FROM PAGE 13

major activities. Astrologers normally consult horoscopes of prospective partners to determine the best day for their marriage.

However, because of a rare planetary line-up Thursday, all marriages would be deemed auspicious, regardless of horoscopes.

But in the day boded ill for families trying to marry off children in the desert state of Rajasthan, in line with local beliefs dating back to the era of medieval maharajahs, as authorities prepared to break up the forced weddings.

Meanwhile, star Indian batsman Sehwag, 25, was due to wed Delhi resident Aarti Ahlawat at the residence of Law Minister Arun Jaitley -a cricket fan who offered his sprawling premises to the young couple.

The celebrations come barely five days after the 25-year-old Sehwag returned from a triumphant tour of Pakistan.

Sehwag, who was man-of-theseries in Pakistan after smashing India's first triple century in Test cricket at Multan, got engaged to Ahlawat, daughter of a family friend. just before the tour began on March

Cricket captain Sourav Ganguly and other teammates are expected to attend the reception, during which the 30th birthday of master batsman Sachin Tendulkar will also be

#### No better time | Olympic hockey draw

## India, Pakistan avoid each other

### **OLYMPICS**

AFP, New Delhi

Arch-rivals India and Pakistan have been placed in separate preliminary pools in the Olympic men's field hockey tournament, according to the draw released by the sport's governing body on Thursday.

Pakistan have been drawn in Pool A alongside world champions Germany, South Korea, Great Britain, Spain and Egypt, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced in a media

Pool B comprises defending champions the Netherlands, India. Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and South Africa.

Two teams from each pool will qualify for the semifinals.

South Africa's participation in the tournament is subject to approval by the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS), which is considering an appeal by the Greek hockey body to be granted automatic qualification as the hosts.

Greece, an unknown entity in field hockey, were denied a direct berth in its own Olympics after it failed to qualify for last year's European Nations Cup and lost a

best-of-three play-off series with Canada.

The CAS will rule on Greece's appeal on May 19. If the appeal is rejected, South Africa will take part in the 12-nation competition by virtue of finishing seventh at the Olympic qualifiers in Spain in March.

Meanwhile, Argentina, China, Japan, New Zealand and Spain were drawn in Pool A of the women's tournament. Defending champions Australia are grouped with Germany, South Korea, the Netherlands and South Africa in Pool B of the 10-nation competition.

#### POOLS

#### MEN

Pool A: Pakistan, Germany South Korea, Great Britain, Spain and Egypt.

Pool B: The Netherlands, India. Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and South Africa

## Four-nations challenge

# **Aussies hold India**

**Hockey** 

AFP, Sydney

India and Australia fought out a 2-2 draw in the men's field hockey fournations challenge tournament here

With the score tied at 1-1 going into the last ten minutes, India grabbed the lead through Deepak Thakur and with it looked to have the match won

High tension in the dying minutes saw Australia's Mark Knowles and India's Jatinder Pal Singh and Gagan Ajit Singh given yellow cards before the Indian team mobbed umpire Krishnamurthy when Australia was awarded a penalty

Australia's Travis Brooks duly scored the equaliser, 68 seconds before the final hooter

Indian coach Rajinder Singh took comfort from his team's improved performance following a

3-0 loss to Malaysia yesterday. "I think the boys did a wonderful

Glenn McGrath and Darren

Lehmann say they are not prepared

to follow teammate Stuart MacGill's

boycott of Australia's cricket tour of

support the leg-spinner's principled

stance but have their own reasons for

Australian team after 12 months out

with ankle problems, said Thursday

he was looking at the dilemma from a

The pace spearhead said he was

looking at it through the eyes of the

cricket-loving spectator keenly

awaiting the arrival of the world-

about touring, believes cricket might

die in Zimbabwe if the world champi-

live in Zimbabwe and just talking to

ons don't ao there.

Lehmann, after a few early doubts

"I've got quite a few friends that

champion Australians next month.

different perspective to MacGill's.

touring the troubled African nation.

The two senior players say they

McGrath, who is returning to the

Cricket

Zimbabwe next month.

AFP, Sydney

the last minute we made a mistake and conceded a goal and a draw," Rajindersaid.

