Malaysian trio fail dope tests

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.

The trio tested positive after undergoing mandatory drugs checks in Kuala Lumpur prior to the Asian Games.

WI start warm-up

FROM PAGE 13 Team and nothing to lose." **SQUADS**

WEST INDIES: Carl Hooper (captain), Gareth Breese, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, 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. BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI: Mohammad Kaif (captain), Hemang Badani, Lakshmipathy Balaji, Sanjay Bangar, Akash Chopra, Gautam Gambhir, Murali Kartik, Amit Mishra, Dinesh Mongia, Parthiv Patel, Irfan Pathan, Ajay Ratra, Sarandeep Singh, Tinu Yohannan.

Ponting punishes

FROM PAGE 13 S Waugh c Younis b Saglain Martvn not out Gilchrist not out 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 To bat: Shane Warne, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Glenn McGrath **Bowler**

Wagar 39 70 59 Razzad 82 PAKISTAN: Waqar Younis, Taufiq

Umar, Imran Nazir, Younis Khan, Misbahul Haq, Faisal Iqbal, Abdul Razzaq, Rashid Latif, Shoaib Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West

Indies) and Srinivas Venkataraghvan (India).

Booters finish

against Roy Hodgson's United

Arab Emirates who were

Manit Noyvach, Kiatisuk Senamuang and Narongchai Vachiraban 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.

The Thais, who were fourth at the last Asian Games in 1998, took the lead in the 31st minute when Manit latched on to a long through ball to core from the edge of the box

Five minutes later, Kiatisuk grabbed his third goal in three games when he stole in behind the defence to head in a corner kick

Faisal Ali pulled one back just before the interval before Narongcahi settled the match in the 69th minute.

China beat India 2-0 to claim top spot in Group C and a quarter-final clash with Japan who should finish

as Group D winners. Yu Tao grabbed both first half goals as India were left facing a

nervous wait before they discover if they can join them in the next stage as a best runner-up.

Like South Korea and Thailand, the Chinese too finished with maximum points from their three games after Yu struck first from the penalty spot after 16 minutes before he hit the second on the stroke of half-

India finished as group runnersup and their fate now depends on the outcome of the match between Bahrain and Palestine on Saturday with the Gulf side probably needing to win by three goals if they are to claim a place in the last eight

Pakistan's plea

Cricket

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

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) director Chishty Mujahid told this news agency by phone from Lahore that the country had had enough of playing abroad and felt it was being unfairly singled out because of their opponents' security fears.

"It can't go on like this," he said. "Bombings can happen anywhere, in any country, in Calcutta or

"But cricket teams, particularly in this part of the world, are treated like heads of state or prime ministers. They get the same security. It's not like vou or me.'

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced Pakistan's tougher stance on Tuesday.

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

Pakistan agreed to shift the West Indies series to Sharjah and a oneday series to Kenya. They will take on Australia in Colombo (one Test) and Sharjah (two Tests) in the

Mujahid said the bomb blast during the New Zealand tour had "unfortunate" but stressed it had not been aimed at the players, adding that there had also been similar incidents during cricket tours to other countries.

"Pakistan should not be singled out," he said, adding that security assurances had been offered by the highest authority in the country". Visiting teams, though, had preferred the advice of their own embassies or foreign ministries.

"We were very keen to play Australia at home, firstly for the sake of our passionate supporters and secondly because of the financial

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

Mujahid conceded Pakistan might have to work harder to convince opponents and their boards that they would be looked after. They might take note, he added,

that Pakistan have an Australian fitness trainer while newly-installed coach Richard Pybus is a South Africa-based Englishman. "The ICC are also holding a

development committee meeting in

Lahore this month," he added. "The ICC are considering our case and have been very sympathetic." The PCB, though, has time on its side before acting on its tougher

While India are due to visit early next year -- a trip which is itself under threat due to tensions

between the two countries -- South Africa are not due until next October. England do not visit until 2005 and Australia and New Zealand are scheduled to return only in 2008.

China, Japan share honours



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. "I take longer to recover (from the heats) these days and it has been a long season for me."

Qi, who also holds the short course record, now has two golds



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

And the powerful 17-year-old Chinese army recruit exploded from the blocks, going neck and neck with teammate and 100m breaststroke champion Luo Xuejuan until the last 25m when she pulled free to win in 2:24.01.

