

Malaysian trio fail dope tests

AFP, Busan
Three members of Malaysia's sepak takraw squad at the Asian Games were set to be sent home in disgrace after failing doping tests, a team official said here Thursday.

WI start warm-up

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Team and nothing to lose.
SQUADS
WEST INDIES: Carl Hooper (captain), Gareth Brees, Shivnarine Chandernagore, Pedro Collins, Cameron Cuffy, Mervyn Dillon, Daren Ganga, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Wavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Jermaine Lawson, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Darren Powell, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan.

Pakistan's plea



REUTERS, London

Pakistan justified their refusal to switch further home Test series to neutral soil on Wednesday, arguing reluctant visiting teams should realise they would be treated like "heads of state" rather than ordinary tourists.

West Indies and Australia have refused to tour the country following security worries after the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington last year. New Zealand cut short a visit earlier this year after a bombing near their hotel in Karachi.

and sponsorship problems it causes the board if we have to move the series," he said.
"We took a soft view this time. But we don't want people to make this a habit."
Mujahid conceded Pakistan might have to work harder to convince opponents and their boards that they would be looked after.

Lankans going great guns

REUTERS, London

Sri Lankans occupy the top positions for batting and bowling in the world one-day ratings for the first time ever after the hosts reached the final of the ICC Champions Trophy in Colombo.
Off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan held on to top place in the bowling ahead of Australian Glenn McGrath, while the in-form Sanath Jayasuriya moved ahead of Sachin Tendulkar to claim the number one spot in the batting standings for the first time.



A SYMBOL OF REUNIFICATION: Cagers from North and South Korea mingle together in a circle on the centre of the basketball court at the end of their match at the 14th Asian Games yesterday.

South cagers beat North



AFP, Busan

Moon Kyung-Eun scored 28 points and South Korea defeated North Korea 101-85 here Thursday in the first men's basketball showdown between the political rivals since 1993.

advancing to the final four.
Korea has been divided since an armistice halted the Korean War in 1953, although no peace treaty has ever been signed.
Calls for reunification have grown in recent months and Communist North Korea's delegation here is a move to support that cause.

sat in a line behind both team benches, backs to the landmark game as they scanned the crowd.
Still more policemen stood in lines along the exits and aisles on either side of the benches, but at least they got to watch an exciting game.

Ponting punishes

Table with columns: S, Waugh, c, Younis, b, Saqlain, 31, Martyn, not out, 6, Gilchrist, not out, 1, Extras: (b-4, lb-12, nb-4), 20, Total: (For 5 wkts in 77.2 overs) 330, Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-188, 3-272, 4-302, 5-329

China, Japan share honours



AFP, Busan

Qi Hui narrowly missed her own 200m breaststroke world record Thursday but won a second Asian Games gold as China and Japan

seconds further back in bronze.
"Midway through the race I was thinking about the world record but I was too tired and the last 50m were very bad," she said.

ageing limbs couldn't respond as they used to.
Her 4:07.23 was enough to beat Chen's Asiad record but not the Chinese star's Asian record of 4:05.00.



Chinese Qi Hui in action on her way to win the women's 200m breaststroke gold at the 14th Asian Games yesterday.

split the honours at the Asiad swimming Thursday.
Qi had the form to set the second world swimming record in as many days here after coming close to her 2min 22.99sec mark in competition this year.

and one silver from the Games after winning the 200m individual medley and finishing second to Luo in the 100m breaststroke.
Her victory helped China maintain its lead over Japan in the race to be Asia's number one swimming nation. China now has 13 golds to Japan's nine after each nation grabbed three on Thursday.

Booters finish

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against Roy Hodgson's United Arab Emirates who were eliminated.
Manit Noyvach, Kiatisuk Senamuang and Narongchai Wachiraban were all on target as Thailand kept up their perfect record of three wins from three games and they now face either one of the two best runners-up in the next stage.

De Silva bids Test bye

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official of the Sri Lankan cricket board said.
De Silva, currently travelling to Britain for an exhibition match, said during the just-concluded ICC Champions Trophy that he was ready to retire but would see if he were wanted for next year's World Cup in South Africa.

with 11,544 and Mohammad Azharuddin with 9,378 have scored more than De Silva's 8,803 one-day runs accumulated in 288 matches. He also scored a match-winning century as Sri Lanka won the World Cup against Australia in 1996.

De Silva was the man-of-the-match award -- for his occasional off-spin bowling -- in the semifinals against Australia.
De Silva is expected to be picked for a one-day series in Australia in December.