Australia played fast and aggresvely and India replied in kind, pushing forward through Deepak, Inderjeet Singh and Gagan

Australia scored first, after Andrew Smith's drag flick from the top of the circle was run down and Michael McCann pushed to the left post for Jamie Dwyer to score.

Jatinder Pal Singh came on in the middle of the first half and converted from a penalty corner, scoring India's first goal against Australia in three matches with a sizzling, waist-high drag flick inside the left post.

Indian fans found their voice nine minutes from time when Deepak put India in the lead, scoring at the left post from a pass from Inderieet Singh.

The pressure to equalise and save the match saw Australia squander several chances, but Travis Brooks staved focussed and scored from a pass by Adam Commens in the penul-

Barry Dancer, Australia's coach, was critical after the match.

over there and playing ... they've said

they can't wait for us to get there,"

McGrath told reporters here on

bit to the public over there who have

surprised if any other Australian

players withdrew from the Zimbabwe

personal point of view and ideals on

faced political, moral and security-

based pressures to boycott its World

Cup match against Zimbabwe last

Bulawayo without a hint of trouble.

among the crowd at lunch.

able." said McGrath.

when we did the lan!

The players spent two days at

There was a quiet demonstration

"The reception we got over there

"The crowd were great and they

against President Robert Mugabe

(during the World Cup) was unbeliev-

gave us a standing ovation at the end

the whole thing."

en through a real hard time."

"So hopefully we can give a little

McGrath said he would not be

"It comes down to everyone's

The Australian one-day team

#### WOMEN

Pool A: Argentina, China, Japan. New Zealand and Spain. Pool B: Australia, Germany, South Korea, the Netherlands and

"There was not enough compo-

sure from our team. We have prided

ourselves in being controlled on the

field in our emotions. There were

situations tonight we did not handle

In the earlier match tonight,

Malaysia defeated South Africa 2-1 to

gain its second straight win having

Friday is a rest day for all the teams.

On Saturday, Australia play Malaysia

and South Africa meet India in the last

round-robin matches before Sundays

particularly well," he said.

eaten India yesterday.

#### Raja refuses

FROM PAGE 13

nation by 2005.

team players.

Kenyan

cricket

AFP, Nairobi

boss quitting

Jimmy Rayani, the Nairobi lawyer

who has headed the Kenya Cricket

Association (KCA) for the past 10

years is to step down during next

not defend my post," Rayani told

However, he said he would seek

a position on the African Cricket

Board in order to continue support-

ing the growth of the sport in the

During his tenure, Kenya gained

promotion from minnows in the East

Africa region to One Day interna-

tional status, as well as qualifying for

three successive World Cup tourna-

of international competitions,

including the 1994 International

Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy and

the Knock-Out tournament in 2000.

ins with the authorities, forcing the

government to dissolve the associa-

tion in 2002 after a revolt by national

by the ICC that the matter was

It was only after an intervention

However, differences between

various groups and lack of transpar-

ency in the governance of the sport

in the country have led to a stale-

mate which may threaten the coun-

try's bid to become a Test-playing

But his committee has had run-

The country also hosted a series

"Ten years is long enough. I will

month's national elections.

AFP on Wednesday.

continent.

said. "They are wrong because my chairman has reposed his full confidence in me. If someone thinks that I will be stepping down due to the negative criticism on me after defeats to the Pakistan team, he is wrong. I do not have such plans."

Rameez had been severely criticised for performing the dual role of both the CEO and a TV commentator

Meanwhile, the PCB has initiated disciplinary action against Rashid Latif for making match-fixing allegations during the one-day series. In a letter to Latif, Shaharyar said that his case has been referred to the disciplinary committee for investigation as well as follow-up action. Latif, reputed for his whistle-blowing, responded by threatening to reveal a lot more on match-fixing and exposing many more players.

Latif was quoted as saving by The News that he had certain 'details and information' which had led him to question the result of the fourth one-dayer at Lahore.

"If the board wants to open the Pandora's Box, then I cannot help it. But I have been in constant touch with the Anti-Corruption Unit of the ICC on this issue and have already given them whatever information

Glamorgan's County Championship-winning season in

"I recognise that there is a moral issue surrounding Zimbabwe. It

would be ridiculous to suggest other-

sion that it would be useful for Australia to travel.

