

Harkleroad's desperate job on match point. She smiled as she watched it drop behind the baseline.

and traditional rivals India and Pakistan, a Pakistani official said today.

David Nalbandian and Australia's Lleyton Hewitt in advancing to the Open's second round.

programmers in the last ten days, the first at Coimbatore followed by a five-day stint in Malaysia.

Kisan TV..

(Contd from page 1)

transmitters of Doordarshan will be used for providing area-specific broadcast. These transmitters cover nearly 89% of the country. It is envisaged that a one-hour broadcast would be done six days a week.

State-wise Kisan Call Centres will address queries and questions raised by farmers. These Centres will operate through toll free lines. By dialing 1551, a farmer can access a Call Centre where agri-graduates would be able to answer most of his questions. If they are not able to answer a question, the call will be forwarded to specialists. Kisan Call Centres will operate round-the-clock on all seven days of the week.

President...

(Contd from page 1)

Siddha. "These systems of medicines are unique to our country and many times they are complementary to each other. Apart from giving a choice of treatment to the patients, such a system would also enable rapid development of medicines and fast track clearance of products through integrated clinical trials and approval from ethical committee. "This area will be a great wealth generator for the nation," he said.

At another function at the L V Prasad Eye Hospital held to celebrate the golden jubilee of the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology, Dr Kalam favoured the setting up of a "national mission" for evolving fast track treatment method by involving mission oriented doctors throughout the country to help the nearly 45 million visually handicapped people in the country to help improve their quality of life. This team should organise series of eye camps, reinforcing many eye hospitals with technology to increase the treated population. In doing so, integration of minds is possible and governmental support can be made easier, he said.

Office Bearers Elected

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20.

The Andaman District Congress Committee has been partially reconstituted with S/Shri Arokya Swamy, Sharda Ram and Raj Kumar Sharma as its Vice-President, General Secretary and Organizing Secretary respectively, a communication said here.

District Planning..

(Contd from page 1)

Similarly, MV Akbar is to be replaced subject to task force approval. New vessels are to be inducted in southern group of islands. Uninterrupted regular vehicle ferry is to be operated at ATR route to avoid inconvenience to passengers. Two departmental boats are to be inducted at Wandoor for tourists. For shifting of patients from remote islands to Kamorta and Katchal, MV Shompen is to be stationed soon. Between Port Blair and Rangat speed boat is to be provided 5 days in a week.

A passenger hall and transit godown is required to be provided in Chennai soon. High mast light is to be provided at Bambooflat jetty. Ward-wise Patwari office along with computers are to be provided. Old age home is to be provided at Port Blair also. Diagnostic center is to be provided at Ramkrishna Mission. Old age pension is to be increased to Rs. 400/- per month.

The release also says that Issue/renewal of license to fisherman will be done from 15th March to 31st March 2004 at various Panchayat offices of A & N Islands and separate generator is to be provided for cold storage at Campbell Bay. Sufficient teachers will be posted in various schools as soon as 195 posts are created. Similarly, threshing floor is to be constructed to each Panchayats by the department. Besides, joint survey will be conducted for reclamation of all salinity affected areas.

BMS Reshuffled

PORT BLAIR, JAN. 20.

The State Committee of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, A&N Islands has been reshuffled with the selection of S/Shri S. Raju and Praveen Singh Rathor as its President and General Secretary respectively. Besides, Shri R. Moorthy of NMEP association and Shri Palani Samy of Van Vikas Labour Union, Little Andaman have been selected as state Secretaries. Shri Palany has also been appointed as Convener of BMS at Little Andaman, a communication said here.

Israel Building New Security Fence

HEBRON, JAN 20

The Israeli Army has started building a new and enlarged "security fence" around the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba near the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian witnesses said today. Bulldozers were seen digging a 10-metre wide corridor around the existing perimeter of the settlement, which is home to 6,500 Jews, on land belonging to local Palestinians.

SBI Network...

(Contd from page 1)

The AGM said that after introduction of single window delivery system which is going to be possible by March this year, the SBI branches will be able to give more attention to senior citizens by prompt disposal of pension and to provide them timely finance if required by way of pension loan as processing time will be reduced substantially.

The AGM said State Bank is committed to render better services to the customers for their every banking need and to give them ultimate satisfaction by providing them safest and hassle free transactions for their hard earned money. He said there is no cut-throat competition in the banking sector, following economic liberalization. Therefore, the SBI has to live upto customers satisfaction by way of infrastructural up gradation as also to catch up with the changing scenario, Shri Guha added.

Chairman Of UN Rights Commission Appointed

GENEVA, JAN. 20.

Mike Smith, the Australian ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, was yesterday appointed as chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission for 2004. Smith had been proposed by the Western group of UN members and was appointed by consensus of all 53 commission member nations. After the appointment to the position, that traditionally rotates among geographical groupings, Smith told commission members that Australia was a country with a tradition of fair play and his approach to this position would "be very much informed by those traditions. I will be as fair, balanced and equitable... as I possibly can be."

US Eyes Space As Possible Battleground

WASHINGTON, JAN 20.

President Bush's plan to expand the exploration of space parallels U.S. efforts to control the heavens for military, economic and strategic gain. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld long has pushed for technology that could be used to attack or defend orbiting satellites as well as a costly program, heavily reliant on space-based sensors, to thwart incoming warheads.

