8-up Indians

AFP, Bisley

India captured their eighth gold medal of the Commonwealth Games here on Tuesday when Jaspal Rana and Mahaveer Singh clinched the Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol Pairs shooting event.

They scored 1150 points to edge out Australia's David Moore and Bruce Quick, who scored 1149 for silver, with Pakistan's Irshad Ali and Zahid Ali winning bronze with 1142.

It was Rana's second gold of the Games and the sixth of his career as he successfully defended the title for the third time having won in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 and Victoria

"I am very pleased with the win but I made some major mistakes," said the 26-year-old.

"I was disappointed with my score but I don't think anyone wouldn't be pleased with gold. My teammate was shooting very well

"During the first half I shot badly and I made up for it in the latter stages," added Rana who had also triumphed in the 25m Standard Pistol event on Sunday with Samaresh Jung.

He wanted to end his life

AFP, Manchester

English sprinter Darren Campbell said Tuesday he considered suicide to escape the injury nightmare that threatened to wreck his career.

Campbell emerged from his trough of despair to grab bronze behind Frankie Fredericks and Marlon Devonish in the Commonwealth Games 200 metres Monday evening.

It ended a drastic two years which almost saw his career ruined by a combination of injuries and poor form, and left the Manchester runner in despair.

"I've been down a very dark road, believe me," said Campbell, who took the silver medal in the 200m at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"I love what I do and when that was taken away I don't think people fully appreciated what it did to me. It almost took away my life." Campbell opened his heart

about the emotions, which cost him his relationship with the mother of his young son, although the pair are now happily re-united.

"My girlfriend left me because emotionally I was very down and I wasn't being a very good father," he

Murali warned

FROM PAGE 13 humbled Bangladesh in their first Test with a 10-wicket haul, but was then left out of the second Test.

chose to try out a younger team after their crushing defeat of Bangladesh and dropped Muralitharan desnite captain Sanath Jayasuriya and Sports Minister Johnston Fernando calling for him to play.

Thorpe goes

FROM PAGE 13 my career once my domestic situa-

tion has been resolved." Thorpe had announced his retirement from one-day international cricket after England's oneday triangular series final defeat by

India on July 13. "I have made this decision for two reasons," he said at the time. "Firstly, in terms of keeping my

easy outing for Pakistan turned into body fit it is becoming harder to do so...I have decided to concentrate a hard struggle as Canada on playing Test matches. defended well, but were unable to "Secondly, I want to have more convert the chances that came their

time to build a relationship with my two children, given my new personal circumstances at home.

Thorpe has played in 77 Tests, scoring 5,109 runs at an average of just under 42.

In the Lord's first Test against India, he made scores of four and

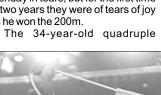
Frankie, Debbie dazzle

Manchester.

AFP, Manchester

Namibian legend Frankie Fredericks ended the men's 200m Commonwealth Games final here Monday in tears, but for the first time in two years they were of tears of joy

as he won the 200m.



two Achilles operations in the past two years and many had thought the game was up on one of the greatest ever 200m runners.

the doubters wrong as England's Chris Rawlinson showed he could

that he was worth his place despite



FRANKIE FREDERICKS

Manchester.

Title-contenders Pakistan downed

Canada 2-0 on Tuesday to cruise into the men's hockey semi-finals of

the Commonwealth Games with an

Pakistan, still short of their best

form, scored once in each half to

emerge Pool B champions and gain

an automatic berth into the semi-

Canada, who finished the league

with two losses and a draw, will still

make the play-offs to determine two

semi-final spots if England defeat

Wales as expected later on

Pakistan ahead in the 21st minute

before penalty corner ace Sohail

Abbas increased the margin eight

What was expected to be an

"There is no disgrace in losing

"The story would have been

"But its not over yet. We can still

like this," Canadian coach Gene

different if we had taken the

make the semi-finals and I think we

chances and put a few in

minutes before the final whistle.

Muhammad Saqlain put

AFP, Manchester

Tuesday.

Muller said.