Zimbabwe from May 13 to June 13.

1997, taking 68 wickets.

injuries. He has also represented Surrey

and Warwickshire.

had seemed uncertain over his plans, saying: "I have not decided on my future. It could be media work or coaching, but something definitely related to cricket."

## Maradona out

that have tarnished his name. Thousands of fans have posted

vigil outside the private clinic where he is being treated chanting his name and exhibiting pictures of the icons.

and curious tourists all adding to the swarm of activity outside the building, hospital officials have been forced to call for quiet and respect for all the other patients being treated.

hospital employee had been caught red-handed late Tuesday attempting to take a bedside photograph of the bloated former star, to sell to newspapers.

Medical technician Horacio Jorge Fernandez tried to get pica mobile telephone equipped with a

round-the-clock on Maradona's condition, his spokesman said. Kirchner said the player had "brought tears of joy to we

# **Coria reaches quarters**

Tennis

AFP, Monaco

Argentine third seed Guillermo Coria and former world number one Marat Safin of Russia stayed on course for a semifinal showdown after both men moved into the last eight of the Monte Carlo Masters on Thursday.

Coria clinched a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 win over Romania's Andrei Pavel while Safin, battling his way back up the rankings after a 2003 decimated by a wrist injury, cruised past Australian veteran Wayne Arthurs 6-4, 6-2. Coria now faces either French

Argentine David Nalbandian, the seventh seed while Safin, the Australian Open finalist in January, faces either Agustin Calleri of Argentina or Spain's Alberto Martin. Safin took just 67 minutes to wrap up victory allowing the 33year-old Arthurs, who came into the

wildcard Fabrice Santoro or fellow

main draw as a replacement for top seed Andy Roddick, just two break points in the entire match. The Russian broke in the third game of the first set which he clinched in 35 minutes and then broke again in the first and fifth

ping up the match with a majestic forehand lob. Safin, runner-up in Estoril last weekend, has now matched his best performance here after making the

games of the second before wrap-

last eight in 2002. "Arthurs is a difficult player on hard courts and on grass but on clay he is too slow," said the Russian.

Coria, runner-up in 2003, is the highest seed left in the tournament following the withdrawal of top seed Roddick and the defeat of defending champion Juan Carlos Ferrero. Nikolay Davydenko of Russia

reached his first career Masters quarter-final with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic in a battle of Monte Carlo residents.

He will now play fifth seed and 1998 champion Carlos Moya of Spain or Argentina's Juan Ignacio

Chela, the winner of the Estoril title last weekend.



Argentina's Guillermo Coria bends low to hit a return against Romania's Andrei Pavel at the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters Series yesterday.

# Safin's new image

Tennis

AFP, Monaco

Marat Safin is determined to put behind him his reputation as a party animal and concentrate on work, work and more work.

Safin, who reached number one in the world and won the US Open in 2000, is widely regarded as one of tennis' great unfulfilled talents with many believing the 24-year-old should have more than just the one Grand Slam title to his name.

"I have to separate the business from the pleasure. For the next few months, I choose business and to work hard. After Wimbledon, I will take a few weeks off and enjoy it," said the Russian after brushing aside Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-4, 6-3 in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters here on Wednesday.

"Sometimes you can have too much pleasure and you get to the stage where you need to take a rest.'

Safin, however, refuses to make excuses for his lifestyle, firmly believing that there is more to life than tennis. "For people it is a miracle when-

ever we are talking about life. It seems there is only tennis and there is nothing else outside the courts. But it's not like this. "Everybody enjoys doing other

things rather than tennis. I know, I had one year of vacation and I could do whatever I wanted to like any normal guy of 23 or 24," added Safin who missed large chunks of last year because of a wrist injury which limited him to just 13 tournaments as he slipped outside the top 50 for the first time since 1997 This year, he is back to 25 in the

> 6 1 40

2 0 12

Result: Sri Lanka won by 9 wick-

Man-of-the-match: Chaminda

(Mashud 54, Salim 51, Jamal 30;

BEXIMCO: 197 all out in 46.5 overs

(Asad 36, Moniruzzaman 27, Sajjad

26, Azam Iqbal 26, Masud 25,

Parvez 20; Fahim 3-42, Jamal 2-30,

Rubaiyat 2-47, Arafat 2-48, Nazmul

Result: Araf Apparels won by 49

Venue: Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium

Partex: 227 for 8 in 50 overs (Tarig

39, Mizanur 28, Ashraful 27, Rezaul

Aktel: 197 all out in 45.4 overs (

Uttam 48, Mowla 36, Manjarul 25,

Anwar Hossain 25 not out; Tariqul 4-

Partex Group vs Aktel EC

25, Extras 33; Rafique 2-26)

Neeyamur 2-37, Nadif 2-44)

Third match: April 25, Harare.