Her time was 4.3 seconds inside the previous Asian Games record set by China's Yuan Yaun in 1994

Xuejuan touched in 2:24.67 with Japan's Fumiko Kawanabe five

official of the Sri Lankan cricket

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

leading Test and one-day interna-

tional run-scorer. He scored 6,361 runs, including 20 centuries, at an average of 42.97 in 93 Tests.

De Silva, who made his debut

Only Indians Sachin Tendulkar

against England in 1984, scored a

double century against Bangladesh in

his last Test appearance.

The 36-vear-old is Sri Lanka's

De Silva, currently travelling to

and one silver from the Games after winning the 200m individual medley and finishing second to Luo in the

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.

Japan's Sachiko Yamada will remember the night not just for winning gold but for beating longtime rival and defending champion Chen Hua for the first time at an international meet.

Yamada, the world championship bronze medallist, started pulling clear after 200m and Chen's

more than de Silva's 8,803 one-day

runs accumulated in 288 matches. He

also scored a match-winning century

De Silva's recall to the one-day

team in August after more than a year

on the sidelines has coincided with a

swift turnaround in form for Sri Lanka,

who had previously managed just one

Since his comeback. Sri Lanka

beat Bangladesh 3-0, won the Morocco Cup against Pakistan and South Africa and shared the

Champions Trophy with India after the

series against England and India.

against Australia in 1996.

final was rained off

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

Yamada snatched Chen's 800m short course world record earlier

"It's always good to win against the Japanese, especially Sachiko, but there's always a next time," said Chen afterwards.

China's Tang Jingzhi took

In the men's 100m freestyle Chen Zuo of China, a 1,500m specialist until switching to the sprints last year, staged a strong finish to upset Daisuke Hosokawa of Japan and take gold in 50.76. Hosokawa was forced to settle for bronze behind Liu Yu of China. Asian record holder Hiroaki

Akebe of Japan missed the medals. Defending 100m butterfly champion Takashi Yamamoto of Japan meanwhile shot down the challenge of young pretender Kohe

Kawamoto had snatched Yamamoto's Asian Games record in the heats, firing up the veteran who responded with another Asiad mark of 52.59 as he finished strongly to pip his teammate for gold.

It was just reward for Yamamoto who lost in the 200m butterfly here to another young gun, 15-year-old Chinese swimmer Wu Peng.

China's Jin Hao took bronze in

Malaysia meanwhile narrowly missed its first swimming gold when Japan's Atsushi Nishikori pipped defending champion Lim Keng Liat by a fingertip in the 100m backstroke.

Nishikori touched in 55.17 to Lim's 55.18. Japan's Tomomi Morita was third.

China took the women's 4x100m freestyle relay in a new Asiad record of 3:40.95 ahead of Japan and South Korea.

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 Javasuriva moved ahead of Sachin Tendulkar to claim the number one spot in the batting standings for the

Key India players also made big strides up the ratings, with Virender Sehwag surging up to ninth place in the batting, and Zaheer Khan joining Harbhajan Singh in the top 10 bowlers after Saurav Ganguly's side also reached the Champions Trophy final, which was washed out by rain. England opener Marcus

Trescothick climbed three places to third in the batting list, the highest position achieved by an English player since the ratings were launched in 1998.

Michael Bevan, for so long Australia's dominant player in oneday internationals, slipped back to fourth place, level with his captain

TOP 10 BATTERS Points Batsman Jayasuriya Tendulkar 789 739 Trescothick Ponting Bevan Kallis Hayden 720 Ganguly Sehwag Rhodes **TOP 10 BOWLERS**

Bowler Muralitharar Pollock Gillespie

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 Massu 6-7, 6-2, 6-4 on Thursday.
Second seed Juan Carlos

Ferrero of Spain was knocked out by Sweden's Magnus Norman 6-3, 6-3 in the second round.

Norman, 26, a qualifier here but

once ranked second in the world, stacked up 13 aces and showed glimpses of his best form. "He's playing well and if he plays

like this he's going to come back, Ferrero said of Norman, who has been struggling after hip surgery Local hero Takao Suzuki moved

into the third round to the delight of the Japanese fans, keeping hopes alive of repeating his performance last year when he reached the quarter-finals. Suzuki served his way past

American Brian Vahaly 6-3, 7-6 with 23 aces, eight of them back-to-

In other action, Dutchman Martin Verkerk outlasted sixth seed American James Blake 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 while Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen downed 11th seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia 6-4, 6-4.