Pakistan ease into semis

He wasn't the only one to prove

handle the big occasion at last by taking the men's 400m hurdles. Darren Campbell then showed

two years of injury problems himself

The smaller nations also hit the target as the Bahamas took two titles, led by Debbie Ferguson sealing a golden double in adding the 200m to the 100m and 37-yearold Laverne Eve ended 14 years of medal-less competition with gold in the women's javelin. Mozambique took the women's

800m title, courtesy of their great runner Maria Mutola and there were minor medals for India, for whom Anu Bobby George hit the target with bronze in the women's long jump, and Namibia's Agnes Samaria won bronze in the 800m. South Africa had come into the

Games wracked by injuries and with star 800m runner Hezekiel Sepeng suspended after going absent without leave, but 21-year-old Mbulaeni Mulaudzi made light of his absence to take the title.

Aussie pin-up girl Tatiana Grigorieva as expected won the pole vault, in a competition that saw a three-way tie for the bronze.

Canada claimed a 1-2 in the men's high jump as Mark Boswell finally returned to the form that saw him take silver in the 1999 world championships by winning gold.

However it was the elegant and graceful Fredericks who stole the show as he ran 20.06secs to see off two of England's finest in Marlon Devonish and Campbell. Fredericks, the second fastest

ever over 200m when he took silver behind Michael Johnson in the 1996 Olympics, was overcome with emotion after the race and entered the dressing-room area crying.

"I'm so happy because it has been two years of misery and two Achilles operations.

"Everybody wrote me off and only my family and my agent knew what I went through," said the fourtime world silver medallist. Fredericks declined to say if he

would still be around for the world championships in Paris next year such has been his record with injuries over the past few years. "I am not thinking about them

now. I am just enjoying a very special moment in my career and in a way it ranks right up there among the 1993 world title and even my Olympic silvers because I really never thought once I had to withdraw from the 2000 Olympics I would ever taste a final let alone a

that was every bit as dominant as those of the previous Commonwealth grand dame Merlene Ottey as she took her second title in a Games record time

The 26-year-old beat home Jamaica's Juliet Campbell (22.54) while Lauren Hewitt of Australia was third (22.61).

Ferguson, the 2001 world silver medallist at the distance, never looked in trouble powering away from Campbell - who also won silver in 1998 - off the bend and drawing

was amazed at my time because I haven't been training for the 200m but I ran the perfect race," she said. "This means a lot to me because

it gives me the confidence to mix it with Marion Jones more often." added Ferguson, who could win a third gold in the 4x100m relay on Wednesday.

While Fredericks had wondered whether he would ever reach a final let alone win a medal Rawlinson had started to think he would never even break his maiden medal status



DEBBIE FERGUSON

particularly after losing several kilos from a bout of food poisoning 10

"At that point I looked like Caspar the Ghost and I didn't think much of my chances at that time.

'This ends four years of my quest to win my first medal at a championships and I have proved a point to my critics," he said

Boom Boom for India

AFP, New Delhi

Tennis great Boris Becker, known as "Boom Boom" for his devastating serve, is to be the brand ambassador for one of India's biggest textile and fabric makers.

Sporting a sizzling silver-grey suit, black shirt and metallic tie, he told a press conference here Tuesday he was "very fashionoriented" and found Indian textiles exciting. "Lots of people take my pictures

so I have to try and look good. I have always been fashion-oriented," said the three-time Wimbledon cham-"Designer Donatella Versace

and the Italian fashion duo Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana are my friends but this is the first time that I am endorsing a fashion product." R.K Poddar, vice chairman of

Siyaram Silk Mills, said he was "hell bent" on getting Becker to model his firm's new range of products.

"Boris is an international icon and he will lend that smart, global appeal to our new range."

Becker will fly to India's desert state Rajasthan to be the clothes horse for a series of print and film advertisements. No details were given on how much he will earn.

Far from the courtroom drama, a relaxed Becker told AFP he was looking forward to a tennis match later Tuesday with legendary former Indian cricket all-rounder Kapil Dev. "I made sure I had a good night's

sleep. Otherwise, can you imagine tomorrow's headlines: 'Indian cricketer of the century thrashes German tennis pro.



PHOTO: AFP

GAMES DIARY "We all saw what happened at the Sydney Olympics two years ago,

Mozambique's Maria Mutola powers ahead to win the gold in the 800 metres at the Commonwealth Games on July 29.

