tournament, won against

By Eugene Sheffer

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27 Chops

Austria's Julian Knowle 6-4, 6-3. Another Croatian player Zeljko Krajan was even more convincing on home soil, defeating

Argentina's Edgardo Massa 6-4, 6-



DAVID NALBANDIAN An easy victory also came to Costarican Juan Antonio Marin who beat Italian Stefano Galvani 6-3, 3-6, 6-0. In the last match of the day, Spaniard Marc Lopez defeated Argentina's Franco Squillari 7-5, 6--

25 |26 |27 28 | 29 | 30 | 47 48 49 50 |51 |52 53 54 CRYPTOQUIP

HZJZAQDJ PTAS JIFKY FTAKJFRI

KFAAZY-YAZZKIA? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A SKUNK GETS REALLY MAD ABOUT SOMETHING, IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE A STINK. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L 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 dues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

# Money For Nothing

Manchester

AFP, Karachi

The parents of Pakistan's 64 Commonwealth Games athletes have agreed to pay 16,500 dollars if their child defects while at the event, the nation's sport's chief

said Sunday. The 11 officials accompanying the athletes, who leave for Manchester on Monday, have also been coerced into signing the deal as Pakistan's sporting heads try to stop a repeat of embarrassingdefections at previous sporting

events. "Pakistan has a 75-member squad, 64 athletes and 11 Pakistan Olympic Association officials, who have signed a bond of one million rupees (16,500 dollars) in case they slip out," Pakistan Sports Board Director Brigadier

Saulat Abbas told AFP. "Parents of all of the athletes would have to pay the agreed sum of money if their son or daughter refuses to return to Pakistan after the games.

"The disappearance of athletes

has brought a bad name for the country so we needed to take this Two boxers and a goalkeeper defected to the United States after the Atlanta Olympics in 1996

return after the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Fourteen members of a club regarded as one of the top four football team disappeared in teams in the world. Japan in 1994 while another footballer, Nasir Iqbal, left the team hotel in London last year and

wide criticism from various quar-

never returned.

while two other boxers did not

Pakistan Amateur Boxing Federation president Anwar Chowdhry said no parent would be able to afford to pay the fine.

Pakistan has been granted special permission to compete at the Manchester Games, which start on July 25, even though it has been suspended from the 54member group of Commonwealth nations following President Pervez Musharraf's military coup in 1998. Pakistan will be represented in

13 disciplines -- athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, field hockey, gymnastics, table tennis, judo, rifle shooting, swimming, squash, weightlifting and wres-The sporting minnows could win only one silver medal in the

Asgher Ali lost the final in boxing's light weight category. However Chowdhry said his boxers expected to perform better at Manchester and could win even more medals if not for the restrictions on how many boxers each

last games held in Kuala Lumpur,

nation could enter. "It's sad that we are allowed to enter only three boxers but all three are medal prospects," Chowdhry said.

Pakistan's three representafrom Pakistan's hockey team tives, Asgher Ali, Saukat Ali and Haider Shah. have all won medals at Asian level. Pakistan's men's field hockey team also stands a good chance of

They failed to qualify for the

winning a medal as they are

'semi-finals in the 1998 games. Defending champions Australia, New Zealand, South However the fine system drew Africa and Barbados are placed in group "A" in men's hockey while ters with Pakistan's boxing chief Pakistan, Scotland, Wales and saying it would be a futile exercise. England are in group "B."



Emirates sponsored umpires and match referees made their debut in the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's on July 13.