

tory as she scored in the third and 38th minutes.

Madhya Pradesh reduced the margin through Sujatha who scored in the 43rd minute.

In the evening session, hosts Chandigarh had to bite the dust as they were outplayed by Bihar with a 5-0 margin after lead-

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Swiss couple cycle to help Nepal's poor

through Soni Kumari. Having met success, Bihar netted three more goals within a span of eight minutes. Neha Kumari (30th), Shilpi (35th) and Shewta Kumari (38th) scored one goal each.

Preeti Kumari rounded off the winners' tally in the 60th minute. The Chandigarh girls put up

Orissavs Jammu and Kashmir (7 a.m.)

Cluster VI: Manipur vs Chattisgarh (7 a.m.)

Cluster VII: Assam vs Uttarakhand (9 a.m.)

Cluster VIII: Tripura vs Punjab (9 a.m.) and Rajasthan vs West Bengal (4 p.m.).

CHANDIGARH RANKING TT TOURNEY FROM TODAY

CHANDIGARH: Bhavan Vidyalaya, Sector-27, Chandigarh, is organising the 16th Bhavan Hawk Chandigarh State first Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at T.T Hall, Sector 23, from July 16 to 18. The event will take place in the following age categories: Cadet Boys and Girls - Singles Under 12 years, Sub-junior Boys and Girls - Singles Under 14 years, Junior Boys and Girls - Singles Under 17 years, U-20 Boys and Girls - Singles and Men and Women - Singles No age bar

Cadet Boys and Girls - Singles Under 12 years matches will start at 12:00 noon on July and the final matches of Men and women section will be played on July 18 at 4 pm. HTC



Swiss couple Monika Bartschiger and Mario Kofler in Chandigarh on Thursday.

Navrajdeep Singh and Vishavjit
chidsjontdesl@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: Visiting Switzerland for honeymoon is ok, but a Swiss couple honeymooning in India in July, that too on cycles to raise money for social cause is different. Well that's what makes the life of Monika Bartschiger (49) and Mario Kofler (56) different from others. The couple is on a five-month (May 1 to September 18) trip through 11 countries on their cycles to generate money for improving healthcare in Nepal. Monika and Mario married just four days before leaving Switzerland. "We expect to raise around \$50,000. The money will be donated by our friends, family and people inspired by our campaign. We are not sponsored by anyone for our expenses," says Monika. The money will be spent on health projects through Nepali Med Switzerland, a charitable organization working for healthcare in Nepal.

They have cycled through Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and Pakistan and will now go to Nepal.

They have covered 5,000 km till date.

"We are a privileged country; people have lot of material. But we think real happiness is not in collecting materials but giving some of it to the needy. In Nepal, people are without riches but they have richness in their hearts that inspires us," said Monika. "We are on a five-month unpaid leave, which means a \$40,000 loss to us. We may not have a single franc with us when return home. But the cause is worth it," says Monika. "It was cold and raining in Europe and as we entered Asia, we faced scorching heat waves," said Mario.

They ride their bicycles for six hours a day. "You have to be mentally and physically strong. We have the

We are a privileged country; people have lot of material. But we think real happiness is not in collecting materials but giving some of it to the needy

MONIKA BARTSCHIGER

goal in our mind to help the poor people and this goal keeps us going. We remained positive every time and try to buck up each other," the pair said. They entered India through Wagah Border and reached Chandigarh through Amritsar and Ludhiana

on their way.

The couple is keeping the world updated on www.nepalimed.ch.

Mountaineering, skiing, rock climbing, running and biking are among the sports they enjoy together.

Mario scaled the Dhaulgiri (8163m) in 1995 while in 1997 he had traveled to Nepal from Switzerland on his bicycle through Turkey, Pakistan and Iran.

In 2002, Monika came third in the Everest Charity Marathon and in 2004, she completed Inka Marathon in Peru. She first time in 2007 climbed the Chimborazo summit at over 6,000 metres.



STORESAT: Chandigarh - Mohali - SCO - 81, PHASE 7 - Ambala City 30 - A. Jain Nagar