Manchester. AFP, Manchester

Commonwealth Games diary for Tuesday

The United Kingdom is anything but when it comes to the Commonwealth Games, and in the pool the division will pit brother against brother as Alexis Militis captains the Jersey team while brother Simon represents England.

Simon, the elder at 24, is the British record-holder in the 400m individual medley, and will race both medleys at the Games. Alexis. 21, heads a three-member Jersey team whose members are merely hoping to make the semi-finals of their events. He won't go head-to-head with his brother, competing instead in the 50m butterfly, backstroke and freestyle

MOORHOUSE THE MERRIER

England's former Olympic breaststroke champion Adrian Moorhouse believes home pool advantage will prove a huge advantage for British swimmers, while some of the vaunted Australian squad could find the waters unwelcoming so far from

and it could impact the other way round here." Moorhouse said of the huge boost Australia got from their home fans at the last Olympic "I'm not sure the Australian swim-

mers will travel too well," he added. "I'm not talking about the worldclass performers, because they will produce the goods in any environment. But there was a group of swimmers who performed better in Sydney because of home support. "I think the same will happen to our swimmers here. There are kids who will go out and give the kind of performance they never really thought they were capable of." THAT'S NOT

THE WAY

Englishman David Haye believes he was willing to consider all options in an effort not to withdraw from the heavyweight boxing competition because of an arm injury.

"I was considering fighting with my left hand. I was confident of winning with one hand, but I would have looked stupid," said Haye widely regarded as the gold medal favourite here but who caused a storm by allegedly not getting coach lan Irwin's consent to leave the village and seek treatment in Lon-

Thomas smoothed out the prob-

"That felt a bit rough," Thomas

lems to lead all qualifiers for the

said after the freestyle. "But that's to

semi-finals in the 50m butterfly

"I've got a bit of a reputation for being a rebel in training camps. But everything is straightened out with lan now.

MICK SUFFERS

HAMMER BLOW Hammer gold medallist Mick Jones

of England says track and field athletes are facing a no-win situation and that he is about to become a victim of his own success "I got funding from Sport England for the Games but that may finish

now. To qualify for the World Class

Programme funding I would have to

throw 80.66m which is further than the distance thrown to win the Olympic gold medal. "I have to train in a field and I only have that because a local postman

saw me throwing lumps of metal about and arranged it for me. **AUSSIES NEED**

TO NICKANAME

Australian silver medal rifle shooter Susannah Smith made a plea to help raise the profile of the national

"Our team really needs a nickname - they call the netballers the Matildas, and the footballers the Socceroos. We'd like something like that - if anyone can think of one, we'll

'Thorpedo' launched

Manchester.

AFP, Manchester

Australian Ian Thorpe launched his bid for a record seven Commonwealth Games swimming gold medals on Tuesday by cruising to the top qualifying spot in the 400m freestyle

The Thorpedo easily won his heat in 3min 47.24sec, well outside the world record of 3:40.17 he set in winning the world title last year and slower than the Commonwealth Games record of 3:44.35 he set in winning the title four years ago in Kuala Lumpur at the age of 15.

Australian Grant Hackett, likely to be Thorpe's biggest challenger in the event, won his heat in the morning's second-quickest time of 3:49.13.

"I was really happy with that," Thorpe said. "All I wanted to do was keep it even all the way through the race and hopefully that's a good indicator for tonight. Aussie Petria Thomas, who could

walk away from these games with six gold medals of her own, overcame a rocky start to win her heat in the 200m freestyle -- the first swimming heat of the six day competition -qualifying second fastest behind England's Karen Pickering



IAN THORPE

the water and have a swim. Giaan Rooney, another Aussie contender in the women's 200m free, was second in her heat but was the eighth and last qualifier for the

"My legs hurt, that was one of the

hardest races I've done," she said. "Hopefully it was just a morning swim

and I'll feel better tonight in the final." The Australian swimmers spent nine days in Germany acclimatising to the European time zone and recovering from the long flight from

They arrived in Manchester on Sunday, three days into the Games, and had to wait more than two more days until their events started

The travel and waiting didn't seem to get to backstroker Matt Welsh, who led all qualifiers for the semi-finals in the 50m, but just two hundredths of a second faster than Canadian Riley Janes.