Bowler

Hondo

P'gara

C'bura

M'yere

Utseva

Toss: Sri Lanka.

FROM PAGE 13

No joy for

51

0 20

0 11

home his clay court ability by finishing as runner-up in Estoril last "It's very annoying when people

world after reaching the final of the

Australian Open and hammering

You should be calmer, you should

"Sometimes you are playing against yourself. Sometimes you have to fight yourself. It's difficult to push sometimes, sometimes you are scared, you are choking, not feeling confident.'

Safin, whose next task here is a third round clash against Australia's Wayne Arthurs, insists his new regime should stand him in good



55 George

DOWN

Burns

1 Swindle

2 Pinnacle

co-host

6 Approves

name of

brewery

product

10 Enthusiast

38-Down

7 Honey-

8 First

9 Micro-

11 Ambu-

lance

abbr

16 Sam of

fame

3 Katie's

4 Ankle

portrayal

time, how much dedication, how much it takes to be where I am right "At the end of the day, I will be

who I will be and I will win as much as I can win. "People come to me and say:

'You should have won five Grand Slams by now.' Sorry, but for some reason I couldn't. I wish I had but it doesn't work that way.

34 Predeter-

35 Mrs. Al

36 Discard

37 Brick-

40 "2001"

41 Chat

Bundy

mine the

outcome

laying tool

computer

Oriental

cuisine

Gingrich

Green

52 Hockey

53 See 12-

54 Clarinet-

Gables'

legend

Across

ist's need

Solution time: 25 mins.

48 "Cabaret"

star

50 Mr.

51 "- of

39 — Canals

Jayasuriya goes CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

structure

4 Unkempt

ACROSS

one

8 Farm

roof

adom-

ment

12 With 53-

14 Grad

15 "My

Across.

Prison

Bars"

author

scene

member

21 Compete

critters

adorned

29 Bottleneck

bender

Geller

31 Deserve

32 Take on

33 Do sur-

Holyfield

veillance

30 Spoon-

17 Trawler

18 Mob-

group 19 Trinity

22 Pod

26 Un-

Without

cornered

13 Pig holder 45 Kind of

stead ahead of the French Open where he was a semi-finalist the last time he played there in 2002.

match by match. I have long months ahead of me, long tournaments. If get too excited right now, maybe will be burned out by the time of the French Open."

#### **Ferrero takes** time out

BBC ONLINE, undated

Juan Carlos Ferrero has turned down a wildcard for next week's Barcelona Open in order to help his recovery from a bout of chicken pox.

The French Open champion returned after a month out for Spain's Davis Cup quarterfinal against the Netherlands.

Ferrero won both of his singles matches but was then beaten in the first round of the Monte Carlo Masters on Tuesday.

His coach Antonio Martinez Cascales said: "The best thing is to stop and return to action when he is 100 per cent."

Ferrero risks missing the other clay court Masters Series events in Rome and Hamburg in the build-up to the French Open

#### Henin advised to rest

**BBC ONLINE**, undated

Doctors have told Justine Henin-Hardenne to rest after the world number one succumbed to a viral infection

She will be reassessed in Belgium at the beginning of May to see when she can start playing Henin-Hardenne is due to

defend her title at the French Open, which begins on 24 May. The 21-year-old Belgian withdrew from the Family Circle Cup in Charleston saying that low blood sugar was causing light-

headedness. She also pulled out of the Antwerp Diamond Games in February with a respiratory illness.