Lleyton struggles

REUTERS, Tokyo

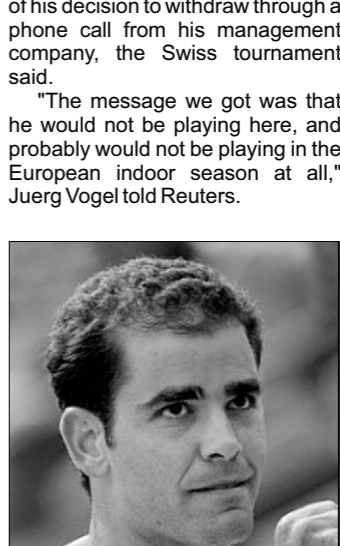
World number one and defending champion Lleyton Hewitt advanced to the quarterfinals of the Japan Open when he recovered from losing a first set tiebreak to beat Nicolas Pietrangeli 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 on Thursday.

Pete takes a break



REUTERS, London

Pete Sampras will not play tennis again this year, the winner of a record 14 Grand Slam titles has said.
Sampras, who won his fifth US Open singles crown last month, has withdrawn from all the remaining ATP tournaments in which he was entered in 2002.



PETE SAMPRAS

of his decision to withdraw through a phone call from his management company, the Swiss tournament said.
"The message we got was that he would not be playing here, and probably would not be playing in the European indoor season at all," Juerg Vogel told Reuters.
"His baby is due at the start of December and the impression we got was that he would not be playing this year...probably not in the Masters Cup season-ender in Shanghai in November."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer
ACROSS
1 Orange or Sugar
5 Litter member
8 Snatch
12 Lotion emollient
13 Mound stat
14 Ms. McEntire
15 Anti-toxins
16 Zlich
17 City in Yemen
18 Tokyo's island
20 Be a butlin'sky
22 Freddy Krueger's street
23 Kareem's old name
24 Show-up (grand-standers)
27 Decorative armband
32 Winter ailment
33 In medias

Cryptogram puzzle grid with clues and solution: IMAFT EGSSGS ATJYU, INGFX NCCQ XEIX IXXIYU, JLMCX MCIXECS: "QXJLHLJH, J LXEC SIJL"

AT A GLANCE
Factbox on Aravinda de Silva after his decision to retire from Test cricket on Thursday.
Born: October 17, 1965. Right-hand bat, occasional off-spinner.
Test debut: Versus England, Lord's, August 1984. Played 93 Tests, 6,361 runs at 42.87. 20 centuries including two double.

Richards has

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Test matches and seven one-day internationals against India spread over this month and November.
Richards recalled he made his Test debut in India and that since then "Vivian Richards never looked back".

May blames ICC

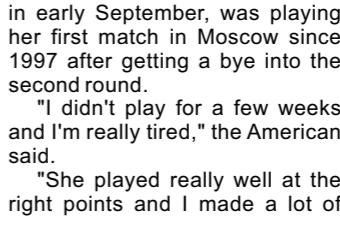
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concerns. The committee will include Gray, ICC chief executive Malcolm Speed, vice president Ehsan Mani and the heads of the Australian and Indian cricket boards, Bob Merriman and Jagmohan Dalmiya.
Relations between the ICC and the players were inflamed before last month's Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka over a sponsorship wrangle.

Shock defeat for Venus



RUETERS, Moscow

Top seed Venus Williams, playing her first match since the US Open final defeat by sister Serena, has been beaten 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 by unseeded Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva at the Kremlin Cup.
Organisers received another blow when home favourite Anna Kournikova withdrew from the 2.2 million dollars (1.4 million pounds) tournament with an ankle injury.



MAGDALENA MALEEVA

in early September, was playing her first match in Moscow since 1997 after getting a bye into the second round.
"I didn't play for a few weeks and I'm really tired," the American said.
"Shane played really well at the right points and I made a lot of mistakes. I wasn't my best playing against her. It was really difficult."
Williams fired 13 aces but also committed eight double faults and 45 unforced errors in a 98-minute match.
Maleeva, who had beaten Williams in two of their four previous meetings, said she was confi-

Shane Wine

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The leg-break bowler's focus this year on health included daily gym workouts and a preference for the occasional drop of wine instead of beer.
The bottle-blond spinner has 450 Test victims, second only to former West Indies pace bowler Courtney Walsh's 519.
Warne's love of meat pies, beer and pizzas has been well-documented.
He made his Test debut against India in January 1992 in Sydney, just a few days after watching the Melbourne Test from the stands with Steve and Mark Waugh's younger brother Dean and consuming plenty of beer and meat pies.
Warne famously celebrated an Ashes victory over England in 1997 with a victory jig on the Trent Bridge balcony as he sprayed champagne in the air.