Richards has

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"

But he admitted it would be very difficult to beat India on its home

"But when you participate in a sport, never say never," he said. 'Yes, we are hoping that we can give them a good fight. It would be a great cause to us to judge ourselves and how well we played against India."

May blames ICC

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 wran-

The ICC avoided a boycott of some of the world's best players when it agreed to relax some sponsorship conflicts between players and the ICC's commercial partner Global Cricket Corporation.

arise before the World Cup begins in early February. "The ICC position is clear to all -they simply wish to retain an unhealthy and inequitable amount

of power and continue to ignore the representations of those who will be directly affected by those decisions," May said.



A SYMBOL OF REUNIFICATION: Cagers from North and South Korea mingle together in a circle on the centre of the

South cagers beat North

14th Asian Games **BUSAN 2002**

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 South Korea continued a per-

fect mastery of the Communist North on the court, rising to 6-0 alltime against their neighbors in the first-ever matchup of the Koreas played in either nation. The teams had not played since South Korea won 77-68 at the

1993 East Asian Games in Shanghai. South Korea also won at the 1978 Bangkok, 1982 Delhi and 1990 Beijing Asian Games as well as the 1991 Asian Championships in Kobe. The victory enhanced South

Korea's chances of winning

quarterfinal Group Two, while

dimming North Korea's chances of

advancing to the final four. Korea has been divided since

an amristace 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 Underscoring the reunification

theme was a post game move in which all the players from both teams gathered in a huddle at center court, then waved as one to the crowd, which gave them loud cheers and a standing ovation. Players also exchanged gifts and handshakes before the match.

a special move greeted with applause from a capacity crowd of 5,000 at Geumjeong Gymnasium. Thousands of people yelling and waving the Korean peninsula unity flag and cheering for exciting

plays by both clubs. Security was also substantially tighter in light of the terrorist threat against North Koreans at the Games. Yellow-vested policemen

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 Choo Seung-Gyun sank a

jumper at the half-time buzzer to give South Korea a 48-46 lead. The South Koreans had led by as much as eight in the first half but could not shake their North neighbors. But the South Koreans opened the second half with a 17-2 run that

Kim Joo-Sung added four for the Games hosts in the run. Seo contributed 22 points and 14 rebounds while Kim Joo-Sung added 18 points and 10 rebounds

sealed the victory. Seo Jang-Hoon

scored five points in the spurt and

for South Korea. Pak Chon-Jong scored a gamehigh 30 points to pace North Korea, which got 14 points from 2.36m giant Ri Myong-Hun and 13 points each from Pak Kyong-Nam and Jo

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

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. The move fans rumours that the

31-year-old is ready to hang up his racket for good. "Since winning the US Open on September 8. I have been taking

some time to reevaluate where I

want to go from here," Sampras said on Wednesday. "I'm therefore not sufficiently prepared to compete in the upcoming tournaments in Madrid, Basel

and Paris." Sampras, who has not played since winning the US Open, had been scheduled to play at the Madrid Masters Series from October 14-20, the Swiss Indoors in Basel from October 21-27 and the Paris Masters from October 28-November 3.

Organisers at the Swiss Indoors said earlier on Wednesday that the 31-year-old had pulled out of their

Sampras told the championships

of his decision to withdraw through a phone call from his management company, the Swiss tournament

"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.



PETE SAMPRAS

"We have had a phone call from his agents but nothing on paper yet. We do need confirmation on paper before we can start offering his place in the draw to the next highestranked player.

"But we certainly felt that it was our obligation to give full notice to the public that Pete Sampras would not be playing here this year.

"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."

Last month, having defied the

odds, age, fatigue and an army of critics to claim an unprecedented 14th career grand slam title with an emotional victory over Andre Agassi at the U.S. Open final, Sampras hinted that his most unlikely victory could well be the storybook ending to a brilliant career.

"I'm going to have to weigh it up over the next couple months to see where I'm at." Sampras said at the time. "I still want to play. I love to

major tournament at the US Open...a storybook ending, it might be a nice way to stop. "I'll see where I'm at in the next

"But to beat a rival like Andre in a

couple of months, where my hearts at and my mind.