Under a 1996 space policy adopted by then-President Bill Clinton that remains in effect, the United States is committed to the exploration and use of outer space "by all nations for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all humanity."

"Peaceful purposes allow defense and intelligence-related activities in pursuit of national security

insisting on a step-by-step approach and that dialogue commence from the joint secretary level. According to the report, both countries may resolve their differences by determining a lowest common denominator of Indian and Pakistani positions on the level of dialogue. A diplomatic source was quoted as saying that such a denominator is being discussed in terms of initiating dialogue on peace and security related issues, Kashmir and Siachen at foreign secretary level and leaving all other areas for discussion at the level of joint secretaries.

Indian Cyber Security System Unveiled

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20.

The government had launched a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) aimed at protecting the networks of the defence forces, air and rail traffic and other vital security and economic establishments from individual and state-sponsored hackers inimical to the interest of India.

Unveiling CERT-In, Information and Technology Minister, Shri Arun Shourie said the emergency response team would guard the Indian computer networks, particularly those representing the "acupuncture points of the economy," against potential threats such as hacking and virus attacks.

Observing that Indian computer systems are and other goals," according to this policy. "Consistent with treaty obligations, the United States will develop, operate and maintain space control capabilities to ensure freedom of action in space, and if directed, deny such freedom of action to adversaries." No country depends on space and satellites as its eyes and ears more than the United States, which accounted for as much as 95 percent of global military space spending in 1999, according to the French space agency CNES.

thwart any attempt by religious extremists aimed at sabotaging the peace process.

Meanwhile, five European contributor states to the United Nations Military Observer Groups for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) have expressed their optimism that India and Pakistan would definitely initiate their official level bilateral dialogue next month following the confirmation by the UNMOGIP that there was no infiltration going on at the Line of Control and no violation of the cease-fire had been reported since India and Pakistan agreed to it.

vulnerable to simultaneous attacks which can disable several types of activities like air and rail traffic, missile launches and stock market operations, Shourie said CERT-In would provide both pro-active and reactive services for enhancing cyber security.

Incident Response Teams of CERT-In, set up by the Department of IT, have expertise in major hardware and software platforms such as Windows, Sun Solaris, Unix and Linux. The CERT-In system has web servers such as IIS, iPlanet, Apache, Mail services, Data Base Management Systems such as Oracle, SQL server, network devices such as Firewalls, IDS and Routers.

In a message to the team, Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L K Advani said all critical infrastructure sectors of the country would work closely with CERT-In. The launch of the system comes in the wake of billions of dollars spent across the globe to retrieve systems corrupted by virus attacks or defaced by hackers. The United States alone spent 145 billion dollars last year on anti-virus and anti-hacking operations. IT officials acknowledge that computer security in India is far from satisfactory. Recently, hackers from a neighbouring country hacked sites of the Defence Ministry.

was, however, not open to the media. Shri Sinha tried to assuage the feelings of

No Hike In Railway Fares This Fiscal: Nitish

KOLKATA, JAN. 20.

Railway Minister, Nitish Kumar has ruled out a hike in railway fares this fiscal in the wake of increase in diesel prices, saying that the Railways would not pass on the additional financial burden on to passengers. "The Indian Railways consume 200 crore litres of diesel per year. If there is an increase of Rupee one per litre, it straightway entails an additional burden of Rs 200 crore. But we will not pass on the additional burden to railway users this financial year", Kumar told newsmen on the sidelines of a National Seminar on Construction and Rehabilitation of Railway tracks.

He said that the Railways were absorbing the additional financial burden through cost savings and generation of internal

India, U.S. To Collaborate In Disaster Management Support

NEW DELHI, JAN. 20.

The Union Home Ministry launched a project, expanding the cooperation between India and the United States in disaster management science, technology and systems. The project approach, which pairs the U.S. Government experts with their Indian counterparts to share methods, tactics and technology, signals yet another milestone in the cooperative relationship between the two countries. Major components of the project include capacity-building with collaboration to institutionalise the incident command system to professionalise the response; establish emergency operation centres at all levels and impart search and rescue training. The second component is the early warning systems for weather-related events such as floods, cyclones or droughts. The third

revenue. Stating that steps had also been taken to publish the investigation reports into railway accidents, he said that the report on the Rajdhani Express mishap at Raiganj had already been made public.

Earlier, inaugurating the seminar, he said that Railways had introduced a Modern Bridge Management System to improve bridge inspection and ensure their safety. The new system included fool-proof inspection of underwater foundations and assessing the residual life of bridges. "In the Railways, there is one bridge every 700 meters on an average. We must think in terms of each bridge. We must ascertain their strength, residual life and the need for their rehabilitation", the Railway Minister said.

Pioneer Of Penicillin Production Dies

LONDON, JAN 20.

Norman Heatley, a scientist whose pioneering work on penicillin production helped save countless lives, has died at the age of 92. Heatley died Jan. 5 at his home near Oxford in southern England, his family said. Cause of death was not disclosed. Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, an antibiotic produced by mold, by accident in 1928. But it was Heatley and his Oxford university colleagues who produced enough for the first clinical tests on humans. By war's end, the drug was being used to save the lives of troops with bacterial infections. Born in Suffolk, eastern England, in 1911, Heatley received a PhD in biochemistry from Cambridge University. component will include innovative disaster initiatives for establishing a sustainable system for improved disaster management at all levels.