"I felt strong and didn't push it at all," Welsh said. "If I can hold my stroke and lift my rating and shave down, I can go a lot faster. I must admit, there was a little bit of nerves before the race, because that was my first Commonwealth Games

swim.' The first swim of any major championship is nothing new for Thorpe. Still only 19, he won an unprecedented six gold medals at the world championships in Fukuoka, Japan, last year, a year after he electrified the Sydney Olympics.

Hewitt tumbles

Tennis

AFP, Toronto

World No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt fell in a rain-interrupted match here Monday, crashing out 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Felix Mantilla at the 2.95 milliondollar ATP Masters Series to become the Spaniard's second top-

Mantilla scored another upset over the top-ranked player in the world in 1999 at Indian Wells. California. when he knocked off Pete Sampras.

"This is a special win for me, maybe the best of my career," Mantilla said. "I haven't been playing so well over the past months This victory means a lot. I've recovered some of my game. The contest was interrupted for

two hours, seven minutes by a rainstorm with the Australian leading 6-2, 4-5. But once back on court, it was

heavy weather for the top seed, playing in his first match since lifting Hewitt's game slipped as he

dropped the second set and fell to 1-3 in the third in front of a handful of spectators on a steamy, humid Though the Aussie's trademark

fight came to the fore, it was not

enough as Mantilla moved in for the kill. Hewitt rallied from a break down, but couldn't do it again, missing an overhead volley to give the Spaniard match point. Mantilla then sent a return to

Hewitt's feet, which the top seed could not handle.

The defeat was Hewitt's first loss in 15 matches, his most recent previous defeat coming against Guillermo Canas in the fourth round at the French Open.

Hewitt owns 2002 titles from San Jose, Indian Wells, Queen's club and Wimbledon this season. But his ouster could be a setback as he builds for the defence of his U.S. Open title.

"I didn't expect a whole heap here," Hewitt said. "The first match on hard-court is always a difficult one. I had been hoping for a

Tuesday start, but I didn't get it. "The damp weather probably

helped his game. Conditions were heavy and there was a lot of moisture in the air. He also played extremely well. Former Canada champion

ousted Croatian Ivan Ljubicic 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, while Jiri Novak advanced over Belgium's Wimbledon semifinalist Xavier Malisse 6-3, 6-3 Evergreen American Todd Martin ousted Brit Greg Rusedski 3-6, 7-6,

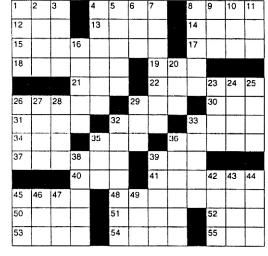
Thomas Johansson of Sweden

7-5; serve-and-volley Spaniard Tommy Robredo felt at home with a 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 defeat of German Rainer Schuettler. Pete Sampras found his opening

match against South African Wayne Ferreria put back a day due to the The American former world Number one is seeking his first title

in 31 events dating back to Wimbledon more than two years





CRYPTOQUIP

VJCW NSNNUCZ PCCQ QUAC ZVUNNUWY, ΤK

LJUWA LJCE JCOT ZLGOUYJL LJC TCOT ZCO?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH REPUBLIC BOASTS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FISH POPULATION? FINLAND, OF COURSE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals M 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.

and Canada yesterday. Pakistan won 2-0.

was yet to strike top form. "I told the boys not to exert too much today as long as they won and made the semi-finals," Tahir said. "I don't want them to get tired before the important matches. We will peak at the right moment." Pakistan have a two-day break

Action from the Commonwealth Games hockey match between Pakistan

there.'

Hussain hails FROM PAGE 13 (Sachin) Tendulkar got out!"

after Wednesday's play-offs.

before Friday's semifinals. But they

will not know their next opponent till

have played well enough to get

Canada were robbed of a valu-

able point against England on

Sunday when a controversial pen-

alty stroke two minutes from the end

Pakistani coach Tahir Zaman

who retired from international

hockey last year, admitted his team

gave the hosts a 2-1 win.

under pressure and could do so It was the third Test match in a row England had won and Hussain added: "People are coming in and doing well. People are batting well and things are looking good at the

But he said the much-changed

England side had performed well

"I know Kapil fights like a tiger."

German tennis icon Boris Becker speaks during a press conference, as vice chairman of Siyaram's body care fabrics, A.K. Poddar (R), looks on in New Delhi yesterday.