#### ICC has an eye on Zim

AFP, London

Talks between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) ended here Wednesday with the world governing body promising to monitor the player dispute which threatens the sport in the troubled African state

Fifteen white cricketers, led by former captain Heath Streak, are refusing to play for Zimbabwe, amidst claims a racist selection policy is in

ICC chiefs, in a statement said they would be holding further talks on the issue after a meeting here Wednesday involving ICC president Ehsan Mani and chief executive Malcolm Speed and ZCU chairman Peter Chingoka and board member Ozias Bvute.

Mani said he accepted that national boards were right to be responsible for

relations with their own players. "At the same time, the ICC recognises and has discussed with the ZCU the international implications of this dispute and its potential effect on international cricket." he said

"International cricket is built upon the best teams from each country taking

However, Mani stopped short of endorsing allegations of racism within the ZCU. "The ZCU has provided assurances

that the dispute is not about race or politics as it has sometimes simplistically been portrayed," he said. On Tuesday Chingoka also had

meetings with his England counterparts over the future of their planned October tour to Zimbabwe while on Wednesday leg-spinner Stuart MacGill withdrew from Australia's tour there next month on moral grounds.

Zimbabwe's senior cricket administrator responded with the diplomatic equivalent of a straight bat here Wednesday after hearing that Australia leg-spinner Stuart MacGill had pulled out of next month's tour of the troubled African nation on moral

Zimbabwe Cricket Union (ZCU) chairman Peter Chingoka insisted MacGill's decision was not a matter for him or his board.

ual cases," Chingoka said. He added: "We are pleased the strongest available squad has been named and we look forward to wel-

Wednesday, MacGill said: "I have given this a lot of thought over a long period of time and personally do not helieve the situation in Zimbabwe is such that I can tour at this stage.

# STANDINGS

Four-nations challenge field hockey table after Thursday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals

against, points):							
Malaysia	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Australia	2	1	1	0	7	4	4
India	2	1	1	1	2	5	4
South Africa	2	Ω	Ω	2	3	7	0

Glenn, Darren for tour

right to boycott, but said cricket in Zimbabwe badly needed the tour to go ahead. "What's going on there (in Zimbabwe) is totally wrong, but we must also consider the future of cricket in that country," he told the

Yorkshire Post "If we don't tour, it could hasten the end of Zimbabwean cricket, and I don't see why cricketers should be used as political pawns.

"Stuart MacGill has made his decision on personal grounds and is well within his rights to do so.

"I did have a few doubts about whether to tour, but I spoke to one or two people and came to the conclu-

Australia are due to tour

#### ZCU plays down MacGill decision

AFP, London

'Team selection is a matter entirely for Cricket Australia (CA) to deal with and we would not comment on individ-

coming them next month. In a statement released football field.

## Waqar could

Younis played a key role in

He returned to Sophia Gardens in 1998, but saw his year spoiled by

For Pakistan, Waqar claimed 373 wickets in 87 Tests at an average of 23.5 and 416 wickets in 262 one-day matches. Following his retirement, Younis

FROM PAGE 13 Maradona's illness has provoked a wave of sympathy from him in Argentina where he is still hugely popular despite all the controversies

player in his prime and religious With journalists, photographers

Ole newspaper reported that a

tures of Maradona hooked up to his respirator in intensive care by using Argentine President Nestor Kirchner was being kept informed

26. Rezaul 2-18) Argentineans" by his genius on the Result: Partex Group won by 30 come up to you and try to explain:

"But these people are losers



**MARAT SAFIN** 

because they don't know how much

"I just want to keep it cool, go

20 Resis-

unit

23 Waikiki

24 Idle or

26 Saucy

craft

27 Den

29 Trot

33 Barely

35 Shell

Watergate 38 Woman of

there

game

36 Lessened

perature

letters?

39 Panorama

43 Re planes

explorer

channel?

46 That girl

partner

47 Shock

45 Explosive

42 Kermit,

44 Polar

swimwea

5 Unfettered 28 Jason's

comb stuff 32 Plath

wingding

Bogosian

by worms

opus, with

25 It's made

tance

# **CRYPTOOUIP** KIKI UHBQUCR'Z VPKKQYG

X Q B V E G Q

" X Q ' Z BQICCR TBHAXG UPB XHZ IAQ!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals R

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.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN MY DAD GOES TO THE SĂNDWICH SHOP, I USUALLY PREFER TO COME ALONG FOR THE RYE.