"I feel like all the hard work has paid off. All the adversity this year, I got through it and that means more to me than anything. "I really don't know where I'm

going to go from here. I'm going to

take some time to enjoy this and reflect a bit." Sampras's management company -- the William Morris Agency -were not immediately contactable

for comment on Wednesday.

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.

million dollars (1.4 million pounds) tournament with an ankle injury. WTA officials said x-rays taken on Thursday morning revealed that Kournikova suffered a partial tear of the anterior ligament in her left ankle in a doubles match on

Wednesday. They said the 21-year-old Russian will probably miss the rest of the year. WTA officials said Kournikova will be evaluated in the next few days to find out the

Kournikova, who has missed much of the season with a stress fracture in the same foot, is still looking for her first singles title after playing in her 116th tournament since 1995.

beaten in the US Open by Serena

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

"She played really well at the right points and I made a lot of



MAGDALENA MALEEVA

against her. It was really difficult.'

dent going into the match. "Statistics are not that important, but I knew I could beat her,"

said the 23rd-ranked Bulgarian. "I have beaten her before and I knew I have a chance against her if I played well," she added. "I also knew that she didn't play for some

time and that the first match is

mistakes. I wasn't my best playing Williams fired 13 aces but also committed eight double faults and

Maleeva, who had beaten Williams in two of their four previous meetings, said she was confi-

Shane Wine **FROM PAGE 13**

always difficult."

occasional drop of wine instead of 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 welldocumented.

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

Ashes victory over England in 1997 with a victory jig on the Trent Bridge balcony as he sprayed champagne

ACROSS 38 From a DOWN 19 Author 1 Orange or distance 1 Crushing Sugar 39 Caustic 21 Golfer blow 40 Early member spread 3 Thread 12 Lotion 42 Desert

McEntire 15 Antitoxins 16 Zilch 17 City in Yemen 18 Tokyo's island buttinsky 22 Freddy

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer bare 4 Landlord animals 45 Perches paper-49 1/6 work drachma portion deon canton 29 2001

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25 Mrs. Andy

EGSSGS ATJYU INGFX NCCQ XEIX IXXIYU JL MCX MCIXECS: "QXJLHJLH SIJL.

HOLIER THAN THE OTHERS.

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, 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.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU WANT TO NIBBLE CHEESE IN CHURCH, TRY SWISS. IT'S

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

CRYPTOQUIP

De Silva bids Test bye

De Silva won the man-of-thematch award -- for his occasional offspin bowling -- in the semifinals

against Australia De Silva is expected to be picked for a one-day series in Australia in

AT A GLANCE

Factbox on Aravinda de Silva after his

decision to retire from Test cricket on Born: October 17, 1965. Righthand 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. ODI debut: Versus New Zealand, Moratuwa, 1984. 288 matches, 8,803 Teams: Sri Lanka, Nondescripts Cricket Club, Kent, Auckland.

Short, stocky man. Fluent

strokemaker with all the shots. Finest

Sri Lanka batsman to play the game

and their top runs scorer in both Tests

and one-dayers.

Played in four World Cups -- won four man-of-the-match awards in 1996 tournament including a century in the final against Australia Successful 1995 season with Kent as he established himself as one of the world's top players. Frequent arguments with national board over his fitness. After the 1999

World Cup, he was sidelined along with former captain Arjuna Ranatunga as Sri Lanka looked to vounger players only to be brought back into the 2000: Mentioned in match-fixing

inquiries but not charged through lack

him he would be reconsidered if he

proved his fitness. In April recalled for

2002: New selection panel told

tour of England, aged 36 and 89 Tests. Scored a double century in his final Test against Bangladesh in Colombo in July, only his second and 11 years September, urged by Sri Lanka coach Day Whatmore and captain

Expected to end his one-day

career after the 2003 World Cup.

Sanath Jayasuriya to postpone

Similar problems are expected to

Organisers received another blow when home favourite Anna Kournikova withdrew from the 2.2

extent of the injury.

World number two Williams,

45 unforced errors in a 98-minute

The leg-break bowler's focus this year on health included daily gym workouts and a preference for the

brother Dean and consuming plenty of beer and meat pies.

Warne famously celebrated an